



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies – Public Report



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INTERNATIONAL HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION CONFERENCE

Organised by the **Hrant Dink Foundation**

With support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation
and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

December 11-12, 2020

ACHRS Representative Participant:

Alexander Royall and Juliette Rémond Tiedrez

Brief Introduction

The two-day conference gathered civil society representatives, academics, legal experts, occupational organizations, media workers, and journalists to present their studies and share their experiences and opinions on how to analyse and tackle hate speech and discriminatory discourse. An International Science Committee selected 26 papers to be presented for this conference in 11 panels with different themes. ACHRS was represented in the first panel by Alexander Royall who shared the findings of his study that he had conducted together with Juliette Rémond Tiedrez, also working for ACHRS.

[Click Here for the List of Speakers and Moderators](#)

Following the opening remarks by Rakel Dink, the Hrant Dink Foundation President, Ronald Meinardus, Head of Friedrich Naumann Foundation Turkey Office, Peter Ericson, General Consul of Sweden in Istanbul, and Yasemin Inceoğlu, Chairperson of the Conference Scientific Committee, Alexander Royall held a 15-minute presentation and two separate Q&A sessions on the study that he and Juliette Rémond Tiedrez had conducted together.

Following a call for abstracts in August by the Hrant Dink Foundation in August, 2020, the duo had worked on a study in which they used a critical discourse analysis approach to uncover dominant and/or competing discourses in two media outlets, one in Jordan and the other in Algeria. They hypothesised that the dominant discourses prior to national decision-making events, such as national elections or a referendum, would include discourse with a high potential for the activation of latent discriminatory attitudes among its audience if the outlets are controlled or heavily influenced by an authoritarian regime.

In the Q&A sessions, Alexander Royall elaborated further on the choices that were made during the study, such as the number of media outlets and countries that we included for the analysis. He also discussed with participants the difficulties of defining hate speech and the criminalisation of hate speech, the differences between qualitative and quantitative research in understanding and extracting discriminatory discourses, and the properties of social media that affect the nature of societal debate.

The five other panels that followed that day focused on discrimination in politics, racism, hate speech towards Syrian refugees, discrimination in Turkey, and hate speech on social media during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The next and final day brought together panels that discussed discrimination in the field of education in Berlin and experiences in Istanbul schools, the legal perspective and necessity of public authorities to investigate hate speech, populism and discrimination, LGBTI+ and hate speech in Turkey, gender-based discrimination, and measures to combat discrimination and hate speech.

We want to thank the Hrant Dink Foundation for organising this wonderful conference on such an important and thought-provoking issue that keeps on affecting countless of people every single day. If you are interested in reading our research that was presented by Alexander Royall for this conference, please click [here](#).