



FACTSHEET

The Promo-LEX Association's results in the field of preventing and combating hate speech and incitement to discrimination (period 2017-2022)



Promo-LEX

Advancing democracy and human rights

Promo-LEX Association is a non-governmental organization in the Republic of Moldova, established in 2002, with the aim of promoting democracy in Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region, through the promotion and defending human rights, monitoring democratic processes, and strengthening civil society.

One of Promo-LEX's core areas is the prevention and combating of hate speech. Since 2017, the Promo-LEX team has been engaged in various monitoring, advocacy, and information activities to contribute to shaping public discourse in a balanced manner that respects human dignity and human rights, whether it is generated by politicians, journalists, opinion leaders, religious figures, or the general public.

What we have achieved:

Monitoring and Reporting

Promo-LEX has developed its **own methodology for monitoring hate speech and incitement to discrimination** in the public space and media in the Republic of Moldova.

7 cycles of hate speech monitoring including in the following contexts:

- ▶ World Congress of Families in 2018 [2018](#)
- ▶ Parliamentary and presidential elections in [2020](#) and [2021](#)
- ▶ Russian Federation's war against Ukraine (February - April [2022](#))



Disaggregated data on the manifestation of hate speech in the Republic of Moldova (2018-2022)

Promo-LEX has presented the first and only disaggregated data on the phenomenon of hate speech, providing information about the context in which hate speech occurs, the affected groups, the authors of hate speech, the extent of hate speech cases, and more.

Advocacy for Legal Framework Modification

Amendment of the legal framework regarding the sanctioning of hate speech and incitement to discrimination

Promo-LEX, alongside the Council for Equality, the Office of the People's Advocate, and other civil society organizations, advocated for the importance

of adjusting the legal framework to prohibit and sanction hate speech. In 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova amended the Contravention Code and the Penal Code, prohibiting and sanctioning hate speech and incitement to discrimination, as well as prejudice-motivated crimes.

Report to CEDAW in 2020

Promo-LEX prepared the [report “Hate Speech and incitement to discrimination against women in the Republic of Moldova”](#) for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW recommended that the Government of the Republic of Moldova amend the legal framework and prohibit hate speech and sexist discourse.

Report within the UPR in 2022

Promo-LEX and International Federation for Human Rights (FIHR) prepared the [report “Hate Speech and incitement to discrimination in the Republic of Moldova”](#) for the Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Council formulated 32 recommendations regarding the prevention and combatting of discrimination and hate speech addressed to the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Advocacy for the Development of Monitoring Mechanisms

Analytical Note on the collection of disaggregated data by the Audiovisual Council

In 2020, Promo-LEX advocated for the importance of [developing an internal mechanism for monitoring](#), evaluating, and collecting disaggregated data on hate speech in the audiovisual media by the Audiovisual Council.

Specific recommendations for key actors

Promo-LEX has formulated over 40 recommendations to the Parliament, Government, public authorities (Police, Prosecutor’s Office, Council for Equality, Central Electoral Commission), relevant actors (political parties, politicians, media institutions), and civil society regarding the prevention and combatting of hate speech and incitement to discrimination, which it continues to promote.

Analytical Note on the adjustment of the electoral legal framework by Parliament

In 2020, Promo-LEX advocated for the importance of [adjusting the electoral legislation](#) to prohibit hate speech during electoral periods by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Central Electoral Commission.



Guide for assessing cases of hate speech in audiovisual media

In 2021, Promo-LEX participated in the development of the Council of Europe's [Guide](#) for assessing and analysing cases of hate speech in audiovisual media by the Audiovisual Council in Moldova. It served as the basis for the internal methodology for monitoring hate speech [adopted](#) by the Audiovisual Council in May 2023.

Analytical Note on preventing hate speech within political parties

In 2021, [Promo-LEX promoted](#) the importance of preventing hate speech in political and electoral discourse by developing internal codes of conduct and internal monitoring mechanisms for compliance by political parties.

Education and Information

2 online awareness campaigns

In 2020, Promo-LEX conducted the [online awareness campaign](#) "Filter the Words. Report the Hate!"

In 2021, Promo-LEX collaborated with the Council of Europe to create informative materials (video spots, storytelling articles) on the prevention and combating of hate speech in the Republic of Moldova.



3 editions of the "PromoTE" Program

In 2018, the Promo-LEX team launched the Youth Training Program on Human Rights and Civic Activism called "PromoTE." Within the program, young people are trained in the prevention and combating of hate speech. In 2023, the PromoTE Program is in its third edition.

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