

To the attention of:  
Vice-President, High Representative Josep Borell  
Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager  
Vice-President Věra Jourová  
Commissioner Helena Dalli

President of the European Commission  
Ursula Von der Leyen

15 December 2020

Honorable President Von der Leyen,

In your State of the Union speech last September, you mentioned that the Commission would propose to extend the list of EU crimes to all forms of hate crime and hate speech, whether because of race, religion, gender or sexuality.

Indeed, we need to have zero tolerance for all kind of hate speech and acknowledge the role of social media platforms in enabling and instigating hate speech online. As the current pandemic has ever more strengthened the role of digital platforms in our lives we need to uphold the Rule of Law, Democracy and Human Rights in every fora and platform where people communicate, including social media platforms.

Hate speech targeting girls and women remains under-reported and the safeguards in removing and reporting it online are not efficient enough. As you very well know, hate speech targeting women and girls is multiform, can focus on appearance, sexuality, take the form of general intimidation, belittlement or and inappropriate naming and shaming in any context of the discussion. Violent threats, death threats and sexual harassment are too common to any woman or girl using their platform online and expressing their freedom of speech.

We have to apply zero tolerance to any form of hate speech towards girls and women in all fora especially in different social media platforms. The social media platforms and other actors need to be legally obliged to act against and remove all hate speech targeting women and girls.

We as co-signatories demand zero tolerance on hate speech targeting girls and women and hope that you would act upon eradicating it in the upcoming Data Act regulation and other relevant regulatory measures, and any other possible actions of the Commission.

With respectful regards,



**Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP**  
Member of the FEMM Committee

**Co-signatories:**

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