

Katarzyna Kasowska-Pedrycz prepared a dissertation entitled ***Hate speech in public space. Legal and political analysis***. The thesis supervisor was professor Agnieszka Kasińska-Metryka.

The research field covers several scientific disciplines, but most of all law, political science, and social psychology. The intended work is of an interdisciplinary nature. The practice of the author as a prosecutor appointed to deal with hate crimes allowed for an in-depth research spectrum and access to materials that are not of a general nature.

The identified research problem boiled down to the fact that hate speech is a phenomenon separate from hate crimes, but only in the sense that it does not always have to lead to them. On the other hand, hate crimes *ex definitione* contain hateful content. The research area relates to the Polish political system (especially the legal subsystem) and closes in 2012-2019.

The adopted time limit of six years is a sufficiently long period of time to study most of scientifically interesting phenomena. The beginning of the research period (2012) was marked by the changes that took place in the organization of the Polish system of prosecuting hate crimes - raising the rank and pointing to a specific character. The ending date of the research is justified by the fact that in January 2019 the tragic death of the President of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz took place, who when attacked in public space became a victim-symbol.

An in-depth query in libraries has shown that the category of hate speech has not been elaborated in a sufficiently comprehensive way in both domestic and foreign (mainly English-language) literature. Even with regard to the definition of hate speech, there is no agreement and the position of the Council of Europe is quoted most often.

The aim of the research was to specify the nature of the changes taking place in the spread and punishment of hate speech and hate crimes in Poland, and above all to establish the correlation between these phenomena. Intentionally, the work does not refer to images of the described problem in other countries, as it would be an "incomparable comparison". Each political system has very specific factors that either strengthen or weaken the spread of hate speech. States differ not only in the scale of the problems generating hate speech, adopted legal solutions, but also in anti-discriminatory educational programs and historically established national mentality. The linguistic corpus within which statements are analyzed in terms of hateful content is also important.

The leading key categories were: hate speech - public space - social phenomenon - exclusion - crime - legal protection.

On the basis of the defined research problem, three leading research hypotheses were derived, i.e.:

H1: Economic, social and political determinants in Poland after 2012 contributed to the escalation of hate speech in the public space, although at the same time significant changes took place in the legislative system, drawing more attention of law enforcement and justice authorities to hate crimes.

H2: The lack of a direct definition of "hate speech" in the Polish legal system means that a number of phenomena of a nature excluding minority groups from equal participation in social life are evaluative and thus difficult to verify, which creates a risk of discretion in evaluation of the evidence.

H3: The development of new media, their greater availability and popularity generates new forms of hate speech on the Internet and forces the improvement of the tools necessary to prosecute hate crimes online. Often, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary do not keep up with the changes, which results in the need to use the opinions of experts in the field of linguistics, cultural studies or new media.

Each of the above hypotheses requires verification, and this is impossible without formulating an answer to partial questions. Regarding the first of the hypotheses (H1), it is reasonable to ask the following questions: 1. To what extent has the professionalization of the activities of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary increased in the effective combating of hate speech and its consequences? 2. What ethnic, national and racial groups are particularly at risk of increasing the number of hate crimes?

The second research hypothesis (H2) was supplemented with the following questions: 1. What distinctive features is the so-called hate speech associated with? 2. What are the quantifiers of crimes in the area of hate speech?

The third hypothesis (H3) can be verified, *inter alia*, by finding a solution to the following questions: 1. How is the search and monitoring of hate speech done online? 2. What are the obstacles in the process of detecting online hate speech crimes?

Focusing on the aim of the work, the following research methods were used: institutional and legal analysis, which was applied to both the activities of legal institutions dealing with hate crimes (prosecutor's office, police). Content analysis was used in relation to the opinions of expert experts, and the analysis of documents was used to study such source materials as legal acts, reports, and statistical summaries.

The work was built from the Introduction, Ending and five chapters, i.e.

- I. Hate speech as a social phenomenon
- II. Hate crimes in Poland after 2012 - legal regulations
- III. Premises of hate crimes
- IV. Online hate speech
- V. Selected hate crimes in Poland after 2012 – an in-depth analysis

In the form of an appendix, extensive excerpts from the linguist prof. Katarzyna Kłosińska were included.

The study clearly showed the correlation between the spread of hate speech and the number of crimes committed against it. The collected and discussed statistics show both a huge percentage increase in committed crimes and the sequential changes of the addressee of hate speech.

In the socio-political perspective of the changes taking place in Poland, it was shown which groups and for what reasons the messages and hateful actions were directed at. In the outlined reality, the only panacea against hate speech remains education, including legal education. Since it is primarily young people who experience discrimination and hatred online, it is necessary to reach schools and universities directly with programs explaining the social, psychological and legal consequences of promoting hatred. The possibility of joining European projects in this area limits the financial outlays borne by the state. As long as there is social consent to verbal and non-verbal acts of hatred, even the best legal regulations will not bring the desired improvement.