

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

“The role of civil society in tackling hate speech”

With opening remarks by



Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu

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

Interactive discussion with:



Ms. Claire Thomas

Deputy Director at Minority Rights Group



Dr. Sanjana Hattotuwa

Special Advisor at ICT4Peace Foundation



Mr. Javier Pallero

Director of Policy & International Programs at Access Now

Facilitated by **Ms. Simona Cruciani**
Political Affairs Officer, OSAPG

Date: 23.05.2022

Time: 1pm-2pm EST

Click [HERE](#) to join the meeting or link can also be found in the body of the invitation email

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

“The role of civil society in tackling hate speech”

The UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) would like to invite you to a webinar on “**The role of civil society in tackling hate speech**”. The webinar will focus on the role of civil society to address and counter hate speech. The session will highlight **good practices, challenges and opportunities** in this regard. It will also provide **examples of partnerships between civil society and other relevant actors** to address hate speech and promote positive narratives.

Speakers include: **Ms. Claire Thomas**, Deputy Director at Minority Rights Group
Dr. Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor at ICT4Peace Foundation
Mr. Javier Pallero, Director of Policy & International Programs at Access Now.
The speakers will share their observations on the **role and the importance of civil society in tackling hate speech**.

This is the second 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 *July 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 feature guest speakers who 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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“The role of civil society in tackling 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.

Ms. Claire Thomas is the lead editor of a forthcoming Hate Speech Manual: The Hate Speech Crisis and Ways to Start Fixing It and has been leading MRG's efforts to support civil society challenges to religious hate speech for the past 5 years. The Manual relies heavily on the experience of MRG's partners in Iraq, Myanmar and Pakistan who have been monitoring and reporting hate speech but also finding ways to educate decision makers and the public at large about hate speech and creating and sharing positive messages about religiously diverse communities to counter hate speech narratives.

Dr. Sanjana Hattotuwa is a Special Advisor at ICT4Peace Foundation. He used to work as Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Alternatives on the use of social media for activism and online citizen journalism/civic media in Sri Lanka. He specialised in, advised and trained on social media communications strategy, countering-violence extremism online, web-based activism, online advocacy and grounded, context-based, platform-specific social media research. At ICT4Peace Foundation he helped strengthen information management during crises and work on countering violent extremism online incl. work on these lines with the UN and other multilateral organisations involved in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and humanitarian affairs. He worked in South Asia, South East Asia, North Africa, Europe and the Balkans to capture, disseminate and archive inconvenient truths in austere, violent contexts.

Mr. Javier Pallero is Access Now's Policy Director. Before joining Access Now, he worked for several years with digital rights organizations in Argentina, conducting policy analysis and promoting human rights activism on the net. He also was a teaching assistant at Cordoba's National University in Argentina on the subject of Internet Law and Economics while serving as a consultant and speaker in the local media. In addition to all of this, Javier is an amateur musician who is passionate about the internet and its power for social change.

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

Visit www.un.org/hate-speech and www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/ to learn more about the work of the United Nations to counter hate speech.