

Get The Trolls Out!



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GET THE
TROLLS OUT



MEDIA DIVERSITY
INSTITUTE

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Get The Trolls Out! is a project and campaign to combat anti-religious hate, discrimination and intolerance in the media in Europe.



We are led by the Media Diversity Institute (MDI) with the support of 7 partners in Europe:

- Germany** Amadeu Antonio Stiftung (AAS)
- Hungary** Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ)
- Belgium** European Network on Religion & Belief (ENORB)
European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)
- Greece** Karpos
- France** LICRA
- Poland** "Never Again" Association

We monitor the media in seven European languages across seven countries for diverse forms of hate speech, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian sentiment.

We use our website and social media to deliver powerful counter-narratives, and to promote alternative narratives through articles, infographics, videos and cartoons.

We also offer workshops for media professionals for best practice on reporting on minorities, and to young people on how to identify and respond to online hate.

Conspiracy & Hate Speech Narratives

Raising awareness of different narratives used to spread hate and conspiracies is essential to identifying and tackling them.

1. The Great Replacement / The Great Reset

This ethno-nationalist narrative warns that “native Europeans” (i.e white, Christian) are at risk of being destroyed and replaced through migration, low white birth-rates, and violence. According to this narrative, an elite of “globalists” - politicians, media, and tech giants - are accomplices, if not the authors, of a plan to destroy the white race and the whole Western civilisation. “Whiteness” is described as a form of diversity that is being erased, and “indigenous Europeans” are believed to be becoming a minority in their own continent. It often comes hand in hand with a call for people to defend their country, values or white race, at any cost, including resorting to violence.

2. Clash of Civilisations

According to this narrative, authoritarianism, lack of freedom and violence are so intrinsic to Islam that it makes it incompatible with democracy. It ignores the existence of Muslim majority democracies across the world, and Muslims who participate in Western democratic societies. It also defines Islamic culture as backward and mediocre compared to Western traditions. This is usually done by claiming that Muslim countries don't achieve scientific discoveries, there isn't freedom of expression, or simply that Muslims are misogynistic and violent. The presence of Muslims in Western societies is presented as a dangerous threat to equal rights achievements. These are often broad-brush claims. When someone claims that "Muslims strongly oppose LGBTQ+ rights", they are grouping together a large group and assuming they all feel one way.

3. The All-Powerful Jew

A millennia-lasting myth accuses Jews of being rich, extremely powerful, and seeking profit by any means while pursuing their plans of world domination. Jews are portrayed as secret puppeteers who manipulate the global economy to accumulate wealth and power. This conspiracy narrative can take different forms and shapes accusing Jews of controlling significant world events, the financial system, and the media. The narrative is sometimes only inferred through “dog-whistling”: without expressing openly antisemitic messages, such as naming wealthy Jewish individuals, to suggest that Jews dominate the financial and media sectors.

4. “Islam is violent and endorses terrorism”

This anti-Muslim narrative depicts all Muslims as violent, terrorist extremists. It falsely claims that all Muslims hate the West, and that therefore they are potential terrorists or support terrorism. In doing so, 1.8 billion Muslims are defined by the acts of a few who use radical interpretations of Islam. It alleges that the Quran advocates terrorism and terrorists enter Europe by disguising themselves as refugees. It also claims there are 'No-Go Zones', in Europe, where the Muslim or migrant population is so dense that non-Muslims and police are not allowed to enter.

5. “Protect our women”

This Islamophobic narrative calls for the protection of rights of Muslim and non-Muslim women from the oppression imposed by Islam and Muslim men. The headscarf or full face-veil is often considered a symbol of patriarchal oppression and backward society. People who hold these beliefs present themselves as saviours standing up for women while actually deciding on their behalf in terms of personal autonomy, reproductive rights, and freedom of religion and thought.

6. Holohoax

Holohoax refers to an antisemitic conspiracy narrative that denies, minimises or trivialises the systematic state-sponsored killing of Jews during WWII. The term 'hoax' suggests that genocide of European Jews is a lie fabricated to manipulate people. In its most extreme version, the Holocaust is seen as a complete forgery. In other versions, the innumerable evidence is questioned to different degrees, or the genocide of six million Jews is referred to with inappropriate comical tones and words. It can also claim that Jews have fabricated or exaggerated the Holocaust in order to make money out of cultural products, such as Hollywood films or books, and reparations.

7. All Jews are Zionists

The word 'Zionist' is often used as a swearword or a coded attack on Jews, even when the term is not used accurately. A Zionist is a person who supports the creation of a country for Jewish people, and now supports the state of Israel. According to this narrative, Jews are to blame for Israel's policies. Although the majority of Jews believe that the state of Israel should continue to exist, not all Jews identify as Zionists and have a wide range of opinions about the Israeli-Palestinian debate.

8. Dehumanisation

Dehumanisation is a narrative that denies human qualities to a person or a specific group. It is used when minority groups are compared to, or described as, objects, animals, devils, and diseases. In recent history, dehumanisation has offered a moral justification to the perpetration of violence. Always instruments of inferiorisations, comparisons to cockroaches and vermin are generally used to communicate an idea of "invasion", while comparisons to monkeys are used to communicate a level of stupidity or non-value in others.

A Guide: Fantastic Trolls and How to Fight Them!



Disengage immediately from a **Concern Troll**. They pretend to be willing to agree with you, but only if you address a (never-ending) series of "concerns". They will keep demanding your time and energy by repeating the same questions and will never be satisfied with your answer.

Don't engage with the **Hater Troll**! According to them, everything you do sucks. Report the troll - they feed on the misery of others and wreak havoc with people's lives.



The "**Too Long, Don't Read**" Troll - loves the sound of its own voice and writes essay-length comments. Don't bother to point out they're failing to read or understand what is actually being said - they will just continue to attack every ambiguity.

How to fight the **Spell-Checker Troll**? Ignore it. Your nuanced argument loaded with facts and evidence is not irrelevant because you've written irrelevant instead of irrelevant.



The **Holy Cause Troll** will sniff out any opportunity to derail a conversation onto its pet topic. Block and Ignore. This person is not interested in you or your opinion. For them, you are a wall to write their opinions on.

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Block and report the **Vulgar Troll**. They have no purpose other than spreading profanities as widely as possible. Unless you don't mind a potty-mouth.



Reporting Hate Speech

Encountering anti-religious hate speech can be a stressful and painful experience. Sometimes you will not want to challenge the person or organisation spreading hate and will simply want to report them to regulatory bodies and social media networks.

Find information: www.getthetrollsout.org/report-hate-speech

Get The Trolls Out! Reports

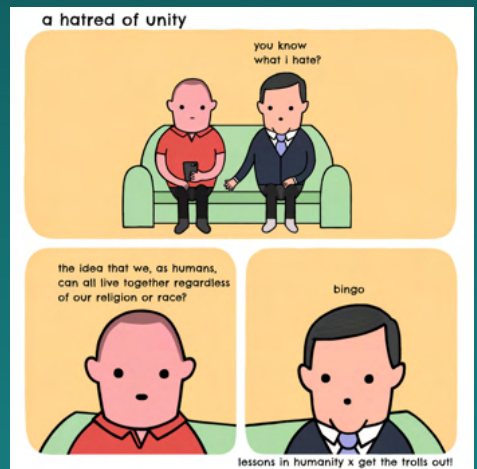


We have produced several reports on the spread of anti-religious conspiracy narratives on social media.

You can find them, and other useful guides and resources, on our website.

www.getthetrollsout.org/resources

Get The Trolls Out! Cartoons



Social Media Collaborations



Be open to others from different backgrounds, because we're all human.

- Ejel Khan, Network Co-ordinator

Muslim LGBT Network

International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia

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16th January 2022
World Religion Day

"Amidst today's modern problems, contemplating on Waheguru's name (wondrous lord) is what allows me to shun away my worries and find stability in my life."

- Gracy, Sikh & youth activist for Burst the Bubble UK

BURST THE BUBBLE

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Follow our campaign on social media to keep up to date with our latest collaborations, activist features and campaign initiatives.



Happy Europe Day!

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@WeBelongEurope

WE BELONG



"We should confront all sorts of discriminations that we see around us but that we are quietly ignoring."

- Sonja Vilicic, Jewish educator at the European Union of Jewish Students

May 17th International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia

EUJS

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If you would like to collaborate with GTTO or want us to provide a workshop on tackling anti-religious hate and disinformation, contact: getthetrollsout@gmail.com