



SOCIAL HATERS

HATE SPEECH DURING COVID-19

PREVALENCE, DYNAMICS AND PATTERNS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Social | HaterS project was a project implemented in Portugal. This Infographic includes information on one of the outputs of the project: an online survey targeting young people.

The survey was disseminated online between January and March 2022 and included questions on the use of social media, witnessing hate speech on social media, experiencing hate speech on social media and the impact of the pandemic on hate speech. The pandemic period was considered between march 2020 and march 2022.

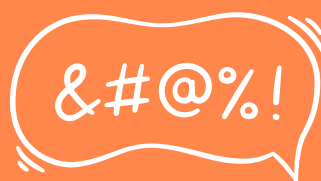
DIMENSIONS ANALYSED



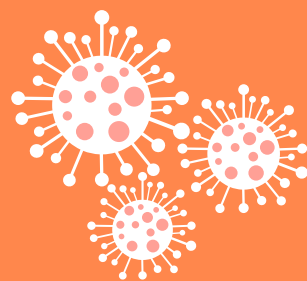
Use of social media



Witnessing online hate speech



Experiences of online hate speech



Impact of pandemic

At the beginning of the survey hate speech was defined as: offensive or humiliating messages or comments against a person or group of people, motivated by prejudice against characteristics of the person or group, or in relation to their identity. These hate speeches are often motivated by prejudice or intolerance towards gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, functional diversity, among other identity characteristics.

Funding:



Partners:



HATE SPEECH ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ONLINE SURVEY

PARTICIPANTS

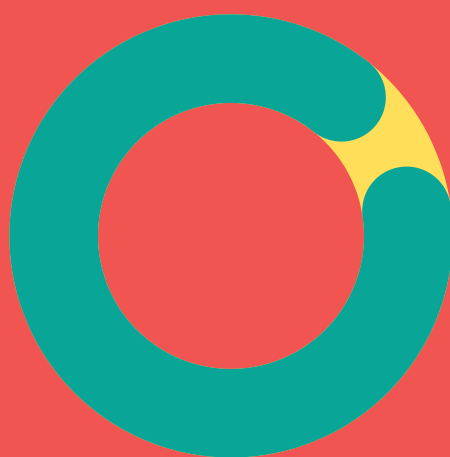
Young people between 17 and 21 years old residing in Portugal (mean 19 years old)



64% Female
33% Male
3% Other/Not referred

NATIONALITY

Portuguese
96%



Other nationalities
4%

- BRAZIL
- MOZAMBIQUE
- CAPE VERDE
- SPAIN
- ANGOLA
- SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



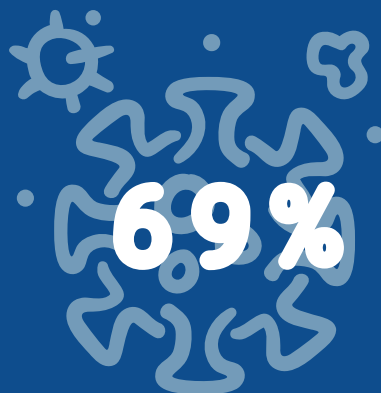
Frequency:

- 74% Several times a day
- 21% Daily
- 4% Almost everyday
- <1% 1-2 days per week
- <1% 3-4 days per week
- <1% Only occasionally during the month

Average daily usage time:

- 6% All day
- 14% Between 6h and 10h
- 31% Between 3h and 6h
- 37% Between 1h and 3h
- 12% Less than 1h

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID-19



69% of young people mentioned using social media more frequently during the pandemic

24% mentioned to use it with the same frequency and 7% reduced the use of social media during the pandemic

SOCIAL HATERS

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA



54% of young people considered that they always or almost always feel safe on social media

11% of young people considered that they 'never' or 'almost never' feel safe.

ONLINE HATE SPEECH

91%



91% of the participants read or saw hate speech on social media during the pandemic

Frequency of witnessing online hate speech:

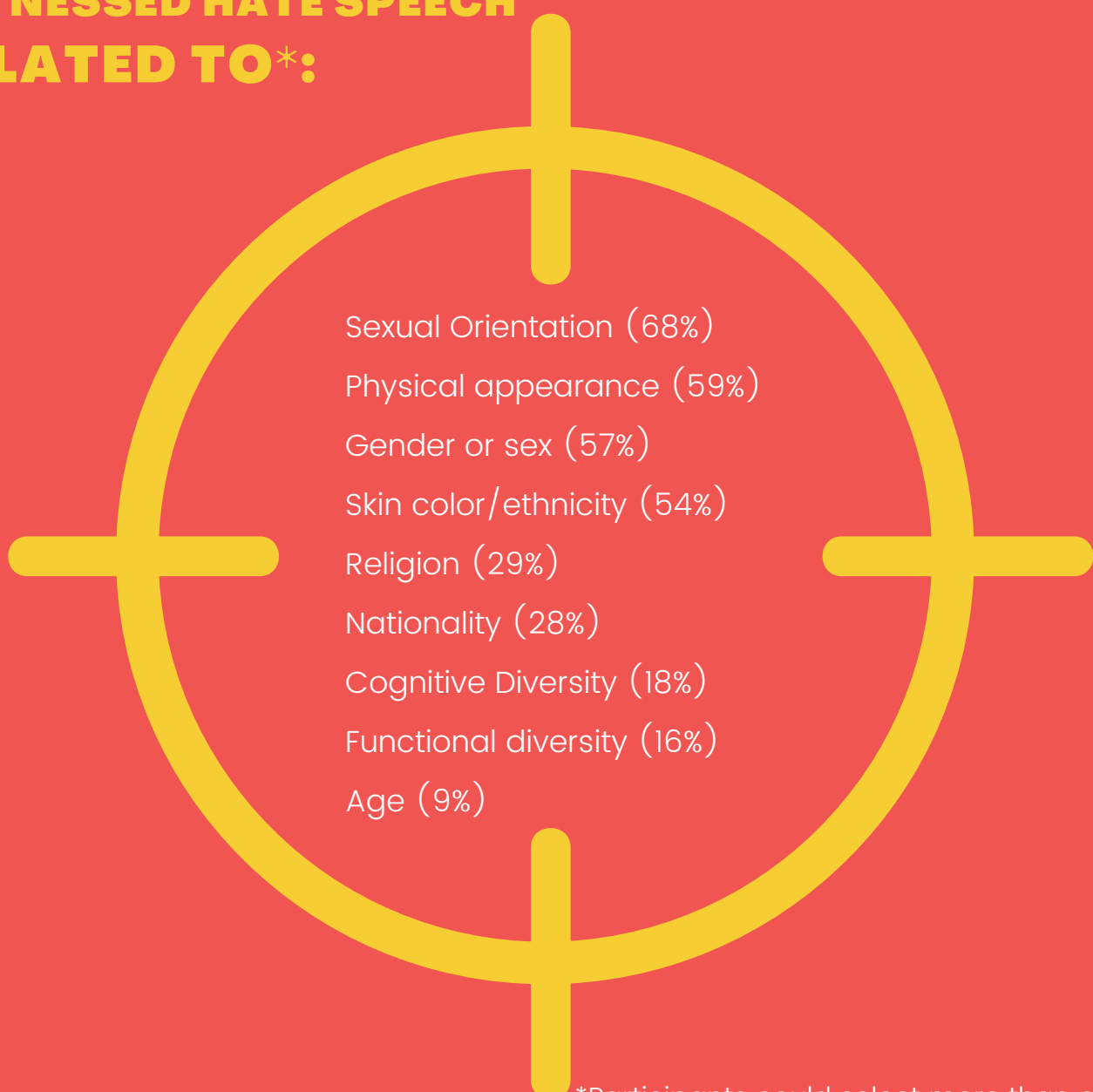
- 6% Never
- 2% Once
- 40% Sometimes
- 30% Often
- 19% Almost every day
- 3% Don't know/don't remember

63%

of respondents consider that hate speech was published more frequently during the pandemic



WITNESSED HATE SPEECH RELATED TO*:



*Participants could select more than one option

Funding:



Partners:



VICTIMISATION

HATE SPEECH

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

EXPERIENCES OF SELF-REPORTED VICTIMISATION

22%



22% of young people have been the target of hate speech on social media at some point in their lives.

59%



In 59% of the cases, these hate speeches took place during the pandemic.

56%



Of those who experienced hate speech on social media during the pandemic, 56% mentioned that such violence has occurred more than once.

45%



Of those who experienced hate speech on social media during the pandemic, 45% did not talk about the situation with others.

MAIN REASONS TO NOT SPEAKING ABOUT HATE SPEECH WITH OTHERS



- I don't think it's worth talking about this topic with other people because it's something personal (31%)
- I don't feel comfortable exposing this situation (25%)
- Shame (21%)
- Fear (9%)
- I'm afraid people won't believe me (7%)
- No answer/Other reasons (22%)



51%

Of those who experienced hate speech on social media during the pandemic, 51% talked about the situation with others:

- 65% Friends
- 29% Parents
- 15% Brothers and sisters
- 10% Teachers
- 7% Other family members
- 4% Authorities
- 3% Others



Frequency which young people felt sad, uncomfortable and/or scared due to comments, messages and posts containing hate speech against them on social media during the pandemic

- 3% Daily
- 2% Every week
- 3% Every month
- 48% Sometimes
- 20% Only once
- 10% Don't know/ don't remember
- 14% No answer

IMMEDIATE REACTIONS AFTER EXPERIENCING ONLINE HATE SPEECH*



- Blocking of some people to avoid contacts (38%)
- Closing social media on that moment (32%)
- Trying to argue back on social media (17%)
- Ignoring the problem waiting it to be solved by itself (17%)
- Reporting the issue online by clicking on the corresponding section to 'report abuse' (17%)
- Delete all offensive messages (11%)
- Change privacy settings on social media (10%)
- Tried to revenge (4%)
- Stop using the internet for some time (4%)

*Participants could select more than one option

Funding:



Partners:



FEELINGS REPORTED AFTER EXPERIENCING ONLINE HATE SPEECH*



- Sad (44%)
- Angry (42%)
- Outraged (40%)
- Embarrassed (28%)
- Anxious (27%)
- Powerless (25%)
- Scared (20%)
- Alone (19%)
- Depressive (19%)
- Distressed (18%)
- Guilty (17%)
- Apathetic (9%)



*Participants could select more than one option

HATE SPEECH EXPERIENCED RELATED TO*

- Physical appearance (21%)
- Gender or sex (18%)
- Sexual Orientation (15%)
- Nationality (15%)
- Skin color/ethnicity (10%)
- Religion (4%)
- Disability (4%)
- Age (1%)
- Don't know/Don't remember (3%)
- No answer/Other (46%)



*Participants could select more than one option

FREQUENCY OF HATE SPEECH DURING THE PANDEMIC

34% consider that hate speeches against them were published more frequently during the pandemic;

40% consider that hate speeches against them were published with the same frequency during the pandemic;

26% consider that hate speeches against them were published less frequently during the pandemic

Funding:



Partners:





HATE SPEECH

ON

SOCIAL MEDIA



IMPACT OF HATE SPEECH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE*

“

Often they are "sockpuppet" accounts, that is, accounts created specifically for this type of interaction on social media, almost like "trolls", and I get tired of having to defend or explain who I am.
(Male, 19 years old)

”

When I suffered these attacks I was very young and didn't have the emotional maturity to deal with them. At the time, it greatly influenced the way I saw myself, both psychologically and physically, worsening my self-esteem. I had my first panic and anxiety attacks during that time. They [The attacks] continue to this day.
(Female, 19 years old)

“

They made me think that the people of this society are not good, I mean, I lost faith in humanity because, honestly, I didn't understand and I still don't understand how in the 21st century there are still those who think like that and blatantly manifest it. I felt like I didn't fit in and that I couldn't be myself without being judged.
(Female, 21 years old)

*Quotes from the open questions of the survey

Based on these findings an international awareness-raising campaign on social media was created:
#NoNetforHate



<http://socialhaters.umarfeminismos.org/campanhas/>

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