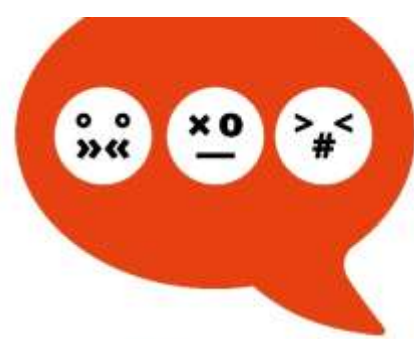


Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities

ONLINE EVENT:
OCTOBER 19-20, 2020



P R A C T I C A L I N F O R M A T I O N

1. Date and venue of the meeting

The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum (the “Regional Forum”) on the topic “*Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities*” will be held on 19th – 20th October 2020. The Regional Forum is convened by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues and organized by the Tom Lantos Institute in cooperation with a number of regional organizations: Asia-Europe Foundation, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Mahidol University, Minority Rights Group International, and Pusat KOMAS.

The meeting will be held on the Zoom conferencing platform.

Please note, throughout the Regional Forum and its documentation, the term “minorities” refers to national, or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as specified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities [1992].

2. Output

During the meeting, the discussions and the contributions of the participants will result in the development of a regional document with practical recommendations reflective of regional contexts and challenges. Additional information in relation to the objectives of the regional forums can be found in the concept note and call for participation on the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum webpage, <https://tom-lantos-institutue.events.idloom.com/asiapacific-regional-forum-on-minority-issues-2020>

3. Information relevant to holding the meeting online

Preparation

A few days prior to the meeting, access information to the meeting will be sent to all registered participants. It will not be necessary to set up an account with Zoom to join the meeting. Participants may access the meeting through a web browser as well.

The meeting can be joined 1 hour before the indicated starting time. Participants are encouraged to log in early in order for their credentials and connectivity to be checked prior to the start of the meeting.

Participants are required to join the meeting using the applicable naming convention communicated before the meeting via the confirmation email. Please use the Latin alphabet when writing your username. Only participants with the appropriate naming convention will be admitted to the meeting. Otherwise, they will be “removed” from the Waiting Room so they may rename themselves and join again applying the naming convention correctly.

Conduct of the online meeting

Participants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposed recommendations in writing to the meeting by Friday 16th October via regionalforum@tomlantosinstitute.hu. Recommendations can also be submitted in writing during the Regional Forum using the Zoom chat function.

Speakers are kindly requested to speak slower than usual in order for other participants to follow the discussions.

Participants are required to remain muted with their camera disabled at all times during the meeting, except when taking the floor. This will ensure the best possible sound quality for all meeting participants.

Participants that wish to be added to the speakers list during the Regional Forum are kindly asked to use the “raise hand” function available in Zoom (Please see the Quick Reference Zoom Guide on how to use the functions). Once the moderator hands the floor to a participant, the speaker should unmute themselves and turn on the camera before taking the floor, if possible. After their intervention is finished, the speaker mutes themselves and disables their camera. This process is repeated for each participant which is given the floor.

In case of technical issues (unmuting/video function not working for someone who wishes to intervene/etc.), the Chat function shall be used to promptly inform the meeting host of the problem, so that appropriate action can be taken.

4. Process

Structure of the meeting

Following the opening session there will be four consecutive thematic sessions addressing specific themes.

Each thematic session will consist of 3 or 4 expert panelists and a moderator. Each session will begin with short presentations from the expert panelists, highlighting the issue areas and focusing on key points from which recommendations can subsequently be elicited through further discussions.

Following the presentations, the floor will be open for interventions during which participants will be able to make statements and propose recommendations.

The moderator will revert back to the expert panelists for final comments at the end of each thematic session, following interventions from participants.

Length of interventions from the floor

To allow for a broader participation, interventions are limited to 2 minutes. The organizers reserve the right to change the time limit, subject to the number of participants. Any change will be communicated to participants in advance.

Taking the floor

Participants wishing to speak should indicate this to the moderator (via the “raise hand” function in Zoom) and wait for the floor to be given to them by the moderator. The speakers

will be taken in the order that they raised their hands.

When taking the floor, participants shall turn on their own microphone and camera; the use of a camera is a required unless internet connection issues prevent this or the use of a camera is not possible. Participants must introduce themselves by providing their name, surname and the name of the organization/State they represent (if any). Participants should keep their comments short and to the point and speak only within the time frame allotted to them.

Subject to the number of participants registered for the Regional Forum, participants can speak only once during a session. If there is time left before the end of the thematic session, moderators will ask participants to raise their hands if they wish to make a second intervention.

The moderator will help to ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at achieving the meetings' objectives, ensuring that participants speak on the topic under discussion at least once.

There are no rights of reply or points of order during the Regional Forum. All participants wishing to make a statement or intervention must follow the protocol detailed above.

Thematic focus

All interventions and statements under each theme of the Regional Forum should be relevant to the particular theme and relate to the topics under discussion. All statements should include **concrete recommendations** on how to tackle the issues under the theme. We count on the cooperation of all participants to that end.

The focus of all interventions should be the development of recommendations. However, if participants have research or data that is relevant to the theme of the discussions, then they are encouraged to share this by posting it in the chat function.

Recommendations

All proposed recommendations must also be sent in writing. This can be done in advance of the Regional Forum by emailing them to regionalforum@tomlantosinstitute.hu or during the Regional Forum by submitting them via the Zoom chat function. This includes those recommendations proposed during an intervention, to ensure they are incorporated into the output document.

All proposed recommendations submitted in writing will be collated by the organizers. The final list of recommendations will be open for comment via the Zoom chat function during the final session (Presentation of Recommendations).

Code of conduct

Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights and the principle of non-discrimination. In order to attain fruitful and meaningful exchanges, all participants are expected to show respect for others' views and to exercise decorum, avoid abusive or disrespectful language or derogatory and inflammatory remarks, respect UN core values and principles, and uphold UN standards when referring to countries and territories.

5. Schedule

The opening session will start on Monday, 19th October at 07:00 CEST (Geneva). During this session the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, as well as the keynote speakers, will present their opening remarks. Participants will not be able to make statements or interventions during the opening session.

Four working group sessions will follow, and all participants will have the right to speak during the thematic sessions and to submit proposed recommendations in writing.

At the closing session on Tuesday, 20th October at 12:00 CEST (Geneva), the proposed recommendations developed during the four thematic sessions will be made available to participants to consider. The session will be introduced by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the recommendations will be made available for all participant to view via the shared-screen Zoom function. The recommendations will then be read out. Participants that wish to comment on a specific recommendation should use the chat function to send their comment, referring to the specific recommendation number.

The final set of recommendations will be posted online on the organizer's website, the webpage of the UN Forum on Minority Issues and on www.minorityforum.info following the Regional Forum, once they have been finalized by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

The meeting will end on Tuesday, 20th October at 13:30 CEST (Geneva).

6. Working Languages

The working language of the Regional Forum will be English.

7. Contact Information

Mr. Sean Waller, at regionalforum@tomlantosinstitute.hu

8. Livestream and Recording

The Regional Forum will be livestreamed on YouTube. The link to view the livestream is [here](#).

Following the Regional Forum, the video and audio recording will be publicly available on the Tom Lantos Institute's YouTube channel, website and on www.minorityforum.info.

9. Media

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues will be available for 1 hour at the end of each day of the regional forum for media enquiries.

For inquiries and media requests, please contact Ms. Marina Narvaez (mnarvaez@ohchr.org) or Ms Hee-Kyong Yoo (hyoo@ohchr.org).