

The United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention (OSAPG)  
is pleased to invite you to:

## “Contemporary trends and challenges in hate speech”

With opening remarks by



**Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu**

Under-Secretary-General/Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Interactive discussion with:



**Mr. Fernand de Varennes**  
Special Rapporteur on Minority  
Issues



**Mr. Iain Levine**  
Senior Human Rights  
Advisor at Facebook/Meta



**Ms. Barbora Bukovska**  
Senior Director for Law and  
Policy at ARTICLE 19

Facilitated by **Mr. Martin Ejidike**  
Chief of Office, OSAPG

**Date: 16.05.2022**

**Time: 2:30pm EST**

Link to join Meeting: [Click HERE to join the meeting](#)

The United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention (OSAPG)  
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## “Contemporary trends and challenges in hate speech”

*The UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG)* would like to invite you to a webinar on “Contemporary trends and challenges in hate speech”. The webinar will focus on ideas and initiatives on **how to identify hate speech, mitigate it online and offline, and what role different actors play in developing and applying effective countermeasures**. The session provides an opportunity to **evaluate recent policy initiatives** and explore solutions for issues that are **not yet adequately addressed**.

Speakers include **Fernand de Varennes**, Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, **Iain Levine**, Senior Human Rights Director at Meta, and **Barbora Bukowska**, Senior Director for Law and Policy at ARTICLE 19. The speakers will share their observations on **contemporary trends and challenges in hate speech** especially and how they **impact** contemporary societies.

This is the first of a **series of three webinars on hate speech** organized by **OSAPG** in the lead up to, and in preparation of, the first commemoration of the **International Day for Countering Hate Speech** established in *June 2021* by *General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/309* on “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”. The International Day will be celebrated for the first time on Monday, 20 June 2022. The webinars will feature guest speakers who will discuss and offer perspectives on different aspects of the hate speech phenomenon and **raise public awareness on the importance of addressing and countering hate speech in line with international human rights standards**.

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## “Contemporary trends and challenges in hate speech”

**Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu** of Kenya is Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Ms. Nderitu is a recognized voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, having led as mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes. She served as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya, as well as Founding Member and co-Chair of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a prevention agency linking early warning to early response. She was also one of the founders of Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism, a network of African women professionals preventing, transforming and solving violent, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts worldwide. Widely published, she is the recipient of awards recognizing her commitment to peaceful conflict transformation throughout Africa and her innovative approach to mediation.

**Mr. Fernand de Varenes** is Extraordinary Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Adjunct Professor at the National University of Ireland-Galway (Ireland), and Cheng Yu Tung Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (China). He was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues by the Human Rights Council and assumed his functions on 1 August 2017. Fernand de Varenes' work and commitment focusses on the human rights of minorities, as well as the prevention of ethnic conflicts, the rights of migrants, the relationship between ethnicity, human rights and democracies, and the use of federalism and other forms of autonomy arrangements to balance competing cultural interests. His contributions on these topics in many parts of the world, including as a professor for almost 20 years at Murdoch University in Australia, and as guest professor at numerous academic institutions in Africa, Asia and Europe. He has written reports for and spoken in numerous forums including before UN committees in Geneva, the European Parliament in Brussels, and with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Fernand de Varenes holds degrees from the Université de Moncton (LLB, 1988), the London School of Economics and Political Science (LLM, 1992), and the Rijksuniversiteit Limburg (becoming in 1996 the University of Maastricht, Dr Juris, 1996).

**Mr. Iain Levine** is a senior human rights advisor at Meta where he supports the implementation of the company's human rights policy and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Prior to joining Meta, he worked with UNICEF for ten years in Mozambique, South Sudan and NYC; was Amnesty International's UN Representative; and Human Rights Watch's deputy executive Director for Program.

**Ms. Barbora Bukovská** has been ARTICLE 19's Senior Director for Law and Policy since 2009. She leads on the development of all ARTICLE 19 policies and provides legal oversight and support to legal work across the organization. She has an extensive experience working with various organisations on a range of human rights issues, including protection from discrimination, access to justice, deprivation of liberty, reproductive rights and community development. She also initiated about 50 cases at the European Court of Human Rights on these issues and has published a number of reports and articles on a broad range of human rights. From 2006 to 2008, she was the Legal Director at the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, an international organisation working on the rights of people with disabilities in Europe and Central Asia. She graduated from the Law School of Charles University in Prague and has earned a doctorate degree in law in Slovakia and an LLM degree from Harvard Law School. In 1998 and 1999, she was a visiting scholar at the Columbia University Law School in New York.

For further information on this webinar, please contact Ms. Simona Cruciani  
([cruciani@un.org](mailto:cruciani@un.org)).

Visit [www.un.org/hate-speech](http://www.un.org/hate-speech) and [www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/) to learn more about the work  
of the United Nations to counter hate speech.