



## **Concept Note - #DeleteAntisemitism Campaign Webinar**

**Webinar Date** – *October 21st 2020, 4:30pm CET (tbc)*

### **Webinar Overview**

The proposed webinar will accompany the #DeleteAntisemitism campaign initiated by major Jewish organisations in Europe as a response to the EU Commission's Digital Services Act consultation.

The discussion will bring together policymakers, social media companies as well as experts with a Jewish perspective. The discussion will touch on several key issues:

- Understanding the scope of the problem – the main challenges around hate speech and antisemitic hate speech in particular, in the online sphere (illegal content, harmful but legal content, sales of antisemitic merchandise, algorithmic transparency, etc.)
- Exploring steps already taken through legislation and voluntary measures by companies to address these challenges.
- Gaps, remedies and demands as put forward by Jewish organizations, particularly in the framework of the Digital Services Act consultation ([www.deleteantisemitism.org](http://www.deleteantisemitism.org)).

### **Panelists**

**Keynote address:** European Commission Vice President for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova

### **Panel discussion**

- [redacted] [redacted] at Twitter EU
- [redacted], [redacted] at Google  
Brussels
- **Representative of Facebook - tbd**
- [redacted] [redacted] to UNESCO, [redacted] Council of Europe [redacted]  
[redacted]

Moderated by [redacted] (EU Journalist on Digital Rights)

### **Proposed points/angle for remarks from VP Jourova**

- Highlighting the fact that over the past years hate speech has been an increasingly worrying problem, which has only gotten worse amid the COVID19 pandemic, with growing disinformation and conspiracy myths circulating online
- Highlighting progress made during her time as Commissioner, on developing the Code of Conduct for IT Companies, which has been an important step
- Highlighting the need to go beyond illegal content and deal with harmful but legal content, that has targeted all minority communities, and has been particularly virulently antisemitic
- Underlining the DSA as a unique, once in a decade opportunity to do so
- Addressing the need for platforms to take more responsibility, and have legally binding obligations
- We know antisemitism kills in Europe today. The attack in Halle, commemorated just last week on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, was broadcasted online. The attacker radicalized online, and published his manifesto online. This is not an isolated case, but the current modus operandi of many of the attackers involved in the worst recent incidents (Christchurch, Tree of Life synagogue)
- Recognizing companies (Twitter, Facebook) have taken steps to try to address some of the issues (such as the promised ban on Holocaust denial by Facebook) – but the EU has a responsibility to its Jewish citizens and cannot rely solely on voluntary compliance

### **Potential questions from moderator**

- The Digital strategy promised by President Von Der Leyen promised a human centered approach that puts the dignity and safety of users first. How do you anticipate this being reflected in the DSA?
- Can Jewish communities trust at this point that the very real safety concerns they face vis-à-vis the online sphere are not outweighed by the massive effort by platforms to avoid liability?