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## IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II 2024-2025 Spring Semester - Assoc. Prof. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu

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### Silence Hate, Strengthen Humanity

Hate speech and hate crimes are serious threats to human dignity and social harmony. Hate speech includes offensive or discriminatory language targeting people based on race, religion, gender, or other identities, often inciting hostility. When such prejudice turns into action—like violence, threats, or vandalism—it becomes a hate crime. Both aim to intimidate not just individuals, but entire communities, and must be firmly opposed to protect equality and human rights. The European Union has emerged as a global standard-setter in combating hate crime and hate speech, not only within its borders but also as a normative power influencing global discourse on human rights and social justice. Recognizing that hate-based violence and discriminatory rhetoric transcend national boundaries, the EU has actively promoted inclusive values, legal protections, and digital responsibility across international platforms. Through initiatives such as the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia, the Victims' Rights Directive, and the EU Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online, the EU has established a model for protecting marginalized communities and responding to the societal harms caused by hate. By seeking to expand the list of Eurocrimes under Article 83(1) TFEU to include hate speech and hate crime, the EU is not only strengthening its internal cohesion but also reinforcing international expectations for legal accountability and minority protection. The Union's actions are socially significant: they challenge normalization of hate, encourage solidarity, and elevate the voices of those often silenced by systemic bias. In doing so, the EU asserts that tolerance and equality are not optional values, but essential foundations of democratic societies—values it seeks to defend and promote globally through law, diplomacy, and public engagement.

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### Balancing Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech in the European Union

This poster explores how the European Court of Human Rights interprets and limits freedom of expression in cases involving hate speech within the EU. While Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects political expression, it does not extend to speech that incites racial or ethnic hatred. The case of *Féret v. Belgium* exemplifies the Court's approach to balancing democratic debate with the protection of vulnerable groups. In this context, hate speech is not treated as legitimate dissent but as a threat to pluralism, human dignity, and public order. The EU's stance reflects a growing consensus that protecting democracy also requires confronting harmful rhetoric—especially in political campaigns.





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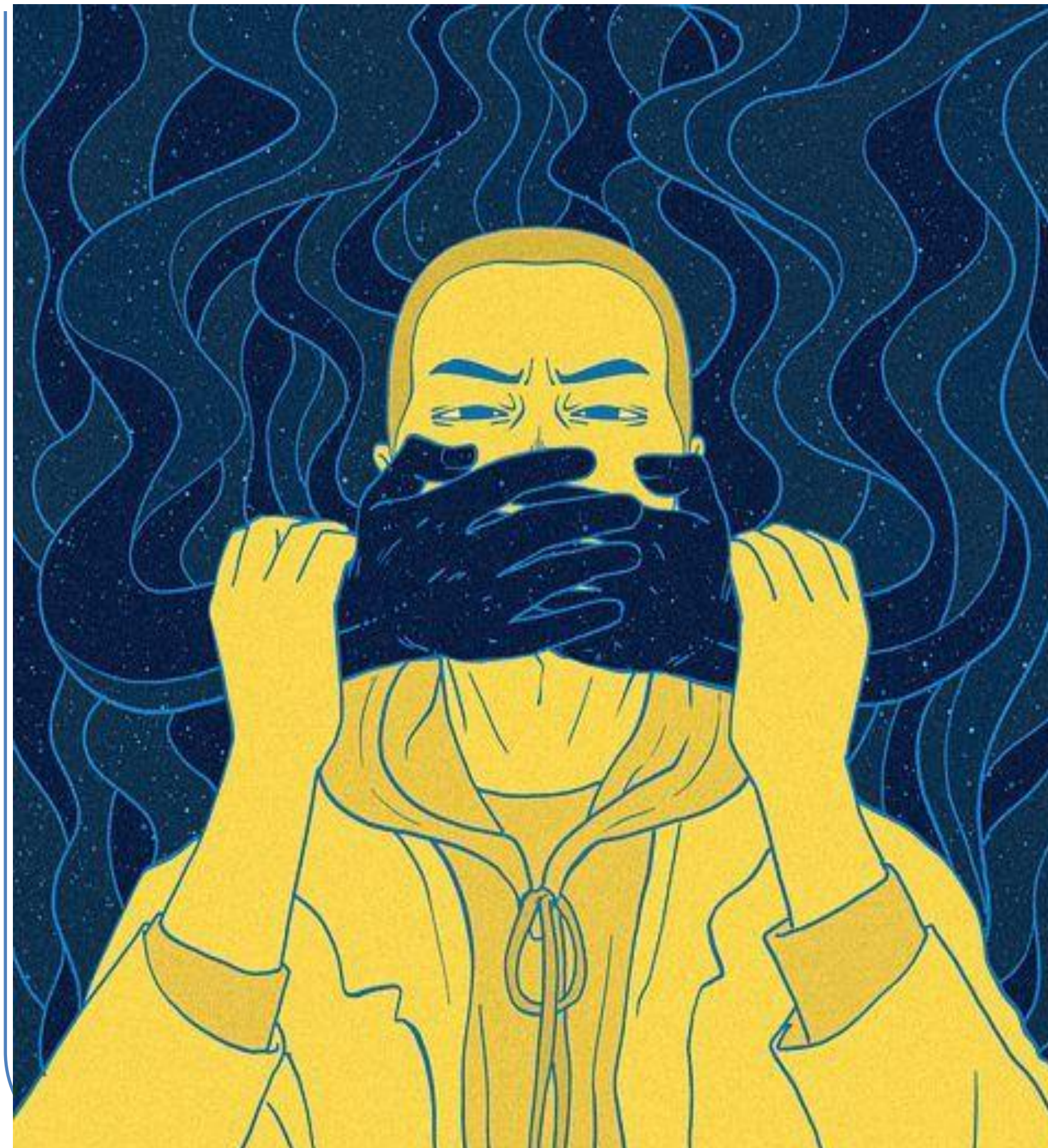
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### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression is the right of individuals or groups to express their ideas and opinions without fear of censorship, legal sanctions or threats, as declared by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and accepted by many countries. This right is also defined in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The protection of freedom of expression is essential to the democratic political process and to every individual. As a rule, the protection provided by Article 10 covers any expression, regardless of its content, made by any person, group or type of media. The only content-based restrictions applied by the Court concern speech promoting racism and Nazi ideology, denying the Holocaust, or propagating incitement to hatred and racial discrimination.

The *Handyside v. United Kingdom* (1976) case is one of the most important and pioneering decisions of the European Court of Human Rights on freedom of expression. This case has laid the foundations of the ECtHR's approach to freedom of expression. In this specific case, the Court has applied the principle of “national margin of appreciation”.

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Photo 1:

Adolfo Maxiác. (n.d.). *Freedom of expression*. Pinrrest

Photo 2 and 3 taken from Pinterest .





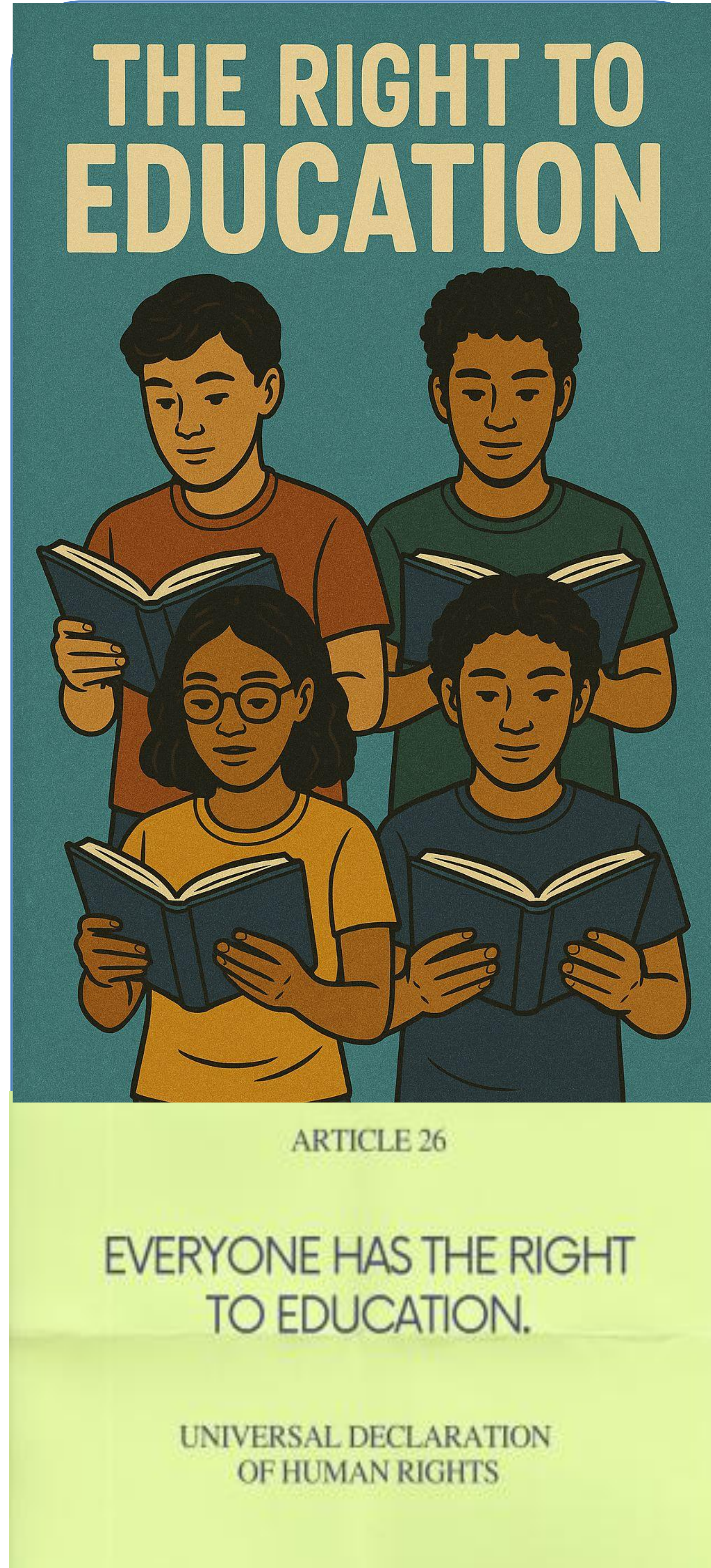
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### Right to Education

Education is one of the fundamental rights of every child. Regardless of race, language, religion, gender or economic status, every child has the right to access quality and equal education. Article 26 of the European Convention on Human Rights clearly states that education must be accessible to everyone and free from discrimination. Unfortunately, millions of children are still deprived of this right today. However, education is not just a transfer of knowledge; it is a bridge that allows children to dream, realize themselves and grow up as free individuals. Every child has the right to open a book and step into a new world. Taking this right away from them is not only blocking their path, but also the future. Providing children with equal educational opportunities is not a favor, but a universal responsibility.

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Racism remains one of the most pressing human rights issues in sport today. From racist chants in football stadiums to discriminatory treatment of athletes based on skin color or ethnicity, these acts not only harm individuals but also undermine the values of equality and respect.

The European Union, through campaigns like “No to Racism” and legal frameworks such as the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, actively combats racism in sport. However, reports and incidents show that legal measures alone are not enough—education, awareness, and institutional accountability are essential to creating safe and inclusive sporting environments.

Sport must be a space where everyone—regardless of race or background—can compete and belong.

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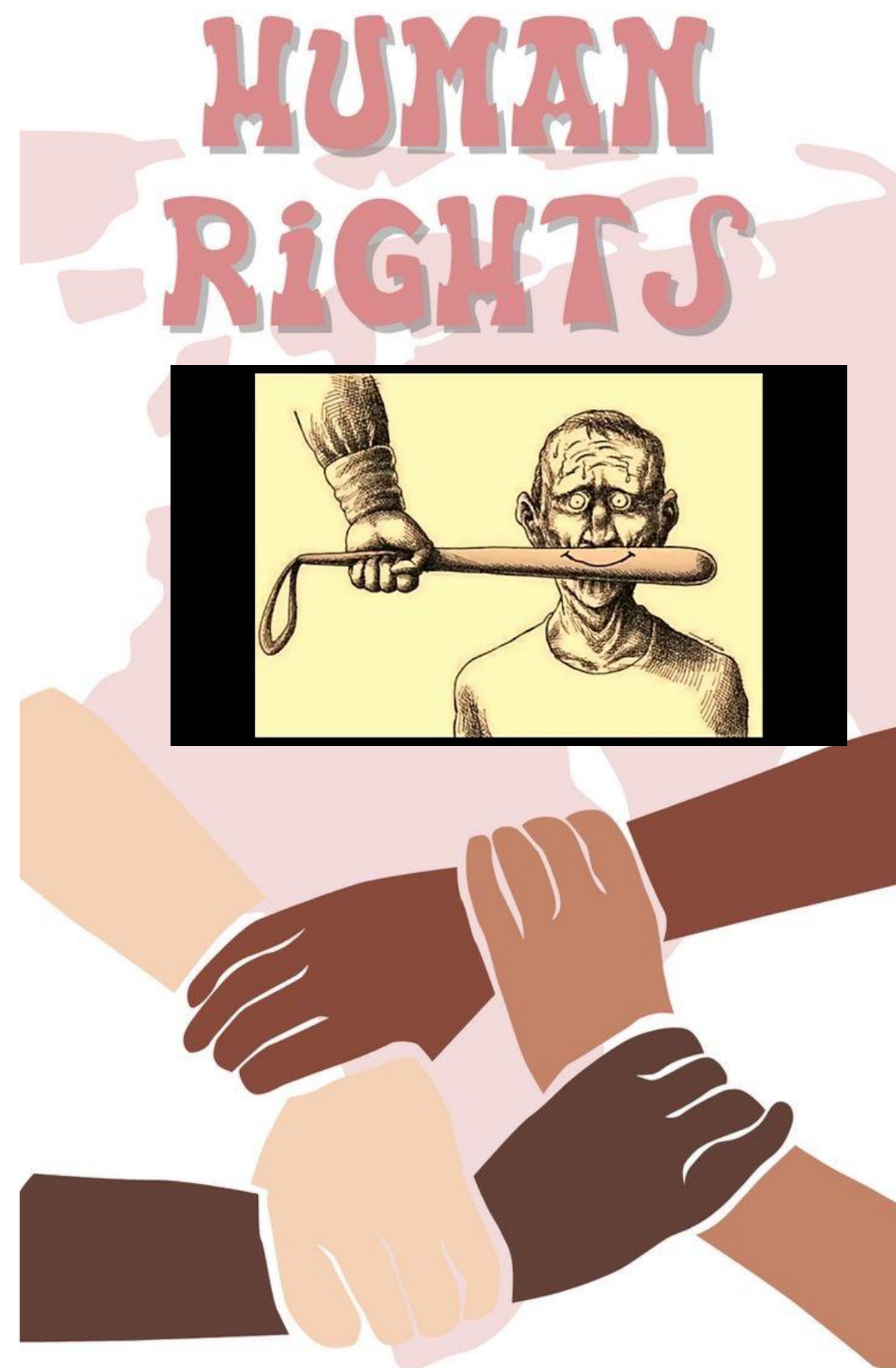


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### Freedom of Thought and Expression

Freedom of thought and expression is the right of individuals to hold their own opinions and express them freely without fear of censorship, punishment or oppression. It is a fundamental right protected under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. However, this right, which is clear at the theoretical level, faces many tests in practice. Today, especially on digital platforms, both access and sharing of access are being shaped by political and economic power groups. We see that press freedom in some member states is systematically undermined and opposition journalists or activists are being targeted. This freedom is not only the individual's right to speak. It also covers areas such as press independence, academic freedom, and freedom of expression in the digital environment. In a democratic society, neither free debate nor social progress is possible without these rights. The protection of this right depends not only on legal texts, but also on the daily attitudes and knowledge of all of us."

**"No democracy without free voices.  
No progress without free minds."**



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### Right To Education

This poster study addresses the issue of the right to education within the framework of the European Union (EU) and is based on the relevant work of Alessandra Viviani. The right to education is a fundamental element for the participation of individuals in democratic society. Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union guarantees everyone's access to free and compulsory education, while the EU directs the education policies of its member states through its legal regulations, strategic documents and funds.



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### The Hrant Dink Case: Journalism, Freedom of Expression and Human Rights

The European Court of Human Rights' judgment in *Hrant Dink v. Turkey* underscores the state's positive obligation to protect journalists from foreseeable threats. Hrant Dink, a Turkish-Armenian journalist, was prosecuted under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code and repeatedly targeted in the media, which created a hostile public atmosphere and ultimately led to his assassination in 2007. Although state authorities were fully aware of the threats against him, they failed to take any effective preventive action. The Court held that Turkey had violated the right to life (Article 2), freedom of expression (Article 10), and the right to an effective remedy (Article 13) under the European Convention on Human Rights. This case highlights that the role of the state is not limited to refraining from censorship or violence, but also includes actively ensuring the safety of journalists. Protecting press freedom is fundamental not only for individual rights but also for maintaining democratic accountability, public participation, and a free flow of information in society.



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### The Right to Education: A Fundamental Human Right for All

The right to education is not merely a service, but a fundamental human right essential for dignity, inclusion, and equality. It is enshrined in several international and regional frameworks, including Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2015, EU member states adopted the Paris Declaration, aiming to promote citizenship and common values such as tolerance and non-discrimination through quality education. However, as highlighted in the Council of Europe's 2011 Report and the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (2020), the actual integration of human rights education into national curricula remains insufficient. The EU's commitment to inclusive education, particularly through programs under the Lisbon Strategy and the Education and Training 2020 Agenda, reflects a growing recognition of the transformative power of education. Yet, to ensure real impact, member states must go beyond policy declarations and implement practical teacher training and curriculum reforms. As stated by Viviani (2017), “Human rights education is not just about knowing rules, but about shaping attitudes.” Only through active, inclusive, and participatory education systems can the right to education become a living reality for all.

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### Hate Crime and Hate Speech

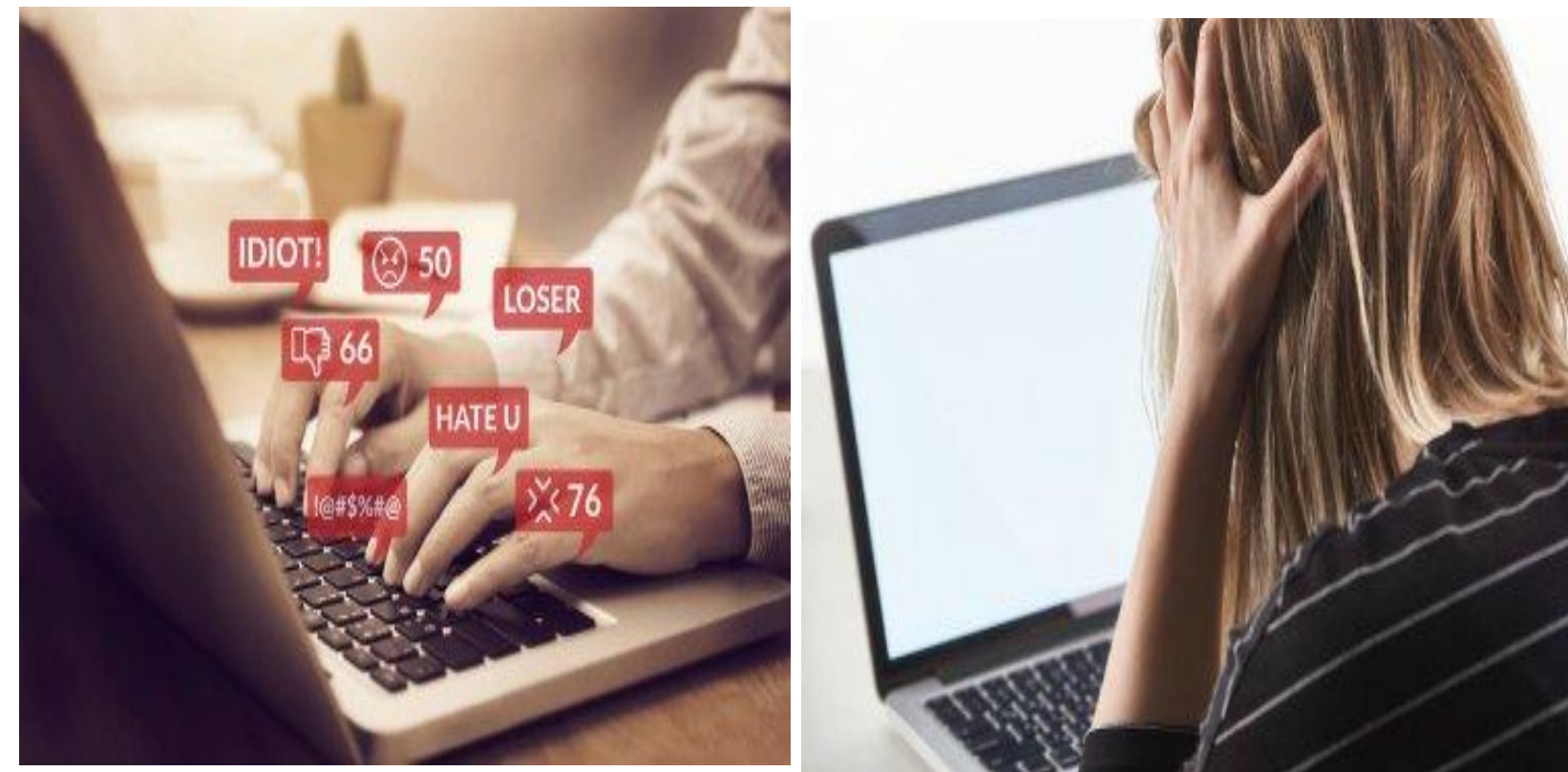
Hate speech and hate crimes target individuals with different identities, threatening not only personal security but also social peace and democratic values. Hate speech is expression that belittles, excludes or makes people hostile because of their ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or similar identities. Over time, such expressions reinforce prejudices and increase social polarization.

Hate crime is the transformation of these prejudices into acts such as physical violence, threats, harassment or damage to property. These crimes affect not only the victim but also all individuals with that identity, creating fear and insecurity in society.

The visuals on the poster reflect different forms of hate, from hateful content on digital platforms to exclusionary attitudes experienced on the street. Hate speech, which feeds on anonymity, especially on social media, spreads rapidly and increases its visibility. In contrast, values such as respect for diversity and inclusiveness should be supported by social awareness, education and strong legal regulations.

Combating hate is a shared responsibility not only of individuals but of the entire society.

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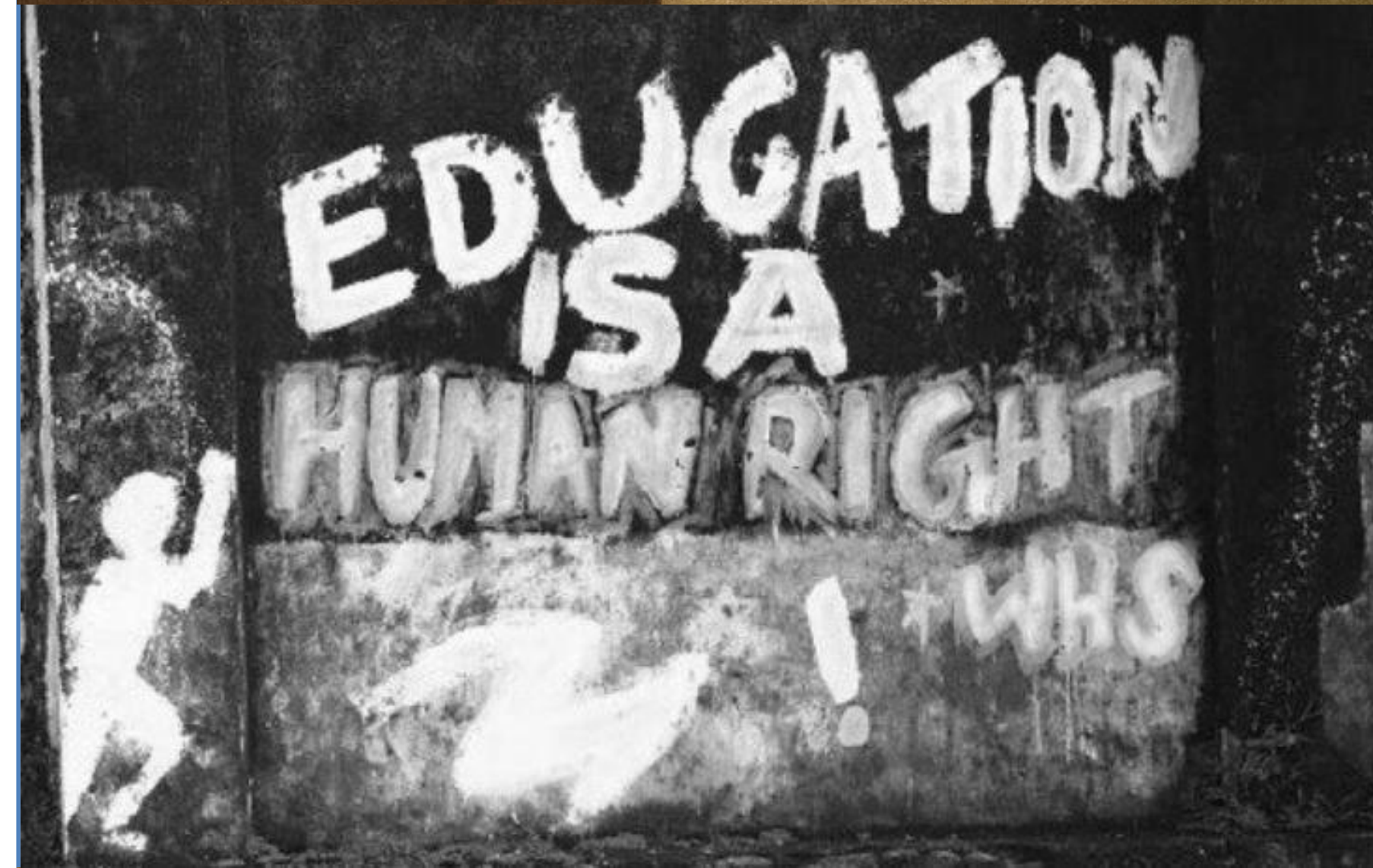
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### Right to Education

The right to education is recognized as a fundamental human right in the European Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments. This right guarantees individuals the freedom to receive an education and places an obligation on states to avoid discrimination in education and to ensure equal opportunities for all. Additionally, it grants parents the right to shape their children's education in line with their religious and philosophical beliefs. The case of Mürsel Eren is an important case in Turkey concerning the right to access higher education. Although Mürsel Eren achieved a high score in the university entrance exam in 1997, he was not placed in a university by the Student Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM) due to lower scores in previous years. After failing to obtain a remedy through domestic legal channels, Eren brought his case before the European Court of Human Rights. The Court ruled that Eren's right to education had been violated, stating that arbitrary practices and inadequately justified decisions could infringe upon individuals' right to education. As a result, the court decided that Turkey had violated Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights and ordered Turkey to pay compensation.

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### Freedom of Expression

The case **\*\*Bayev and Others v. Russia\*\*** (Applications Nos. 67667/09, 44092/12, and 56717/12) was decided by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in 2017. The case involved applicants from Russia who challenged the Russian laws prohibiting the "promotion of homosexuality" to minors, claiming these laws violated their freedom of expression and discrimination rights. The ECHR ruled that Russia had violated Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court found that the law's vague nature led to arbitrary restrictions on the freedom of expression and fostered discrimination against LGBT individuals. The Court emphasized that such restrictions were not necessary in a democratic society and had no legitimate aim. In essence, the ruling underscored that laws that stigmatize sexual minorities through discriminatory measures violate basic human rights, particularly freedom of expression. The judgment was a significant statement on the protection of LGBT rights within the European human rights framework.

### Poster

# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION BAYEV AND OTHERS v. RUSSIA (2017)



- Russian activists challenged laws prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality to minors.
- European Court of Human Rights found violations of Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination)
- Court ruled the laws reinforced stigma and were not justified

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### Freedom of Expression

This study explores the application of freedom of expression within the European Union, focusing on cases where this principle intersects with Islamic values and practices. While freedom of expression is a fundamental right guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, recent events suggest that its implementation may not always be consistent or impartial. Through a critical examination of incidents such as the Quran burning in Sweden, the Charlie Hebdo cartoons in France, the Danish cartoon crisis, and France's headscarf ban, this work highlights recurring tensions between secular liberalism and religious sensitivity. The analysis reveals that actions perceived as offensive or provocative to Muslim communities are often defended as expressions of free speech, while similar offenses against other groups tend to be met with legal and social consequences. This raises questions about potential double standards and the instrumentalization of human rights discourse. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to ongoing debates about the boundaries of freedom of expression, pluralism, and the genuine universality of human rights in multicultural European societies.

### Poster



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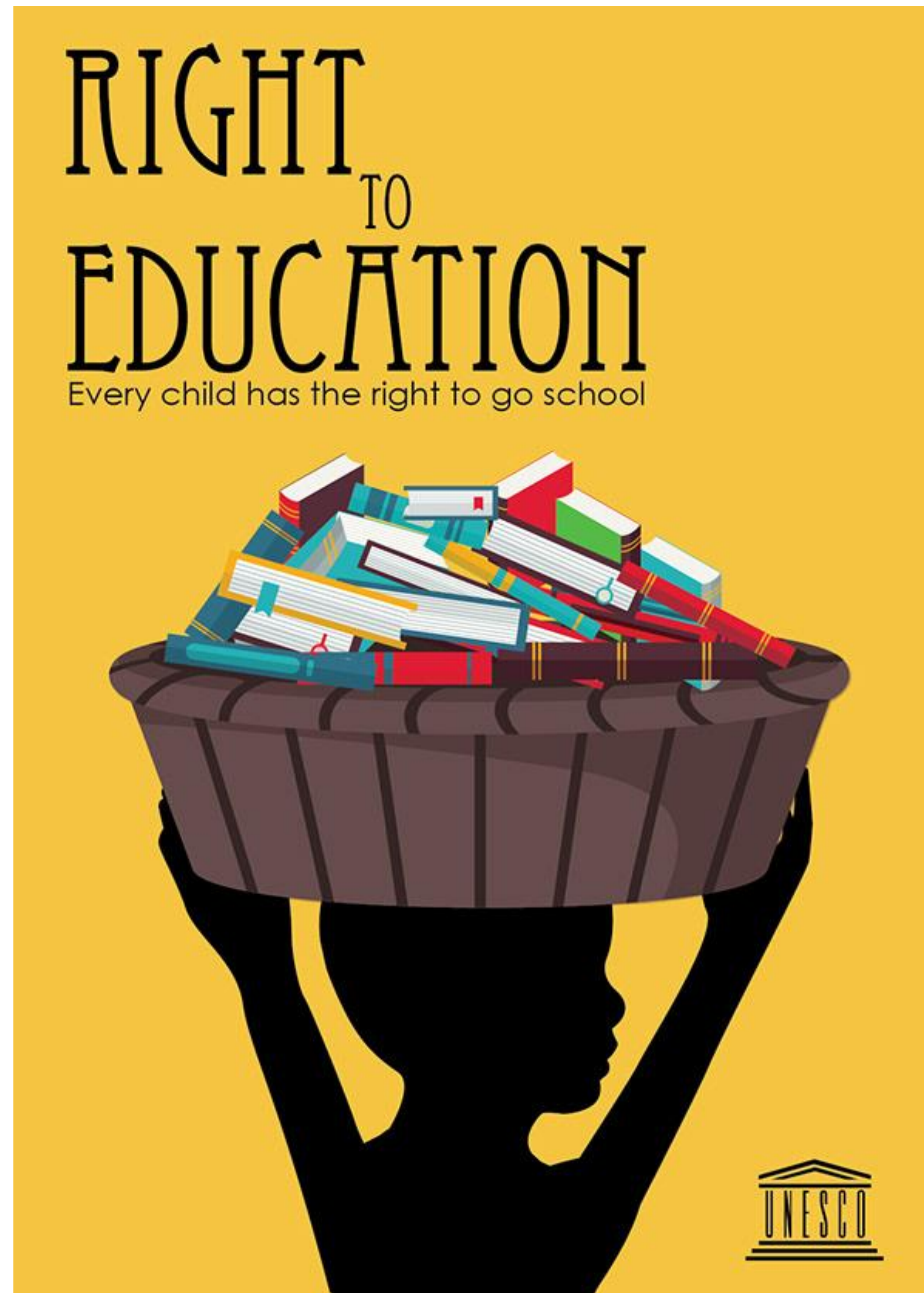
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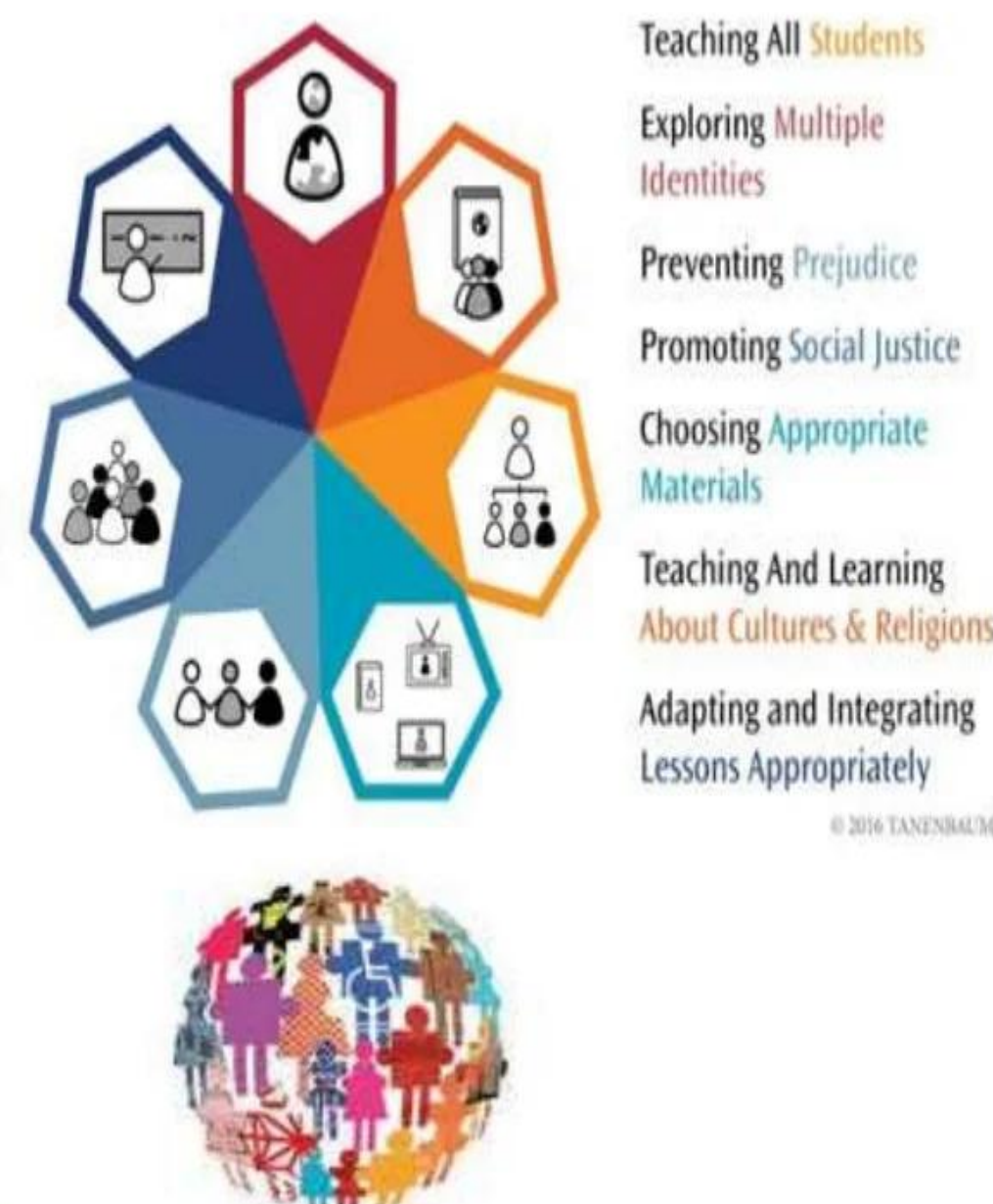
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### "Education is a Right, Not a Privilege!"

Education is a fundamental human right that lies at the core of personal development, societal progress, and democratic values. The European Union (EU), deeply rooted in the principles of human dignity, equality, and freedom, has long recognized the importance of education as a tool for empowerment and inclusion. Guided by international human rights instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the EU actively promotes inclusive education across its member states. A central legal foundation for this right is Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 to the ECHR, which explicitly states: "No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. The EU's approach to education is not merely theoretical—it translates into concrete action in the field of inclusive education. The concept of inclusive education means that all learners, regardless of their background or personal circumstances, should have equal access to high-quality learning opportunities.

### THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



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## IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

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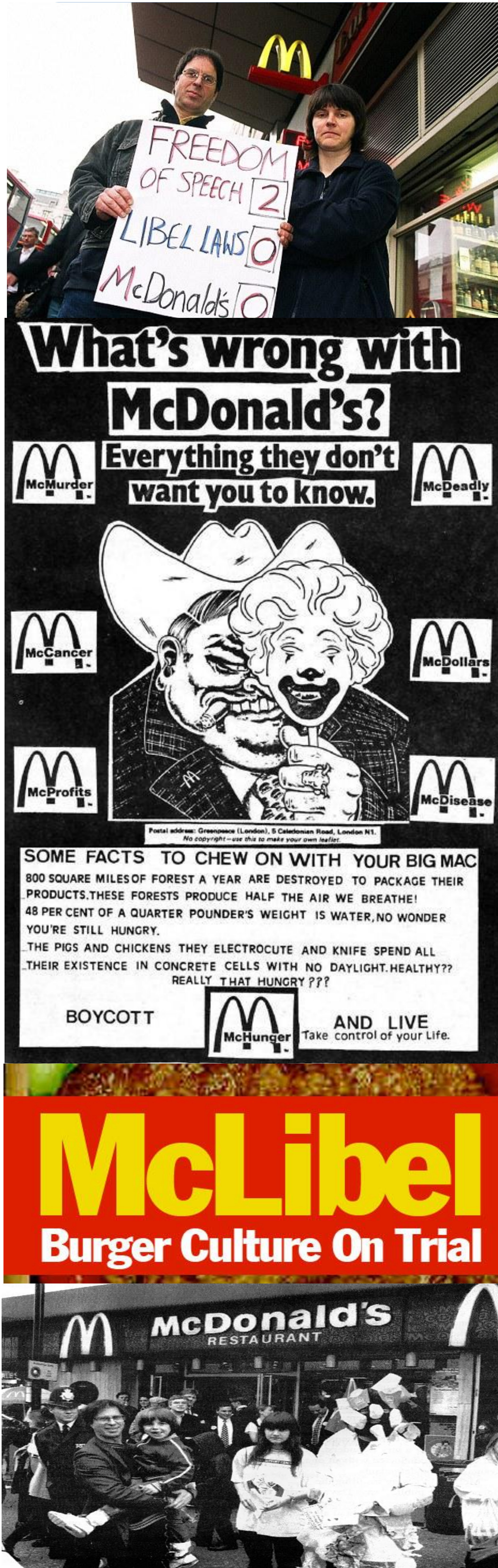
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#### Freedom of Expression in the Context of Steel and Morris v. The United Kingdom Case

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the freedom of expression. This provision grants every individual the right to freely express their thoughts and emphasizes the importance of public debates, particularly on matters of general public interest. In the case of Steel and Morris v. The United Kingdom, Steel and Morris, two environmental activists in the UK, distributed a leaflet criticizing McDonald's policies on the environment, health, and workers' rights. McDonald's filed a lawsuit, claiming that the allegations in the leaflet constituted defamation. Due to financial constraints, Steel and Morris were unable to obtain professional legal assistance and had to conduct their defense largely on their own. The English courts ruled in favor of McDonald's, ordering Steel and Morris to pay compensation. Steel and Morris filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that their freedom of expression (Article 10) and the right to a fair trial (Article 6) had been violated. According to the applicants, they were not provided with adequate legal assistance to mount an effective defense, and their freedom of expression was insufficiently protected in the face of a multinational corporation. Ultimately, the Steel and Morris v. The United Kingdom case highlighted the need to protect freedom of expression not only against state actors but also against powerful economic entities, and demonstrated that the absence of legal assistance could effectively restrict individuals' freedom of expression in practice. This case also marked the conclusion of the longest legal battle in the history of the United Kingdom. The ECtHR concluded that the UK courts failed to adequately protect the applicants' right to freedom of expression, thereby finding a violation of Article 10 of the ECHR.

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# IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

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Intellectual property rights (IPRs) protect creators' inventions, artistic works, designs, and symbols, allowing them to benefit from their efforts. IPR protection is a human rights issue, as highlighted in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantee the right to enjoy the benefits of creative and scientific production and property ownership. Violations, like copyright infringement, harm creators and hinder innovation. Protecting IPRs fosters freedom of expression, creativity, and societal progress.



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INTERNATIONAL DAY  
AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,  
TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA  
MAY 17



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### Fight Against Homophobia: Sabalic v. Croatia Case

EU, The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU prohibits any discrimination based on sexual orientation in Article 21. Article 1 states that human dignity is inviolable and must be respected. In addition, according to Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the rights and freedoms recognized in the convention must be provided without any discrimination. According to Article 3, the state must protect individuals from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. In January 2010, a man approached a woman named Pavla Sabalic in a nightclub and offered her sexual intercourse, but Sabalic stated that she was a lesbian and did not want a sexual relationship. In response, the criminal insulted lesbians and used violence against Sabalic. The local court sentenced the criminal to a fine only for 'breaching public peace'. Sabalic, on the other hand, appealed to the ECHR. The ECtHR found that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of ill-treatment) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights and ordered the Croatian government to pay non-pecuniary damages and legal costs for Sabalic.

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AVRUPA ÇALIŞMALARI UYGULAMA VE  
A R A Ş T I R M A M E R K E Z İ



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### LACK OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN TURKEY

Montesquieu argued that concentrating these powers in a single body would lead to **despotism**. Therefore, the three powers must be **independent** and **in balance** with each other.

The idea of a "fourth power" is sometimes used in modern theories (for example, referring to the media) In Turkey, the media has been systematically silenced under AKP rule; freedom of expression exists only for those who praise the government. the media in Turkey has become a propaganda tool.

In Turkey, due to limitations on freedom of speech and the use of media as a tool for public manipulation, significant political events—such as the detention of İmamoğlu—tend to fade from public memory relatively quickly.



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### European Union and Xenophobia

Xenophobia in Europe is a structural problem based on economic and cultural foundations, beyond individual prejudice. Immigrants and ethnic minorities are seen as a threat to national identity, a harm to cultural integrity, and an economic burden, which fosters systematic discrimination and exclusion. The European Union has adopted fundamental values such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law. Although EU law prohibits discrimination through regulations such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Racial Equality Directive, and the Framework for Combating and Penalizing Racism and Xenophobia, inequality persists in practice. While institutions such as the EU's 2020-2025 Action Plan against Racism, the Fundamental Rights Agency, and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Combating Racism provide data and policy proposals on these issues, they remain ineffective. Border mechanisms like Frontex, EUROSUR, and ETIAS label migration as a threat; particularly, pushback practices lead to human rights violations. The Common European Asylum System (CEAS) falls short in burden-sharing. Rising far-right movements exploit anti-immigrant sentiment as a political tool, threatening the EU's discourse on fundamental rights. Effective combat against xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment within the European Union can only be achieved through strong legal frameworks, binding mechanisms, transparent practices, and civic participation. Otherwise, the human rights and freedom-based vision of the EU will continue to be fragmented between security-driven border policies and populist pressures.



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### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW IN SPORTS IN THE EU

The match between Medipol Başakşehir and Paris Saint-Germain that was played on Tuesday evening was left unfinished due to a 'racism scandal', which has drawn a great deal of backlash both in the international football community and in Turkey.

In the 13th minute of the last match in Group H of the Champions League, Pierre Webó from Başakşehir's technical team said that the fourth official of the match from the Romanian Football Federation, Sebastian Coltescu, used racist language towards him.

After more than 10 minutes of discussions on the field, both the home and away team players left the field and UEFA postponed the match to Wednesday evening to be played with a new referee team.

Before the match, the referees and the players from both teams knelt in the midfield and protested racism with the music of the Champions League.

Strict measures are being taken against the fight against racism in football around the world. UEFA has also been acting with a zero tolerance policy in this direction for a long time.

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### Between Victory and Dignity

Sport has always been a symbol of competition, pride and national success. But today, it also reveals an important choice — winning at any cost or protecting dignity and human rights.

The European Union believes sport can promote equality, inclusion and respect. But in reality, sport can sometimes become a space where discrimination, racism and unfair treatment are ignored or even accepted.

Giulianotti and McArdle (2007) explain that while sport can give people a voice, it can also take that voice away. Athletes who speak against injustice sometimes face punishment. This shows that freedom of expression is not always welcomed even in a field built on fairness.

Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu (2020) emphasizes that the EU is trying to change this. New projects and rules aim to fight racism, support women's participation and protect the rights of disabled athletes. These steps are important but more must be done.

There are still major problems. Hate speech in stadiums, lack of diversity in leadership and silence when athletes demand justice.

True progress means choosing dignity over medals, inclusion over silence and humanity over pressure to win.

In sport as in life, how we win matters as much as the victory itself.

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### Right to Education

The right to education is a universal right accepted for all people. It is a fundamental human right that works to lift women and men out of poverty, eliminate inequalities and achieve sustainable development. This right supports equal opportunity in education for all individuals, from primary school to higher education, regardless of differences such as gender, race, ethnicity or economic status. Education is one of the most powerful tools to lift marginalized children and adults out of poverty and is a step towards other fundamental human rights. It is the most sustainable investment. The right to quality education is already firmly entrenched in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international legal instruments, many of which are the result of the work of UNESCO and the United Nations. That's why I wanted to emphasize the universality of the right to education in my poster.

### Poster



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### References

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## IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

### 2024-2025 Spring Semester - Assoc. Prof. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu

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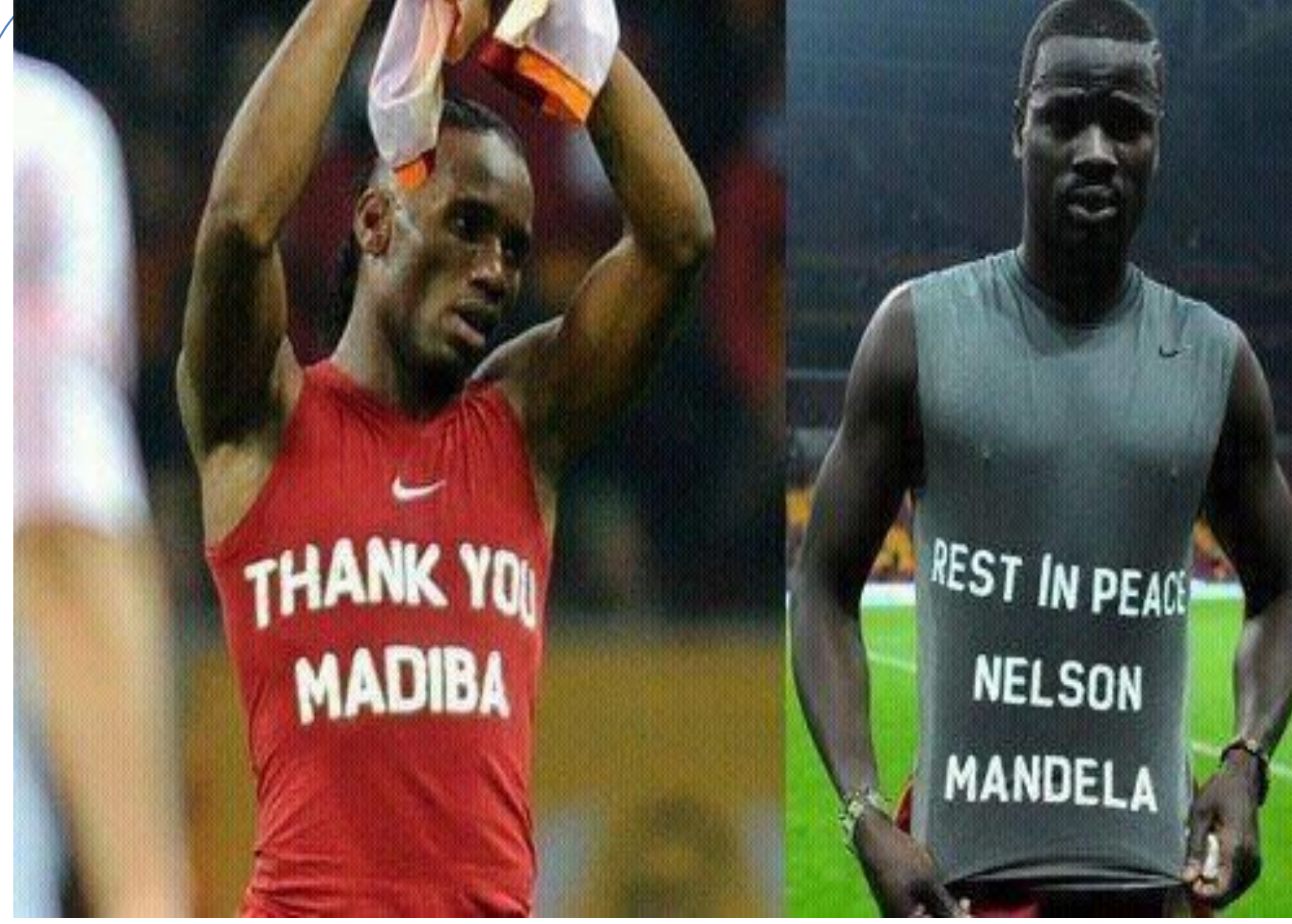
Our case study involves Galatasaray players Didier Drogba and Emmanuel Ebue wearing Mandela's death, and the subsequent disciplinary action by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) on the grounds that it constituted a political message.

Sedat Doğan, who harshly criticized this decision, was also sanctioned. Following these events, Sedat Doğan sought to assert his rights first through domestic legal channels and later at the European Court of Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling against the TFF indirectly conveys that symbolic act supporting the fight against racism cannot be subject to punishment.

It upholds the right of sports officials and athletes to freely express their views on social issues.

#### Poster



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#### References

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### Recommendations for and the Future of Human Rights in the EU

This poster explores current human rights challenges within the European Union, including democratic backsliding, media freedom, migration policy, and digital rights. It highlights recent developments in Hungary and Poland, EU-wide migration tensions, and the regulation of artificial intelligence. The report also outlines major EU initiatives such as the Human Rights Action Plan, the Corporate Sustainability Directive, and the proposed Media Freedom Act. Finally, it offers forward-looking recommendations to strengthen enforcement, protect vulnerable groups, and ensure that EU values remain at the heart of its policies.

### Poster



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### Poster

## VEREIN KLIMASENIORINNEN SCHWEIZ AND OTHERS v. SWITZERLAND



**INSUFFICIENT CLIMATE ACTION  
BY THE STATE VIOLATED  
THE RIGHT TO PRIVATE AND  
FAMILY LIFE**

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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The case Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland (2024) marked a turning point in the connection between climate change and human rights. A group of elderly Swiss women claimed that the government's failure to act against climate change violated their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights, especially Article 8 – the right to private and family life. The European Court of Human Rights agreed, ruling that Switzerland had not done enough to protect its citizens from the harmful effects of climate change. The Court emphasized that governments have positive obligations to safeguard human rights in the face of environmental threats. This case shows that climate inaction can amount to a human rights violation. It sets a strong precedent for future environmental litigation in Europe and reinforces the idea that protecting the planet is also protecting people.

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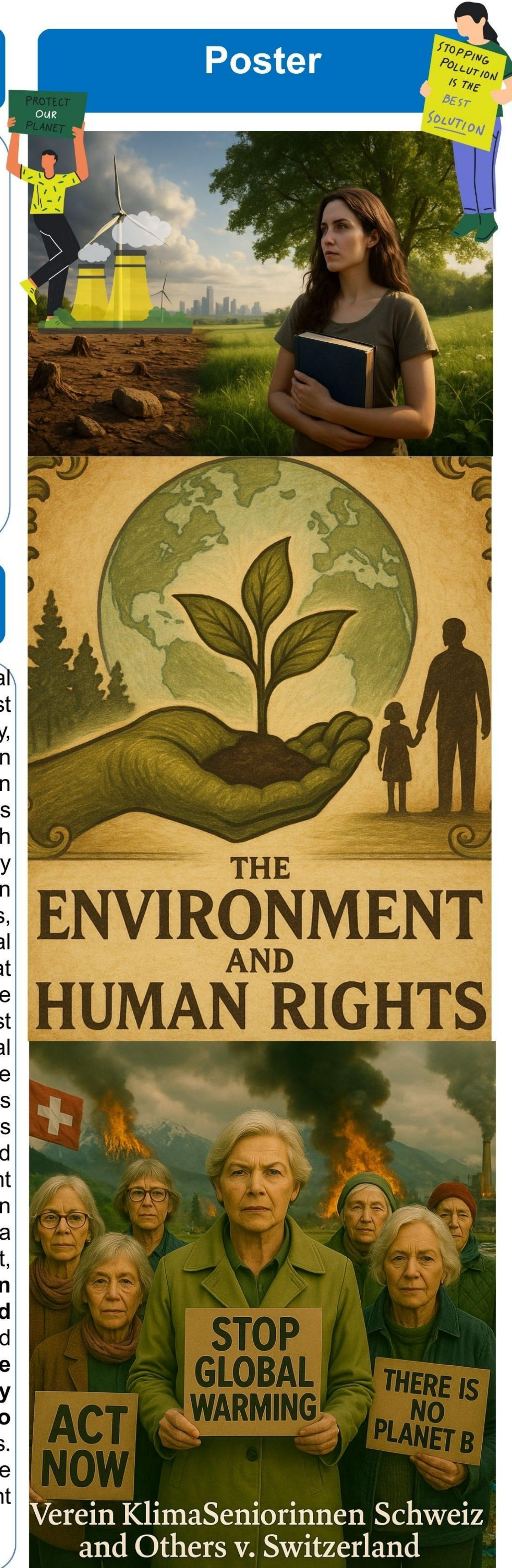
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### ENVIRONMET PROTECT

This poster shows that environmental protection is no longer a luxury, but the most basic human rights such as human dignity, equality and the right to life. The main purpose of this poster is that the European Union considers environmental protection as a human right and legislates this right with **Article 37**. The poster I created effectively demonstrates the relationship between environmental protection and human rights, especially within the EU. The visual structure of the poster emphasizes that environmental protection should be recognized as a human right. The first image shows the impact of environmental degradation on human health, while the second image symbolizes the EU's environmental protection policies and its integration with human rights. The third image states that protecting the environment cannot be separated from protecting human dignity. "A sustainable future is not a privilege, it is a human right." In this context, the poster also refers to the case **Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz v. Switzerland (2024)**. The ECHR ruled that Switzerland violated its positive obligations under **Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)** and **Article 6 (right of access to court)** due to its inadequate climate policies. This decision is a historic step towards the recognition of the right to the environment as a fundamental human right in Europe.

### Poster



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*Ottavio Quirico\**
- <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2475334>  
*EU Human Rights Law and Environmental Protection: The Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship?*  
*Sanja Bogojević\**





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### Freedom of Expression

Article 10 of European Convention on Human Rights(ECHR) protects the right to freedom of expression. This article is a cornerstone of democratic society and plays a vital role in safeguarding open debate, free media, and individual opinion.Everyone has the right to freedom of expression.This rights includes;Freedom to hold opinions and The freedom to receive and impart information and ideas Without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.The exercise of these freedoms carries duties and responsibilities and may be subject to formalities,conditions,restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society.

### References

All images were created  
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<https://www.tohav.org.tr/ozdep-turkiye-davasi>

### Freedom of Assembly and Association

Article 11 - Freedom of expression and information

1- Everyone has the right to hold and organize meetings that do not disturb the peace, and to establish and join unions with others to protect their interests.

2- The exercise of these rights may be restricted only by law, as mandatory measures in a democratic society, for the purposes of protecting national security, public safety, ensuring public order and preventing crime, protecting health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others. This article does not prevent the imposition of legitimate restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, law enforcement or those on duty in the administrative mechanism of the state."





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#### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION BALANCING RIGHTS IN A DIGITAL AGE



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#### Freedom of Expression in the European Union: Balancing Rights in a Digital Age:

Freedom of Expression is a fundamental human right that encompasses the freedoms to speak, protect ideas, and access information. It serves as the cornerstone of democratic societies, enabling open debate, cultural development, and political participation. The European Union recognizes its essential role but also acknowledges that this freedom is not absolute.

The EU imposes limitations on speech to protect personal dignity, reputation, and privacy, in accordance with human rights law. These restrictions vary across member states, reflecting different cultural, legal, and historical contexts. For example, while the United States prioritizes broad free speech protections, some European countries emphasize protecting individual honor and data privacy more rigorously. Striking an appropriate balance between free expression and protecting rights in the digital era is a continuing challenge for the EU as it navigates issues such as online hate speech, misinformation, and data protection.

Understanding the nuances of freedom of expression in the EU is critical as it affects legislation, public discourse, and citizens' fundamental rights in an increasingly interconnected world.

### References

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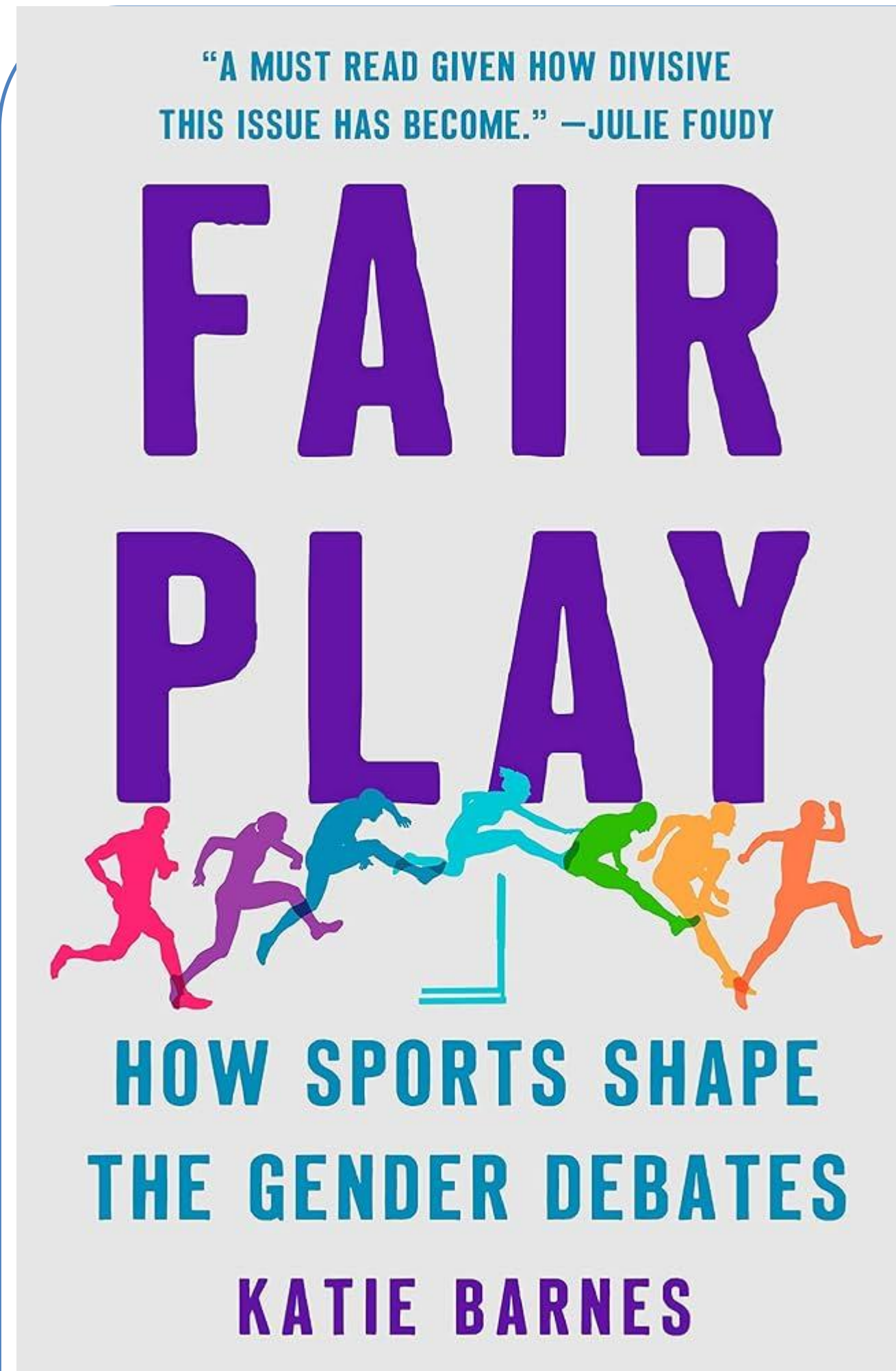
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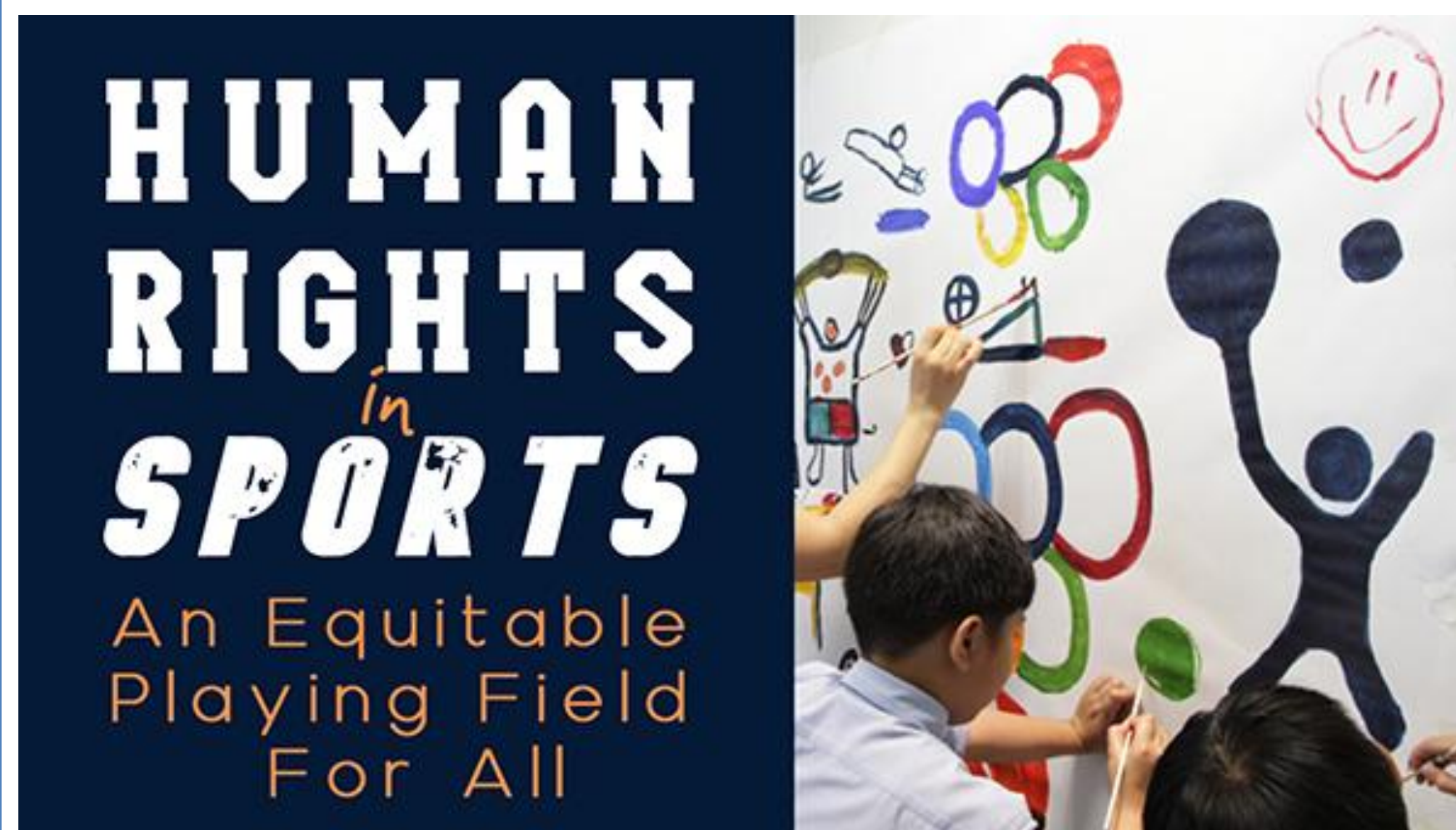


### Sport and Human Rights: Fair Play Beyond the Field

Sport is a universal language that transcends borders, cultures, and social divides. Beyond entertainment and competition, it holds the power to promote inclusion, equality, and human dignity. The relationship between sport and human rights is profound, as participation in sport is itself a right recognized in international declarations. However, the world of sport also mirrors societal inequalities and injustices that demand attention. The right to participate in sport without discrimination is a core principle upheld by various global bodies, including the **UNESCO Charter of Physical Education and Sport** and the **International Olympic Committee's Human Rights Framework**. These principles emphasize dignity, fair treatment, and safety for all individuals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability. Despite these protections, serious challenges persist. Discrimination based on race, gender, or identity remains prevalent in many sports. High-profile incidents of racism in football, gender pay gaps in athletics, and the exclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals reflect systemic issues. Moreover, abuse and exploitation, particularly of young or vulnerable athletes, have come to light in multiple countries. Hosting international sporting events has also raised concerns, such as the labor rights violations reported during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Athletes themselves have become key voices in the fight for justice—figures like Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe have used their platforms to advocate for racial and gender equality. These examples show how sport can be a powerful tool for social change when aligned with human rights values.

In conclusion, sport must be more than just a game—it should embody the principles of fairness, equality, and respect. Ensuring that human rights are protected at all levels of sport is essential for building a more just and inclusive global community.



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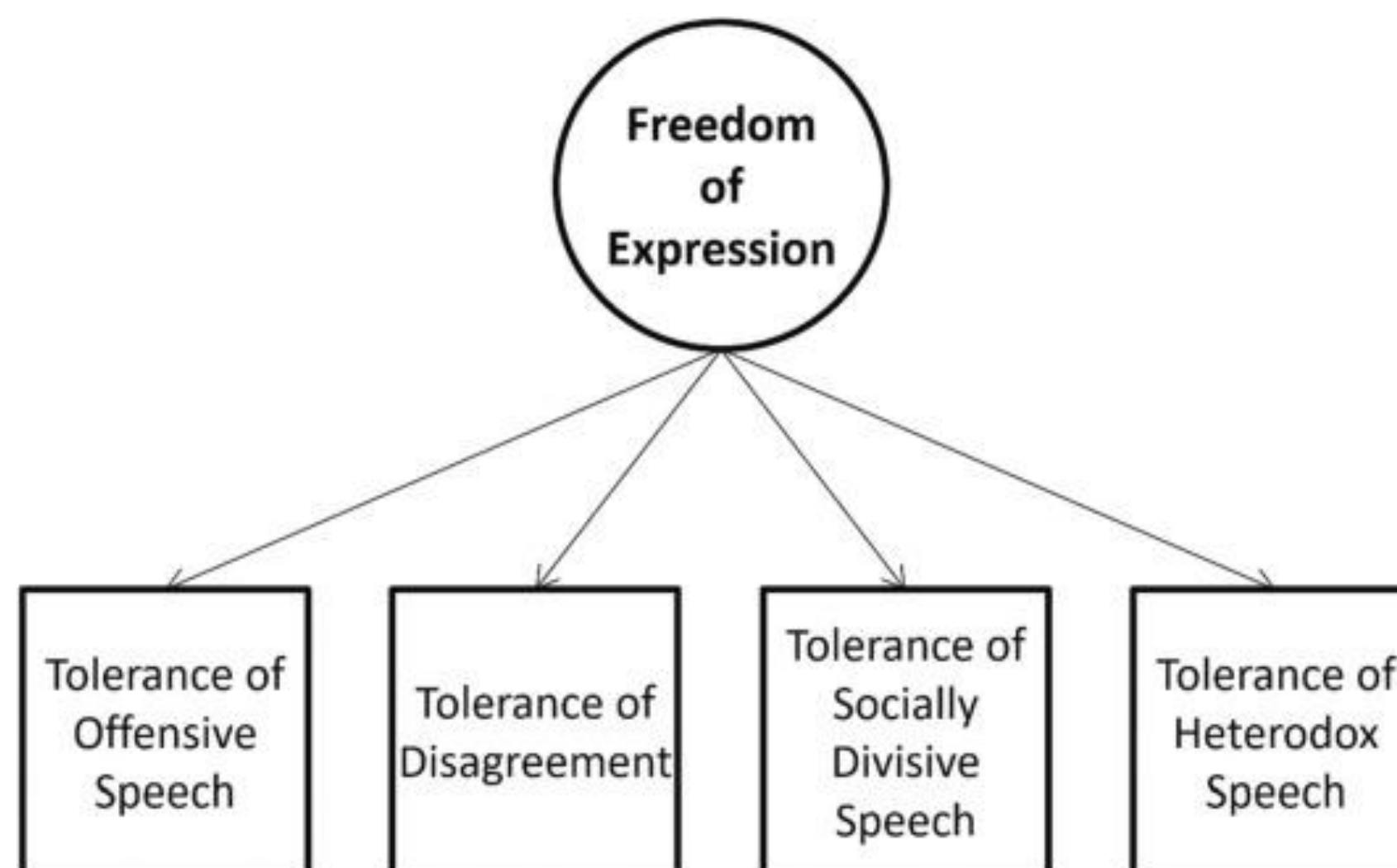
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### ARTICLE 19

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."  
- Article 19; Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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### References

Human Rights Watch:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/09/13/hungarys-xenophobic-anti-migrant-campaign>

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### Fighting Xenophobia: A Global Challenge

Xenophobia, the fear or hatred of foreigners, is a widespread issue that leads to discrimination, exclusion, and violence against immigrants and refugees. It is a form of prejudice that often fuels social tensions and undermines the rights of individuals based on their nationality or ethnic background. Despite international protections such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** and the **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**, xenophobia continues to persist in many regions, particularly where political or social climates are influenced by anti-immigrant sentiments.

Countries like **Hungary** and **Poland** have faced international criticism for implementing restrictive immigration policies that exclude or marginalize immigrants. Additionally, **xenophobic violence** has risen in places like the **United Kingdom**, especially following events such as Brexit, which fueled negative rhetoric about immigrants. This creates an atmosphere of fear and division, making it harder for migrants and refugees to integrate and thrive in their new communities.

To effectively combat xenophobia, several steps are needed. **Education** plays a crucial role in dispelling harmful stereotypes and promoting understanding between different cultural groups. **Policy reforms** should ensure that immigrants and refugees are legally protected, given access to basic rights, and supported in their integration efforts. Additionally, **NGOs** and advocacy groups are essential for providing resources and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. In conclusion, addressing xenophobia is essential for building a more inclusive and just society. Through a combination of education, legal protections, and international cooperation, we can work towards a future where all individuals, regardless of their nationality, are treated with respect and dignity.





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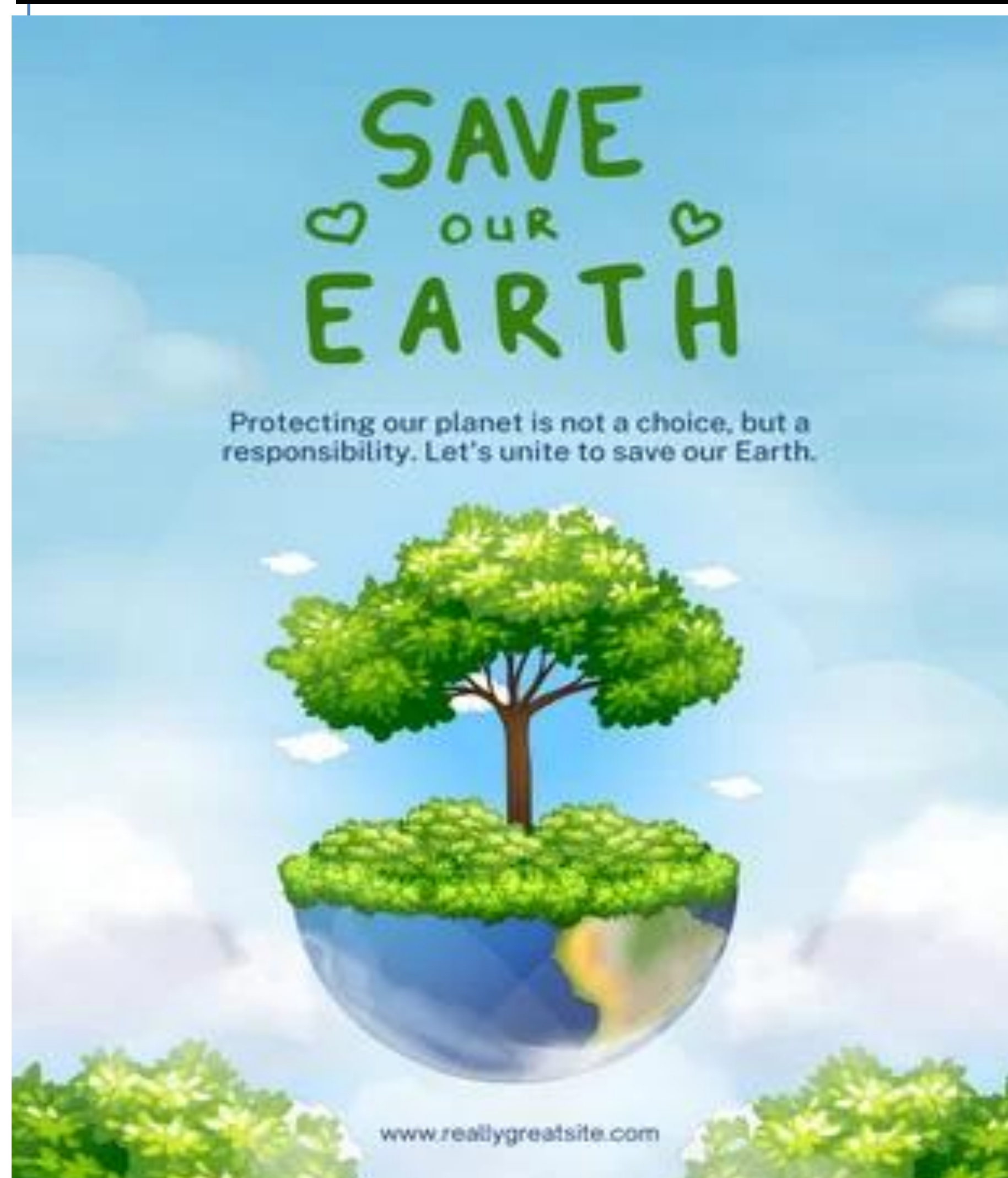
### Poster



### The Environment and Human Rights

I chose this topic because environmental degradation directly affects fundamental human rights, including the right to life, health, water, and food. Climate change, pollution, deforestation, and resource depletion disproportionately impact marginalized communities. These effects are often ignored or insufficiently addressed, despite clear links to human suffering. The right to a healthy environment is increasingly recognized in international law. Environmental harm can violate Article 2 (right to life), Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), and Protocol 1 Article 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights has heard several landmark cases where environmental issues impacted human rights. Promoting environmental protection is therefore essential for ensuring justice, equity, and sustainability.—Images: (You can include visuals such as: • A scale of justice with nature/environmental elements • A polluted vs clean environment split image • A call to action poster like: “Protect the Planet, Protect Human Rights”)—

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### References

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### References

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Xenophobia, the fear or hatred of foreigners, is a widespread issue that leads to discrimination, exclusion, and violence against immigrants and refugees. It is a form of prejudice that often fuels social tensions and undermines the rights of individuals based on their nationality or ethnic background. Despite international protections such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** and the **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**, xenophobia continues to persist in many regions, particularly where political or social climates are influenced by anti-immigrant sentiments.

Countries like **Hungary** and **Poland** have faced international criticism for implementing restrictive immigration policies that exclude or marginalize immigrants. Additionally, **xenophobic violence** has risen in places like the **United Kingdom**, especially following events such as Brexit, which fueled negative rhetoric about immigrants. This creates an atmosphere of fear and division, making it harder for migrants and refugees to integrate and thrive in their new communities.

To effectively combat xenophobia, several steps are needed. **Education** plays a crucial role in dispelling harmful stereotypes and promoting understanding between different cultural groups. **Policy reforms** should ensure that immigrants and refugees are legally protected, given access to basic rights, and supported in their integration efforts. Additionally, **NGOs** and advocacy groups are essential for providing resources and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. In conclusion, addressing xenophobia is essential for building a more inclusive and just society. Through a combination of education, legal protections, and international cooperation, we can work towards a future where all individuals, regardless of their nationality, are treated with respect and dignity.



# IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

## 2024-2025 Spring Semester - Assoc. Prof. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu

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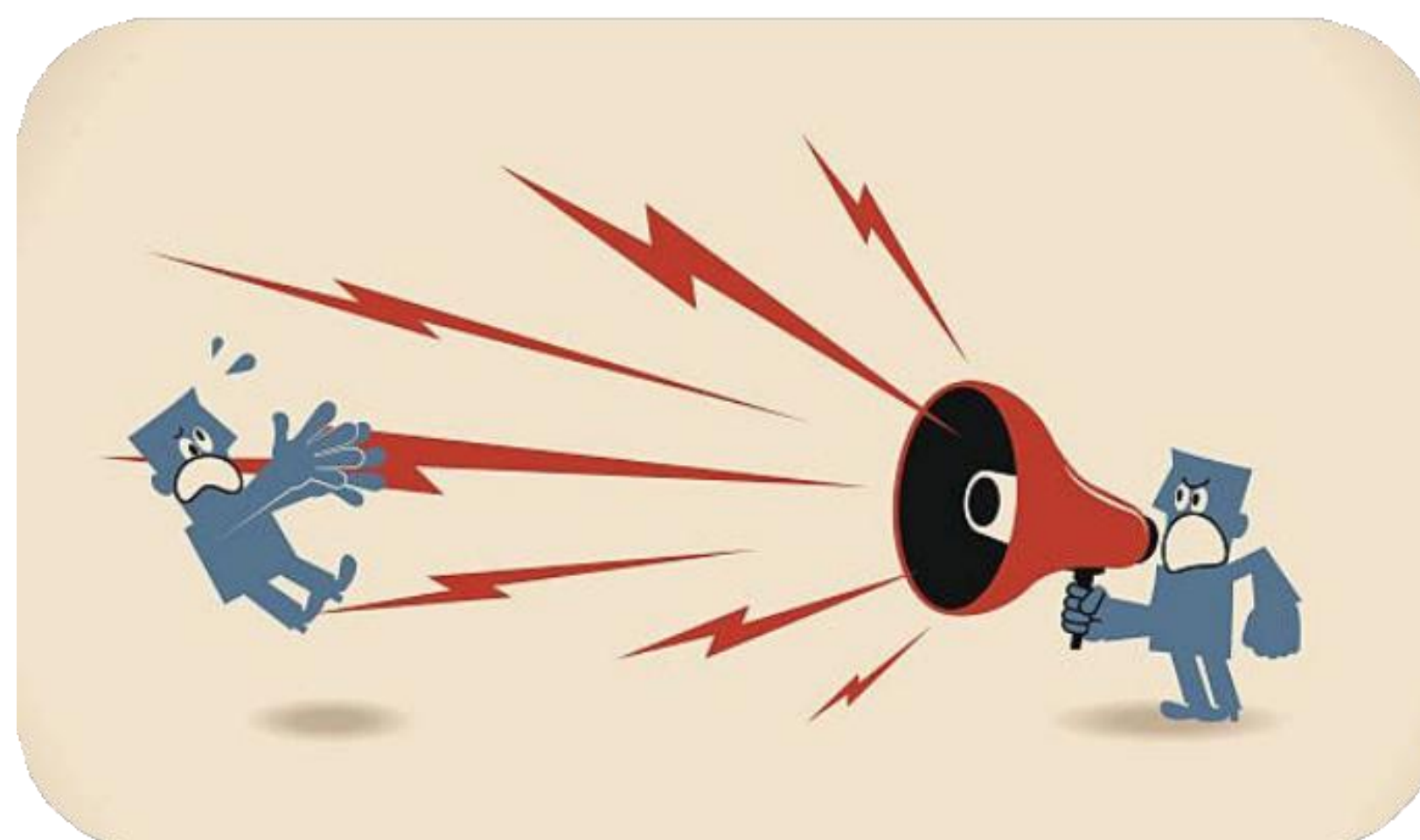
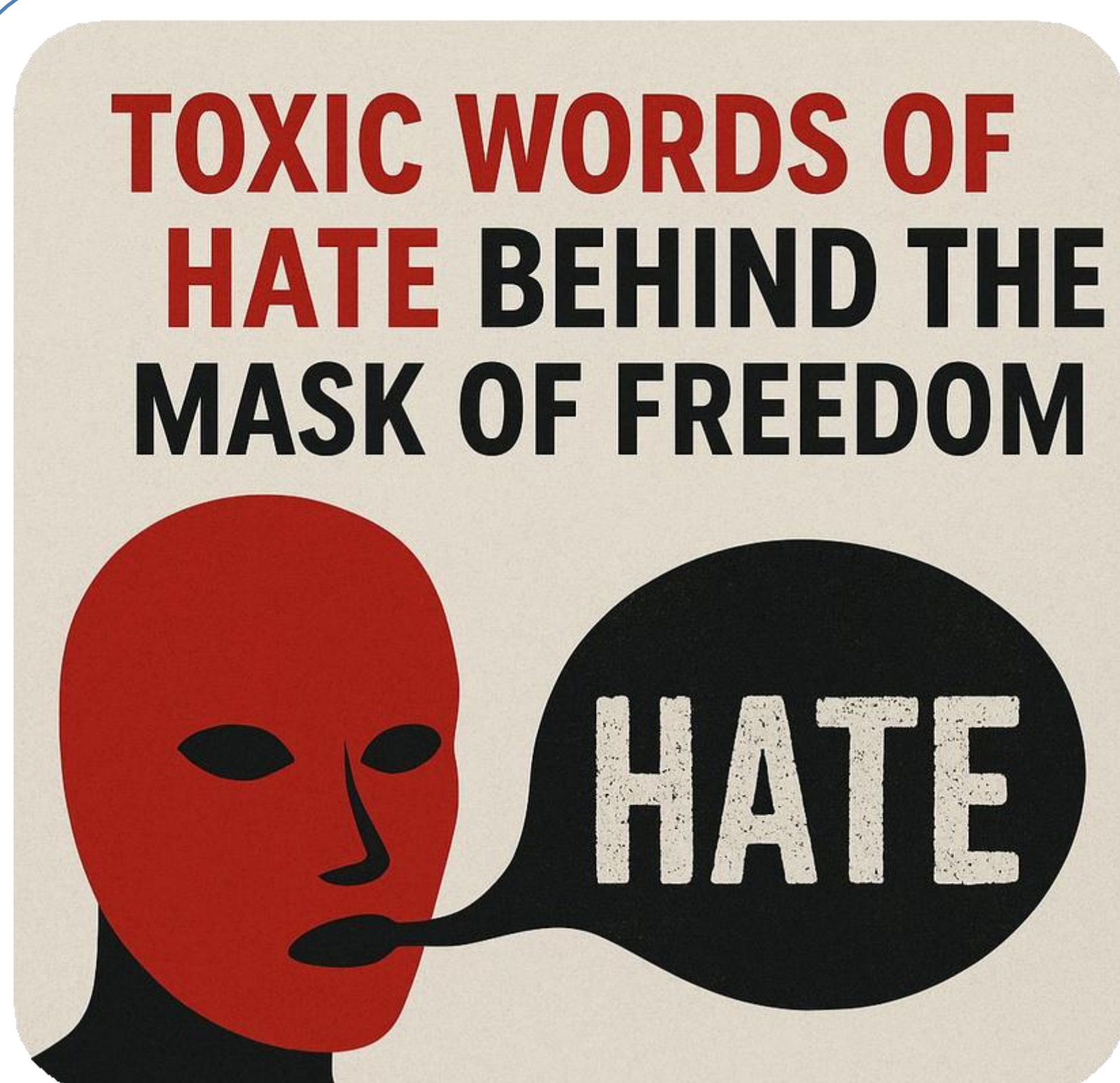
Articles 10 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantee freedom of expression and the right not to discrimination. However, freedom of expression is not an unlimited right; it can be limited to the point where it harms the dignity, security and fundamental rights of others. In this context, hate speech is a serious problem that poses a threat not only to individual rights but also to the democratic social order.

European Court of Human Rights *Vejdeland and Others v. As* clearly stated in the Swedish (2012) decision, hate speeches do not fall within the scope of freedom of expression. The ECtHR emphasized that such discourses target the dignity of individuals and threaten social peace. The court stated that pluralism, tolerance and mutual respect are core values in democratic societies and threats to these values cannot be protected.

Court case law emphasizes that hate speech can lead to hate crimes over time, and therefore states should ensure not only freedom of expression, but also protection against hate-based attacks.

**A society that is talked about with rights is possible, not with hatred. Humanity can only develop when it is not silent against hatred.**

### Poster



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### CASE OF VOSKUIL v. THE NETHERLANDS

#### **Voskuil v. The Netherlands: A Case on Journalistic Freedom and the Protection of Sources**

In 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the case *Voskuil v. The Netherlands* concerning the protection of journalistic sources and freedom of expression in the Netherlands. Koen Voskuil, a journalist, was ordered to disclose the identity of a confidential source regarding an article he had published. In 2000, he had written a piece based on information from an anonymous police officer, which suggested that the police may have intentionally fabricated evidence in a criminal case.

Voskuil refused to disclose the source, citing his journalistic privilege to protect sources. He was subsequently detained for non-compliance with the court order. This case raised significant questions about the conflict between a journalist's duty to protect sources and the demands of the justice system to ensure a fair trial.

Voskuil took his case to the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that his detention violated his right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court agreed, ruling that the Netherlands had violated his rights by forcing him to disclose his source and by detaining him without sufficient legal grounds.

The Court emphasized the crucial role of the press in a democracy and the importance of safeguarding journalistic sources to ensure free and effective reporting. The judgment established that any interference with the freedom of the press must meet strict requirements of necessity and proportionality, and that compelling a journalist to reveal a source is only permissible in exceptional circumstances.

This case is a landmark ruling in the protection of journalists' rights and freedom of expression, highlighting the delicate balance between press freedom and the state's interest in ensuring justice.

### Poster

**ECHR** EVROPSKI SUD ZA  
LJUDSKA PRAVA

TREĆE ODEI.JENJE

**PREDMET VOSKUIL  
PROTIV HOLANDIJE**

(Predstavka br. 64752/01)

**PRESUDA**

STRAZBUR

22. novembar 2007.

**PRAVNOSNAŽNA**

22. februar 2008.

Ova presuda postale pravnosnažna pod okolnostima iz člana 44.  
stav 2. Konvencije. Ona može biti predmet redakcijskih  
izmena.

Prevod ove presude je objavljen u okviru zajedničkog programa Evropske unije i Saveta  
Evrope „Horizontal Facility za Zapadni Balkan i Tursku 2019-2022“ i projekta „Sloboda  
izražavanja i sloboda medija u Srbiji (JUFREX)“. Ovaj nezvanični prevod se objavljuje  
už podršku Evropske unije i Saveta Evrope, ali pod isključivom odgovornošću prevodi-  
laca. Izraženi stavovi ne izražavaju nužno mišljenja Evropske unije.

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## IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II 2024-2025 Spring Semester - Assoc. Prof. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu

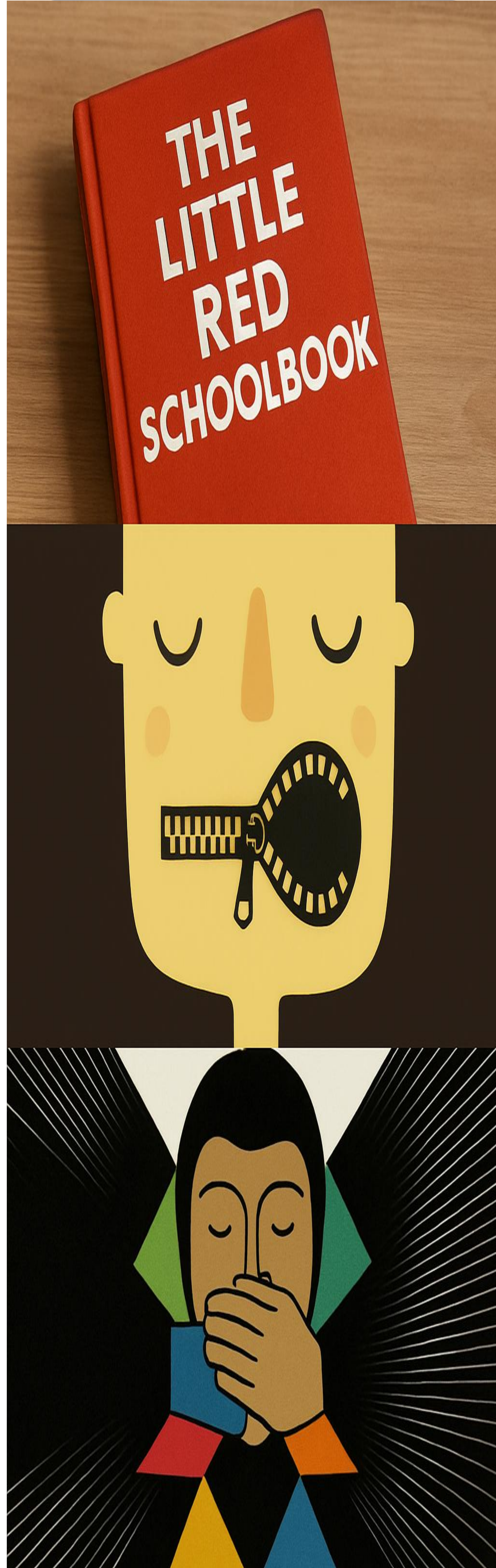
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### Please write here Poster Title

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right essential to the existence of a democratic society. The case of Handyside v. United Kingdom (1976) is a landmark decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) that explores the limits of this freedom. Richard Handyside published The Little Red Schoolbook, aimed at encouraging young people to challenge societal norms. The UK authorities considered the book obscene and banned its distribution. Handyside argued that this violated his rights under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court emphasized that freedom of expression includes information that may "offend, shock or disturb," but also recognized states' rights to restrict expression to protect public morals. Ultimately, the Court ruled in favor of the United Kingdom, establishing the principle of the margin of appreciation and setting an important precedent for balancing freedom of speech with societal values.

### Poster



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The Little Red Schoolbook – Kitap Kapağı <https://bit.ly/3UXzzgp>

İfade Özgürlüğü – Konsept Görsel

<https://bit.ly/3UTD>





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### Poster

# ECHR



## EVROPSKI SUD ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA TREĆE ODELJENJE

(Predstavka br. 21884/18)

## SLUČAJ HALET c. LUXEMBOURG

(Predstavka br. 21884/18)

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### Halet v. Luxembourg: Whistleblower Protection and Freedom of Expression

#### Abstract

This paper explores the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in Halet v. Luxembourg, highlighting its significance in shaping whistleblower protections and reinforcing the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court's findings underscore a shift in legal attitudes toward whistleblowing as a matter of public interest and democratic transparency.

#### 1. Introduction

The case of Halet v. Luxembourg (Application no. 21884/18) addresses crucial issues concerning the balance between national interests, professional secrecy, and the right to freedom of expression, particularly in the context of whistleblowing. It builds on the precedent set by the earlier Grand Chamber case of LuxLeaks (G. Perrin v. Luxembourg), in which whistleblowers exposed tax avoidance schemes by multinational corporations.

#### 2. Background of the Case

Raphaël Halet, a former employee of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), was convicted in Luxembourg for his role in the leak of internal documents that revealed preferential tax deals granted to multinational companies. Although not the main source of the LuxLeaks scandal, Halet contributed additional documents to journalist Edouard Perrin, furthering the public understanding of aggressive tax planning mechanisms. He was fined €1,000 in Luxembourg for breaching professional secrecy.

#### 3. The Judgment of the ECtHR

On February 14, 2023, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of Halet, holding that his conviction violated Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court emphasized the importance of protecting whistleblowers when their disclosures serve the public interest and are proportionate. The judgment refined the six-part test established in Guja v. Moldova (2008), focusing on the authenticity of the disclosed information, the public interest, and the availability of alternative channels for disclosure.

#### 4. Legal Significance and Impact

This case is significant for its reaffirmation that whistleblowers deserve legal protection under the ECHR, even when domestic courts have ruled otherwise. The decision strengthens the jurisprudence supporting journalistic sources and underscores that punishment for ethical whistleblowing contradicts democratic principles. Halet's case contributes to shaping EU and national policies on corporate transparency and whistleblower protections.

#### 5. Conclusion

Halet v. Luxembourg exemplifies the evolving legal landscape surrounding whistleblower protections and the tension between professional confidentiality and public interest. The ECtHR's judgment reflects a progressive approach in safeguarding democratic values and reinforces the essential role of whistleblowers in uncovering practices that affect society at large.

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Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age:  
Ahmet Yıldırım v. Turkey (2012) and Article 10 of the ECHR

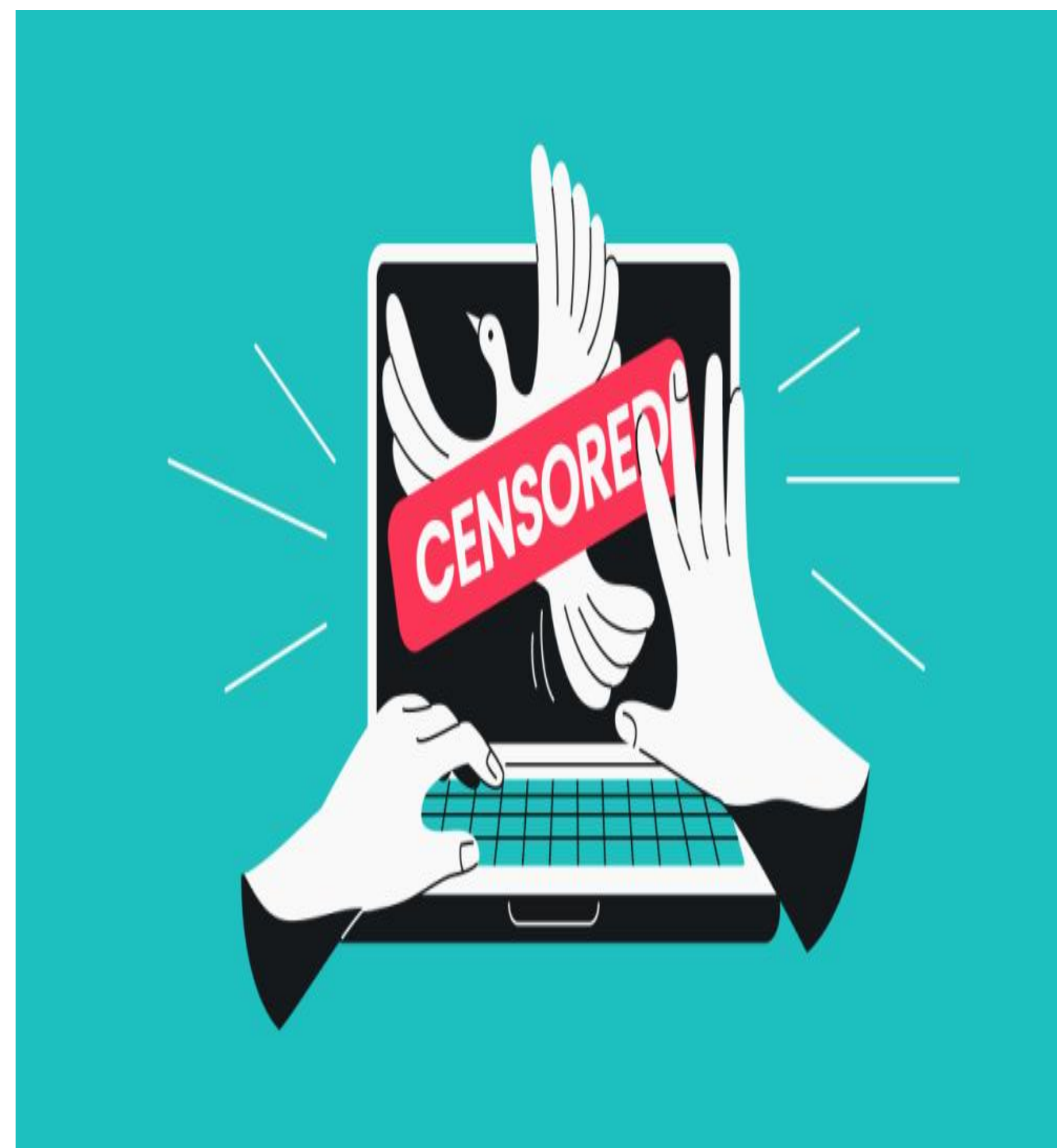
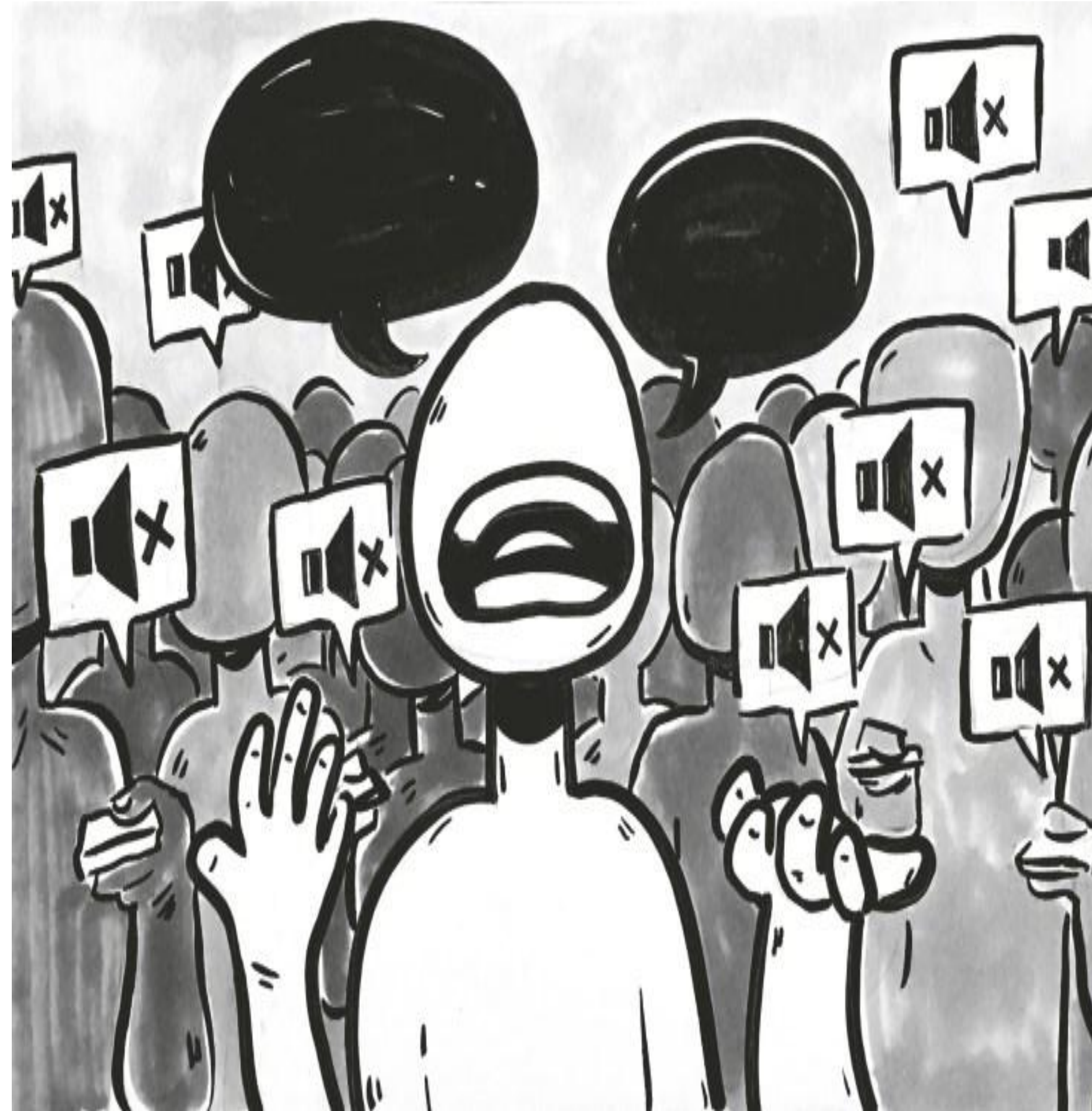
◆ Article 10 of the ECHR – Freedom of Expression  
Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to freedom of expression. This right includes: Freedom to hold opinions, Freedom to receive and impart information and ideas, The ability to do so without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. However, paragraph 2 of Article 10 allows for certain restrictions on this freedom, provided they are: Prescribed by law, Necessary in a democratic society, and Proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued (such as protecting national security, public order, or morals).

◆ Background of the Case Ahmet Yıldırım was a university lecturer who published academic content on his personal blog. His blog was hosted on Google Sites, a web hosting service. Turkish authorities ordered a nationwide block of the entire Google Sites platform due to allegedly illegal content found on a different site hosted on the same platform. As a result, Yıldırım's personal blog—which had no illegal content—became inaccessible as well.

◆ The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) Judgment The ECtHR ruled that Turkey had violated Article 10 of the Convention. The Court emphasized several key points: Overbroad Blocking Measures: Blocking the entire platform due to content on a single website was a disproportionate and excessive interference. This approach restricted access to numerous lawful websites, not just the targeted content. Lack of Legal Safeguards: The national law that enabled such blocking (at the time, Law No. 5651) lacked sufficient safeguards against arbitrary interference. The legal framework did not include adequate judicial oversight or clear criteria for such restrictions. Relevance of Internet in Freedom of Expression: The Court highlighted that the internet plays a vital role in the dissemination of information and ideas in modern democratic societies. Measures like blanket bans can have a chilling effect on free expression.

◆ Significance in Terms of Article 10 The Ahmet Yıldırım judgment is important for several reasons: It confirmed that internet access is an essential component of freedom of expression in the digital age. It clarified that state-imposed censorship must comply with the principles of proportionality and legality. The ruling established that blanket or wholesale website blocking measures could violate Article 10. It warned against prior restraint (preventive censorship) unless it is strictly justified and narrowly applied.

### Poster



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### References

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# IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

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Relevant Convention Article: ECHR Article 10 –

Freedom of expression

Yavuz Karataş was convicted of «propaganda against the indivisible unity of the state» under Article 8 of the Turkish Penal Code (then the Anti-Terror Law) due to his poems published in the «Düşünce ve Sanat» magazine in 1991. Karataş applied to the ECtHR, claiming that this decision violated his freedom of expression.

ECtHR's Assessment:

The court accepted that Karataş's poems were a form of artistic expression despite their harsh style.

It emphasized that the poems did not contain incitement to violence but expressed the poet's , rather thoughts in an aestheticpersonal and way. politica It stated that the punishment Türkiye imposed on Karataş was not necessary in a democratic society and constituted a violation of freedom of expression.

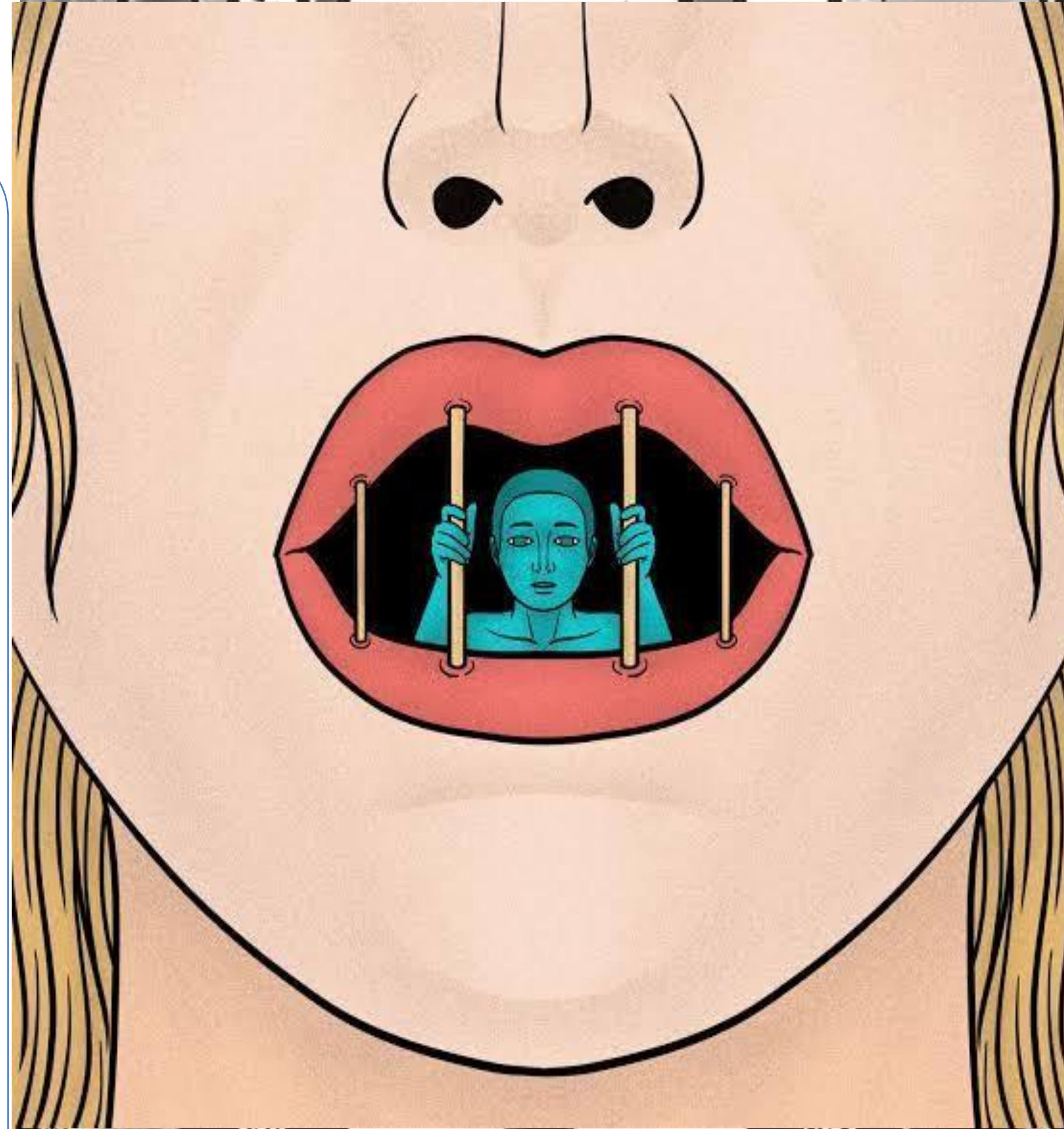
Importance of the Decision:

With this decision, the ECtH clearly demonstrated that R y expressions should also be protected within the scope of freedom of expression. c

It also emphasized that penalizing political criticisms that did not include calls for violence could be disproportionate.

The case is a precedent-setting decision in terms of evaluating the restrictions on freedom of thought and expression in Turkey according to European standards

### Poster



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### References

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- <https://birikimdergisi.com/guncel/9024/demokrasinin-diger-adi-ifade-ozgurlugu>





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### CASE OF OLEG BALAN v. THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In this case, the Moldovan TV channel NIT, known for its opposition-leaning content, had its broadcasting license revoked in 2012 by the national media authority. The reason given was that the channel had repeatedly failed to follow rules on neutrality and objectivity. However, the European Court of Human Rights found that this action violated Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects freedom of expression.

The Court acknowledged that some violations may have occurred, but ruled that withdrawing the license entirely was a disproportionate response. It stressed that freedom of expression includes not only mainstream or agreeable views, but also those that may be critical or unpopular. Media pluralism, especially the presence of oppositional voices, is essential in a democratic society.

This judgment is important because it warns against using media regulations as a tool to silence political criticism. It also reinforces that revoking a license should be a last resort, not the first response.

### Poster

NIT S.R.L. v. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
ECtHR JUDGMENT - 5 APRIL 2022

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA PLURALISM



In 2012, the Moldovan TV channel NIT, known for its opposition views, had its broadcasting license taken away for not following neutrality rules. The Court found that this violated freedom of expression. It warned against using media laws to silence critics and said revoking a license should be a last resort.

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### References

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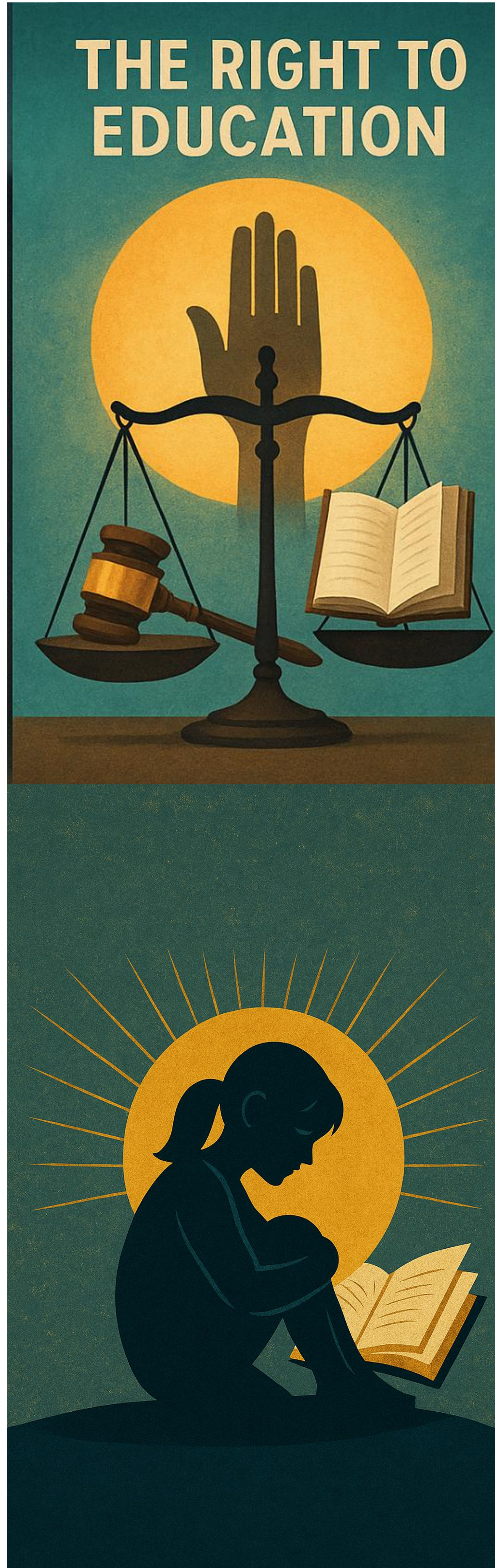
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### G.L. v. Italy: Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities

In the case of G.L. v. Italy a young girl with nonverbal autism was denied the specialized learning support mandated by Italian law during her first two years of primary education (2010–2012). The Italian government claimed financial constraints as the reason for this. The European Court of Human Rights unanimously found that this denial constituted a violation of: **Article 14 & Article 2 of Protocol No. 1**

G.L. had received learning support for 24 hours a week from a support teacher with specialized assistance in order to improve her inclusion and socialization – at school and in the classroom – and her autonomy. However, this specialized assistance was discontinued during her first year of primary school (2010–2011), at the end of which she repeated her year. In August 2011 and January 2012, the girl's parents twice asked the Eboli municipality to ensure that their daughter would once again receive the specialized assistance provided for by law, but the authority did not respond to their request.

### Poster



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### References

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### Safety of journalists:

The reason I chose this topic is because the issue of safety of journalists is often overlooked, even though it is directly related to the right to freedom of expression and the right to life.

Media freedom and pluralism are mentioned in Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Right and in Article 10 of the ECHR, together with freedom of expression and information.

Threats from political actors and the rising level of Impunity are some of the dangers that journalists face.

In order to reduce the risks against journalists, the Council of Europe launched a platform in 2015 and published a recommendation in 2016 about the protection and safety of journalists.

One significant case and court decision regarding physical safety is Dink v. Turkey, in which three Articles including Articles 2, 10 and 13 were found to be violated.

In the end, while we expect safety of journalists to improve in today's world, the numbers show the opposite. Therefore, there is a need for a better system to protect them and to promote the spread of true and reliable information in order to improve people's lives.

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### Poster



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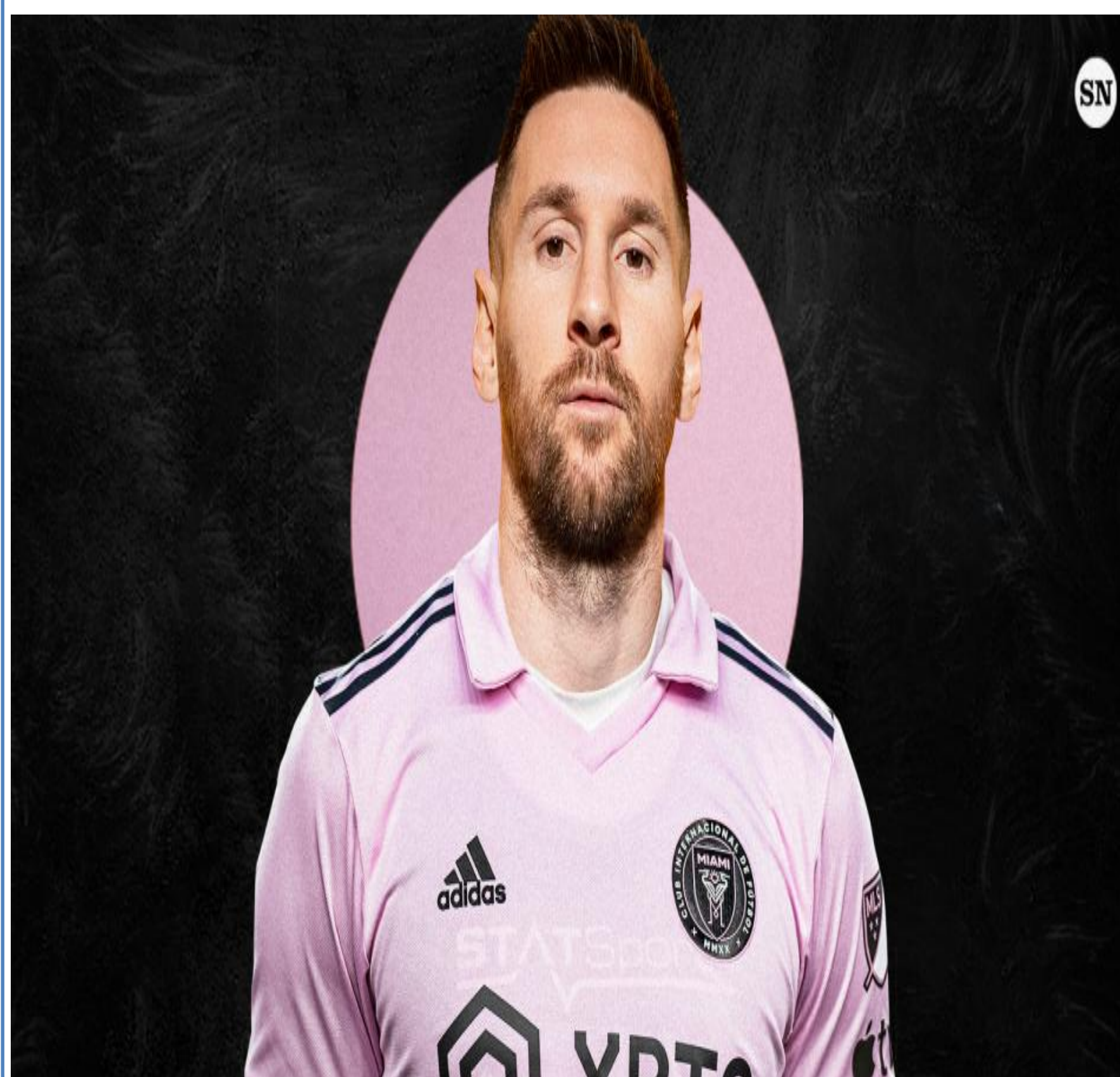
**Department:**  
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and International Relations**

### SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In a world rife with conflict, division, and discrimination, sport appears as one of the last spaces that still unites people around shared values: justice, respect, equality, and solidarity. Hence, I chose this title—"Sports and Human Rights"—not only because it merits academic research, but also because it directly affects human dignity.

I chose this title because stadiums are not merely places of competition, but platforms through which the voices of the voiceless are heard. Athletes in Europe and around the world have become symbols of justice, fighting racism, defending women's rights, and standing up against oppression. The European Union, as an entity dedicated to protecting human values, has a pivotal role in harnessing sport as a soft power for social change.

Sports are not isolated from rights; rather, they are a reflection of societies. When a child is barred from playing sports because of their disability, or a girl is excluded from a team because she wears a hijab, or a player is subjected to racism on the field, we are not talking about a game, but about a violation of human rights. That's why I chose this title, because I believe that sport can be a platform for freedom, a tool for justice, and a bridge to peace.



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# IR462 The Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the EU II

## 2024-2025 Spring Semester - Assoc. Prof. Nihan Akıncılar Köseoğlu

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### Right to education

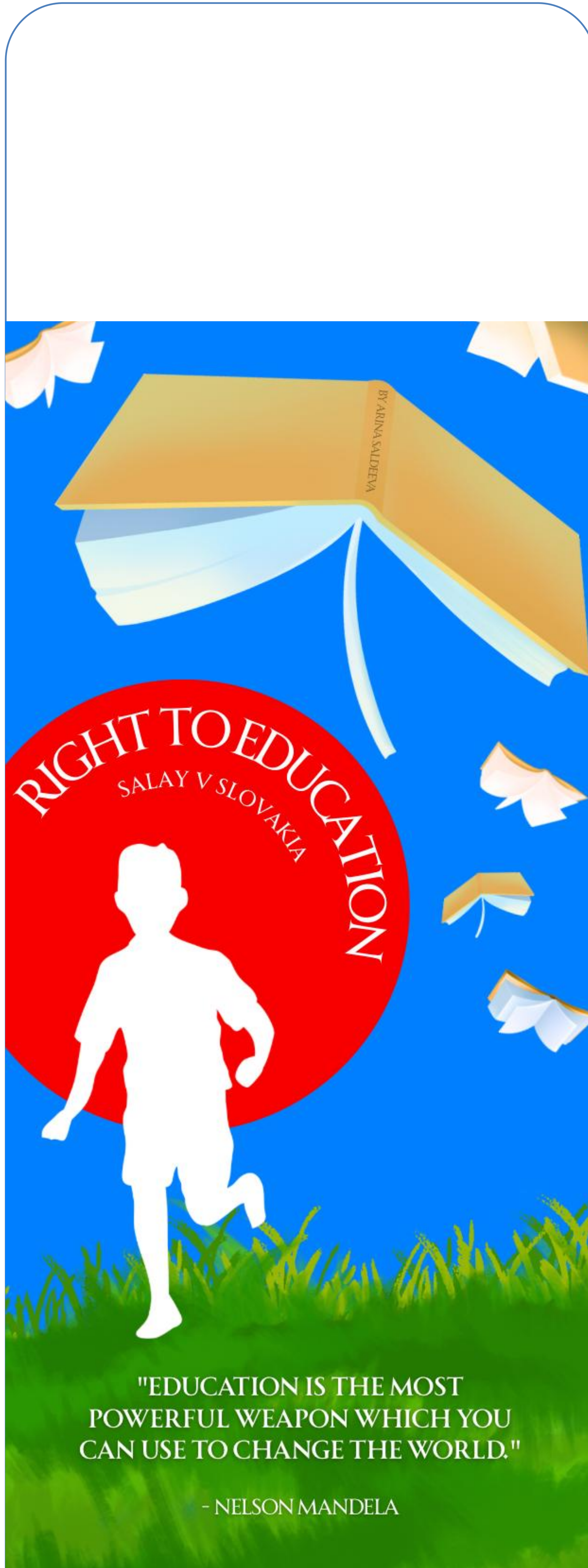
The minds of children are malleable, and precious - like gold, which is why schooling is a central subject in the infrastructure of society. I chose to focus on Right to Education, because it is not only central for self-development but also intrinsic for societal integration, employment, quality of and personal safety in the modern world. Which is why it is the responsibility of the EU to protect under Article 2 of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The SALAY v SLOVAKIA case reflects the marginalization of Roma children in the Slovakian education system on a broad scale through Salay's example. Specifically, the lack of proper diagnostic procedures needed to determine the social aptness as well as developmental levels of Roma children which constituted the placement of them into the general program or one specialized for those who lacked the requisite level of certain academic maturity and other background factors.

The poster depicts a child chasing the flying 'birds' represented by textbooks with the symbolism of knowledge being a liberation tool. The colors, specifically red, green, and blue - are used to represent the Roma flag, as discrimination was a central reason for the violation that occurred. Meanwhile, the quote reminds the onlooker the true weight of education in history through Nelson Mandela's example.

The aim of this project is to call attention to the hidden inequality of opportunity for better quality of life, that is hindered by the walling off of access to education. As long as education is not treated as a human birthright, society cannot call itself fair and just as it innately creates systemic backslides for its minorities.

### Poster



**Student name & surname: Arina Saldeeva**

**Student no: 220101114**

**Department: Political Science and International Relations**

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3. Quote on education by Nelson Mandela. <https://www.ecpi.edu/blog/50-great-quotes-illustrate-the-power-of-education>

4. Poster inspiration taken from: <https://www.posterfortomorrow.org/en/gallery/25326>

5. Roma people flag <https://www.theskyandearthknow.com/p/the-beauty-and-wisdom-of-the-romani-flag>

6. Application used to make the poster: Canva <https://www.canva.com/>





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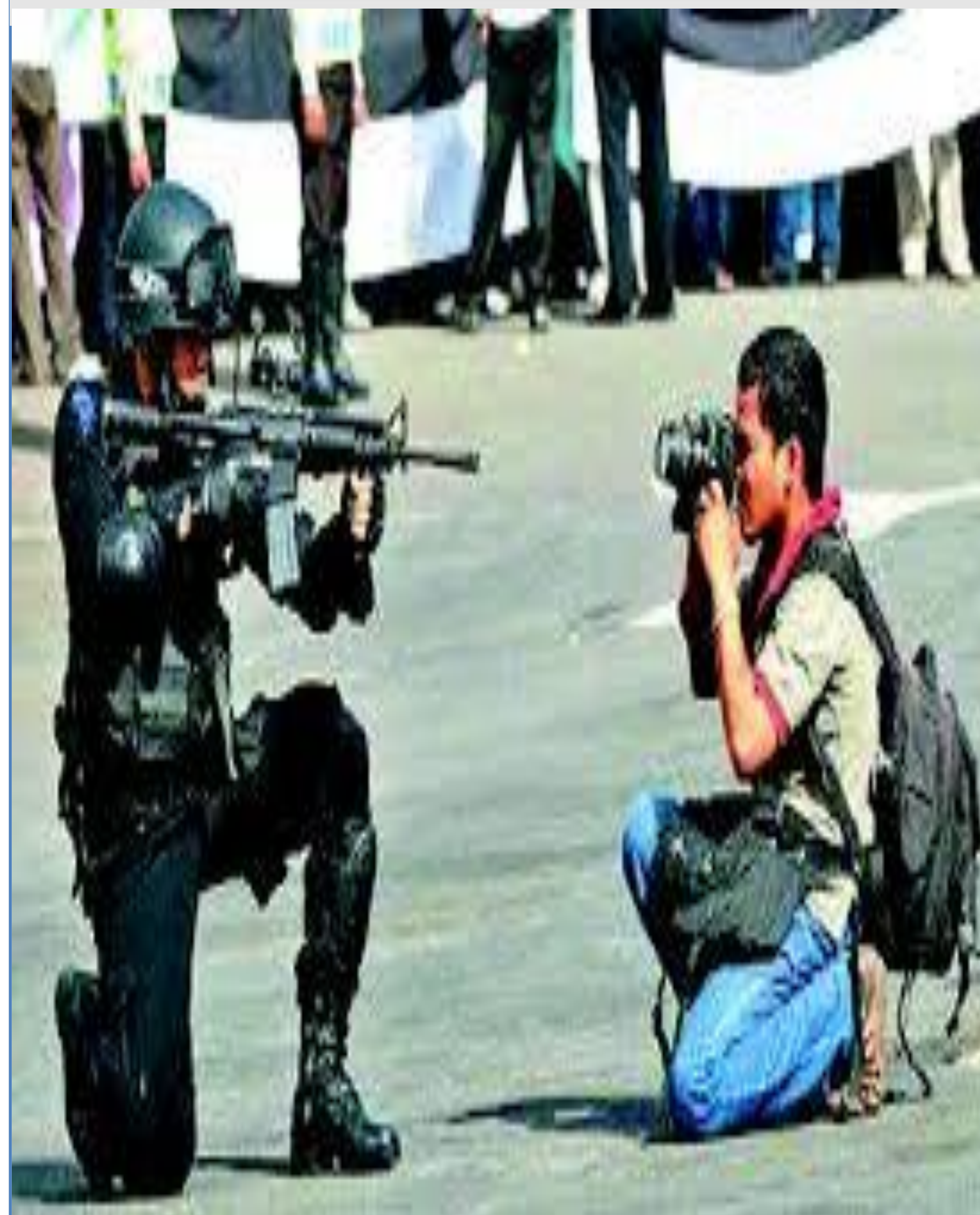
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### Poster

I'm a  
**JOURNALIST**  
What is YOUR  
Superpower?



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**Mays Joumah**

**Student no:**  
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**Department:**  
**Political Science and  
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### Protection and Safety of Journalists

I chose this topic because I believe that the protection and safety of journalists is often ignored or silenced by powerful and wealthy individuals who fear exposure. In many cases, these individuals restrict freedom of expression and violate basic human rights. Journalists play a vital role in uncovering the truth, especially when investigating dangerous or sensitive stories. Despite being aware of the risks, they pursue these stories because it is their job and their right. Many face threats, violence, or even death to do so. They often have to navigate illegal or unethical situations during their investigations, yet they continue to take these risks in order to inform the public and hold those in power accountable. This makes protecting journalists not only important, but essential for a free and just society. A clear example is the case of Myroslava Gongadze v. Ukraine (2005), Myroslava Gongadze the widow of Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze who was abducted and murdered in 2000, she brought a case against Ukraine to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). She alleged that the Ukrainian authorities failed to protect her husband's life, did not carry out an effective investigation into his death, and subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment due to the way the investigation and events were handled. where the European court of human rights found violations of article (2) right to life, article (3) prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, and article (13) right to an effective remedy.

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AVRUPA GELİŞİMLERİ UYGULAMA VE  
ARASTIRMA MERKEZİ



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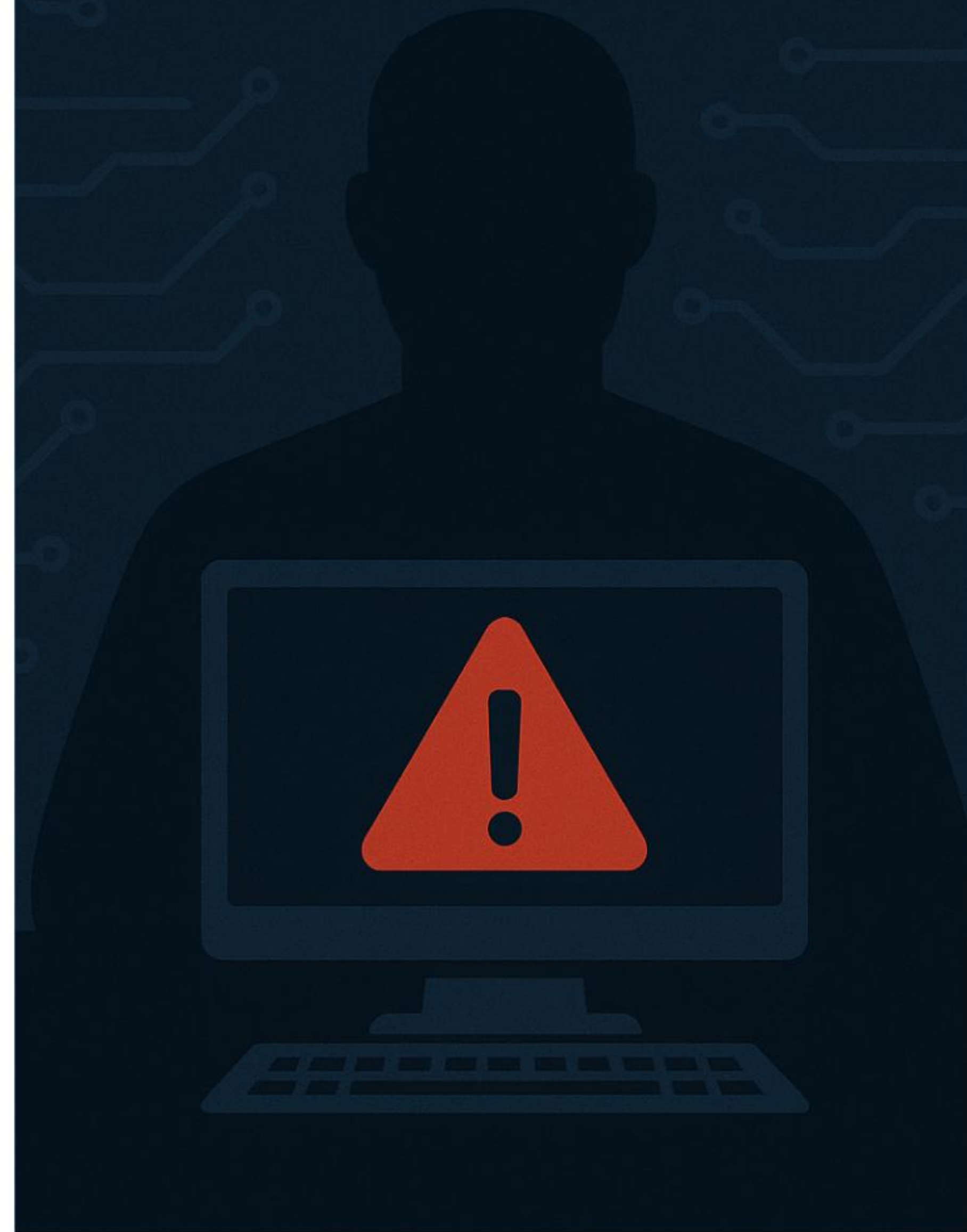
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## AHMET YILDIRIM v. TURKEY

A CASE ON INTERNET CENSORSHIP  
AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



### AHMET YILDIRIM v. TURKEY

Ahmet Yıldırım v. Turkey: A Case on Internet Censorship and Freedom of Expression

In 2012, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on a significant case concerning internet censorship in Turkey. Ahmet Yıldırım, a university lecturer, had a personal website hosted on Google Sites. In 2009, a Turkish court blocked access to the entire Google Sites platform due to allegedly illegal content found on another user's page. As a result, Yıldırım's own, unrelated website was also blocked.

Yıldırım took the case to the ECtHR, arguing that the ban violated his right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court agreed, stating that the blocking was disproportionate and based on unclear laws. It criticized the lack of safeguards in Turkish internet legislation (Law No. 5651) and emphasized that restrictions on online content must be precise and necessary in a democratic society.

This case was one of the first to link internet access directly to freedom of expression. It highlighted the need for governments to balance online regulation with human rights, and it remains an important reference for digital rights in Europe.

Ahmet Yıldırım v. Turkey is a key case in understanding digital rights in Europe. It shows that laws affecting the internet must respect fundamental freedoms. Today, this decision continues to influence debates about censorship, digital regulation, and free speech online.

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### References

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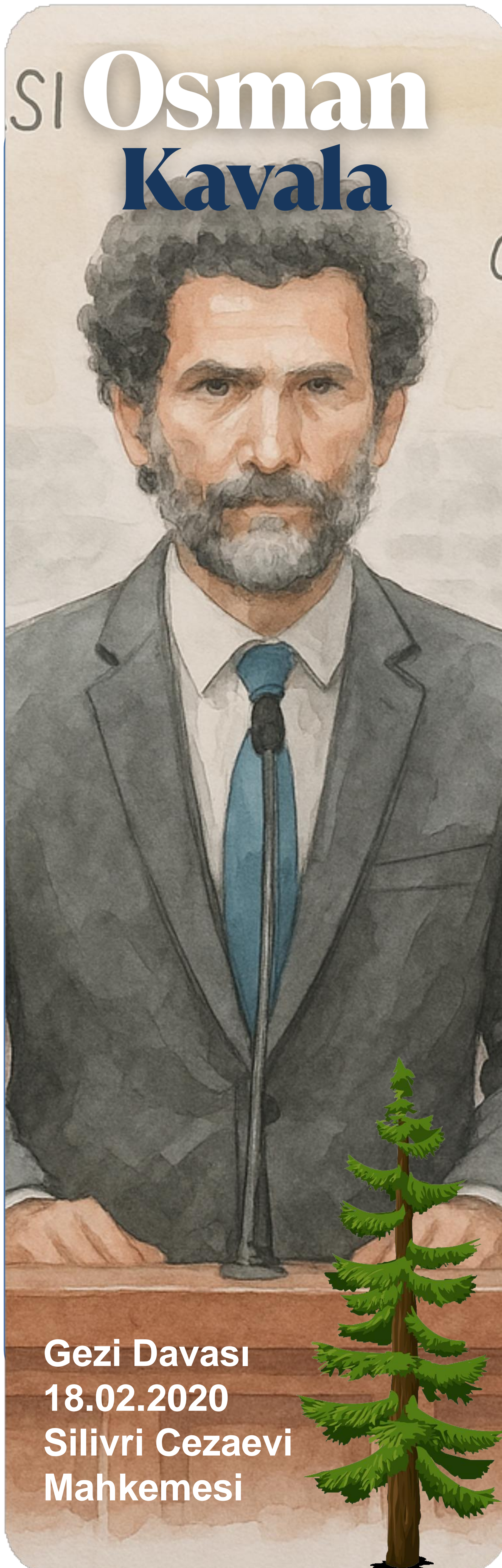
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### Osman Kavala: The Fight for Justice and Fundamental Rights

This case examines the plight of Osman Kavala, an individual who has faced significant legal and political challenges in Turkey, and whose rights have been violated in the pursuit of justice. The European Court of Human Rights addressed his case, focusing on the unlawful detention and violation of his right to a fair trial, along with the infringement of his freedom of expression. This project highlights the importance of defending fundamental rights for all individuals, regardless of their beliefs or political affiliations. The imagery in the poster reflects the struggle for justice, emphasizing the importance of ensuring equal rights and freedoms for everyone.

### Poster



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### References

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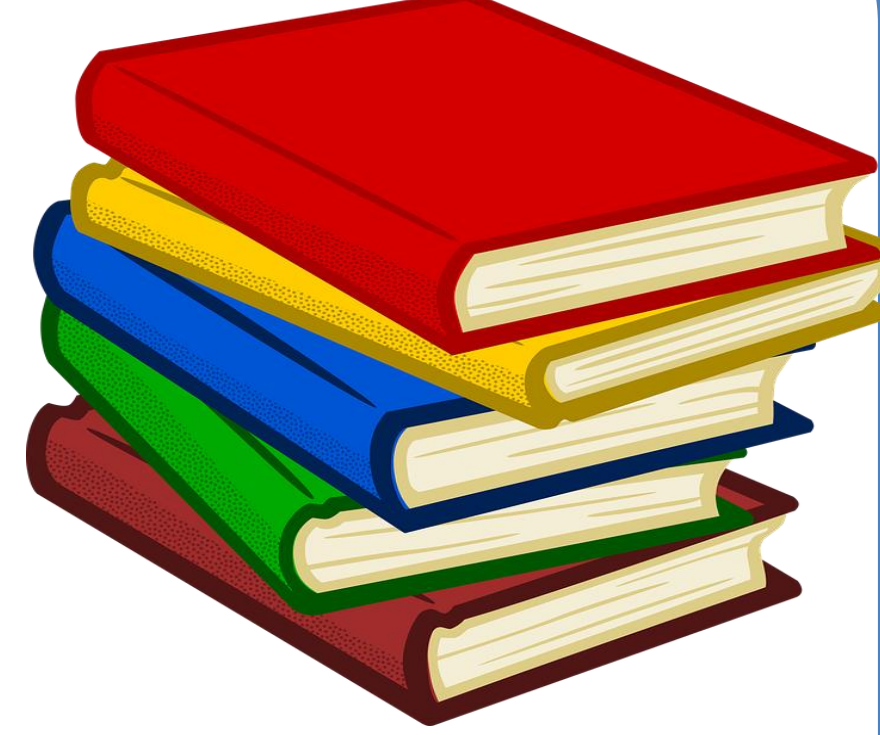
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### RIGHTS TO EDUCATION

The right to education is a fundamental human right that ensures everyone, regardless of background, has access to quality learning. It empowers individuals, promotes equality, and breaks the cycle of poverty by opening doors to better opportunities. Education helps people make informed choices, boosts economic growth, and strengthens societies. When upheld, it transforms lives and builds more just, inclusive communities.



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Unicef

Hudoc





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### Our voice Against Discrimination: The Identoba Judgment

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to freedom of expression, which includes the right to peacefully express one's identity and beliefs. This right is particularly vital for the protection of minority groups. In the case of *Identoba and Others v. Georgia*, the LGBT+ rights organization Identoba organized a peaceful march on the International Day Against Homophobia, 17 May. The march was violently disrupted by homophobic counter-demonstrators. Although police were present at the scene, they failed to take adequate measures to protect the marchers, many of whom were physically attacked. The applicants claimed that this situation violated their rights to freedom of expression (Article 10), freedom of peaceful assembly (Article 11), and the prohibition of discrimination (Article 14). The European Court of Human Rights ruled that the state's failure to protect the demonstrators constituted a violation, particularly on the grounds of discrimination based on sexual orientation. This case highlighted the responsibility of states not only to refrain from interference, but also to actively protect minority groups, and demonstrated how freedom of expression plays a central role in combating homophobia and transphobia.

### Poster



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### References

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### Freedom of Expression: Case of Sanchez v. France

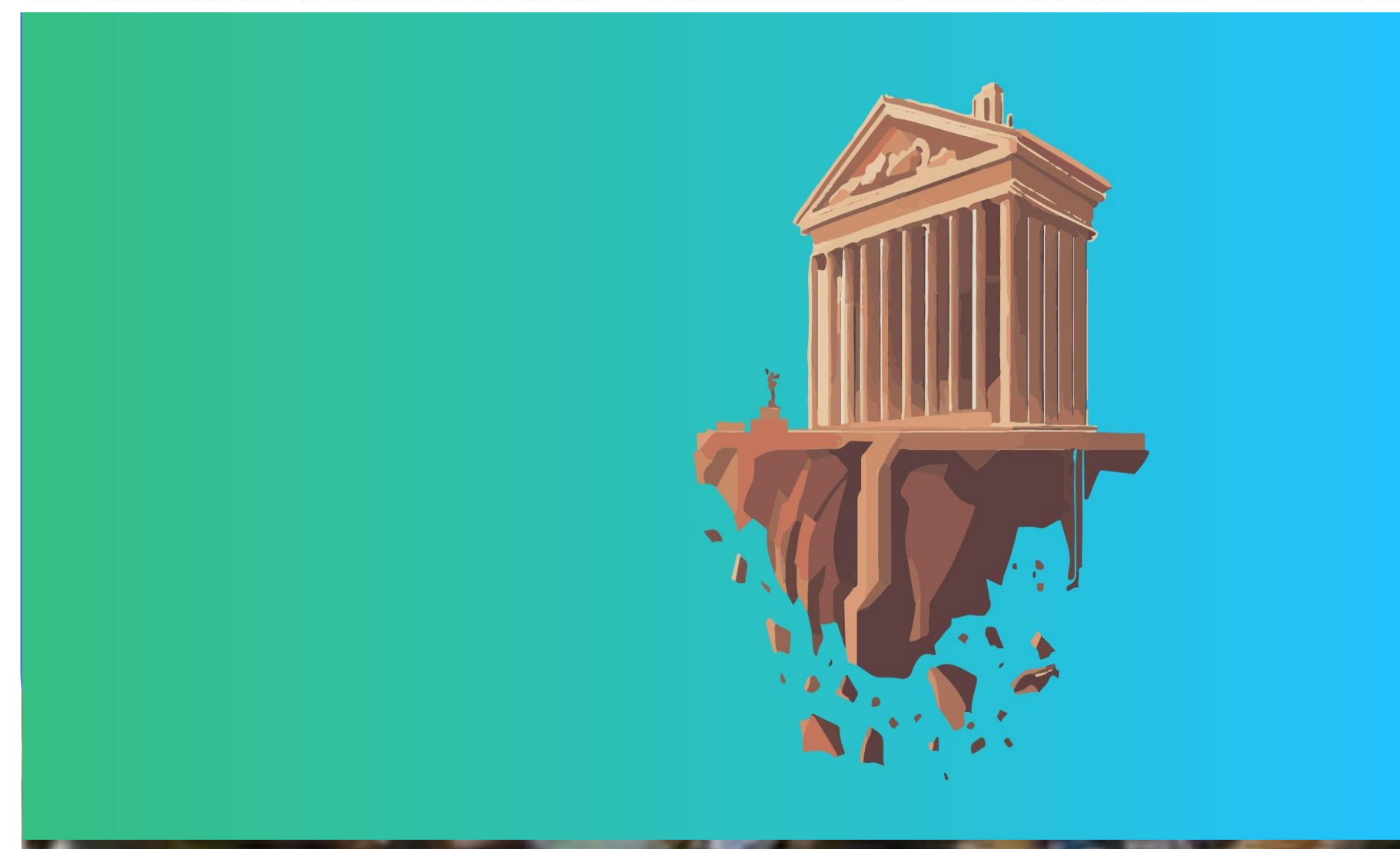
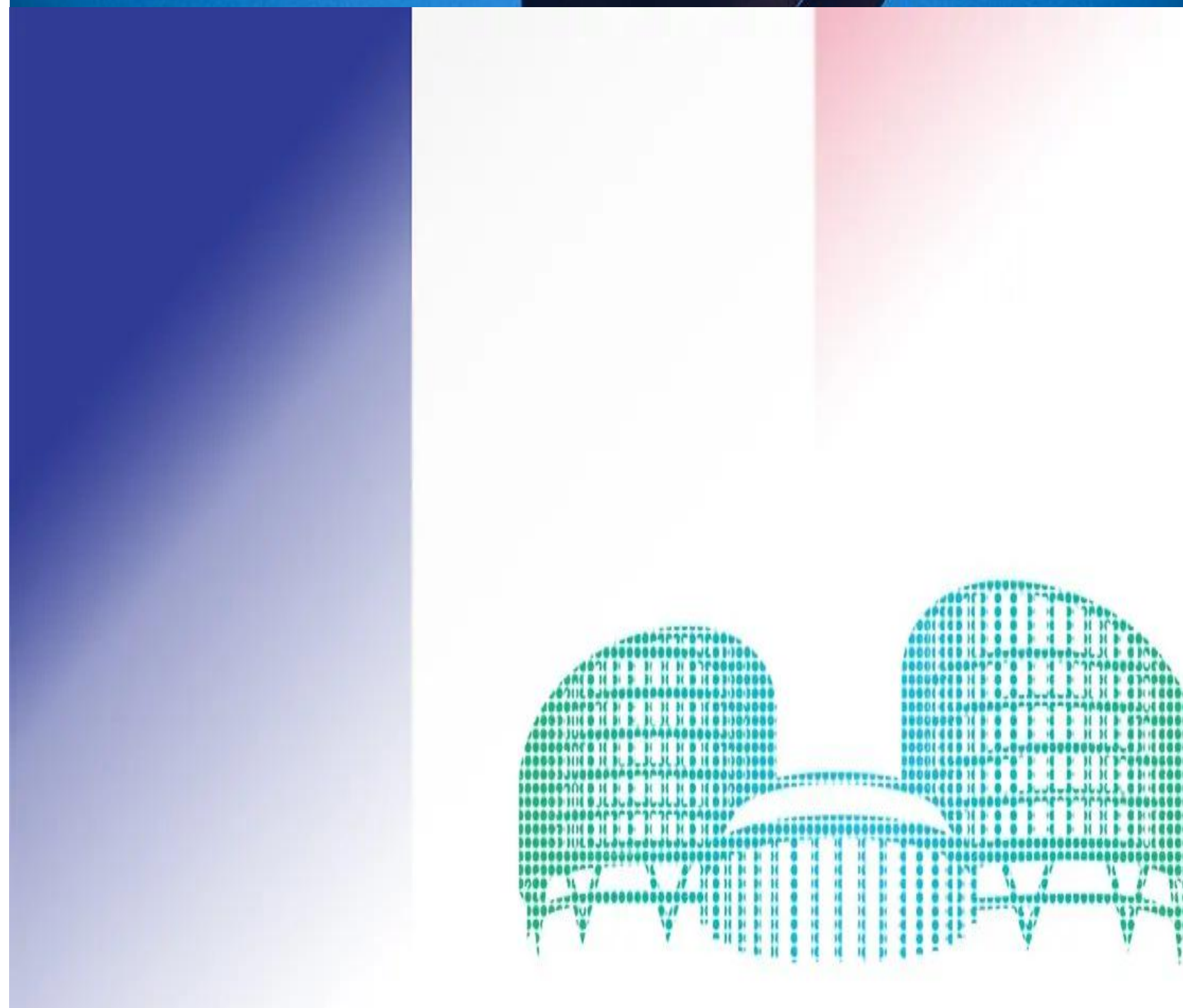
In the case of *Sanchez v. France*, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) addressed the issue of intermediary liability concerning online hate speech.

Mr. Julien Sanchez, a French politician and mayoral candidate, was convicted by French courts for failing to promptly remove Islamophobic comments posted by third parties on his publicly accessible Facebook wall during his election campaign. The French courts held that, by allowing these comments to remain visible, Mr. Sanchez had not fulfilled his duties as the producer of an online public communication service.

Mr. Sanchez appealed to the ECtHR, claiming that his conviction violated Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects freedom of expression. He argued that it was disproportionate to hold him criminally liable for third-party comments, especially without prior notification. The Grand Chamber, in a 13–4 decision, found no violation of Article 10. The Court emphasized that politicians using social media for electoral purposes have heightened responsibilities. It concluded that the interference with Mr. Sanchez's freedom of expression was lawful, pursued a legitimate aim (preventing hate speech), and was necessary in a democratic society.

This judgment underscores the importance of proactive moderation by public figures on their online platforms to prevent the spread of hate speech.

### Poster



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### References

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### Protection and Safety of Journalists

#### Case of *Ziemiński v. Poland*

**Journalism is essential for democracy, sustainable development, and the protection of human rights — but it remains one of the most dangerous professions.** Journalists often face threats, censorship, or even death. According to UNESCO, over 1,600 journalists have been killed since 1993, and most cases remain unresolved.

To protect their work, **Article 10 of the Human Rights Act guarantees the right to freedom of expression.** This includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and share information and ideas without government interference. It covers various forms of expression — **such as articles, broadcasts, art, and social media.** **Most importantly,** it protects journalists' right to criticize governments and public institutions without fear of punishment, which is a cornerstone of democratic society.

However, reality often contradicts this legal framework. In Kazakhstan, **Temirlan Yessenbek**, a satirical journalist, was sentenced to restricted freedom for “inciting ethnic hatred” after posting a rap satire. In ***Ziemiński v. Poland***, the European Court of Human Rights found a violation of Article 10 after a journalist was fined for calling officials “dull bosses.” The Court emphasized that **satire is a form of artistic and political expression**, and restrictions on it must be treated with special care.

### Poster



**Student name & surname:**  
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### Right to Education - Based on Leyla Şahin v. Turkey (2005)

This right is protected under Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which states that "No person shall be denied the right to education." The article guarantees not only access to educational institutions but also the right to receive an education without arbitrary interference. It is also supported by global human rights agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 13).

One of the most well-known cases related to the right to education is Leyla Şahin v. Turkey (Application no. 44774/98), decided in 2005 by the European Court of Human Rights. In this case, Leyla Şahin, a medical student at Istanbul University, was prohibited from attending classes and taking exams because she wore a headscarf, in line with her religious beliefs. The university had a regulation banning headscarves based on the principle of secularism.

Leyla Şahin argued that this ban violated her right to education under Article 2 of Protocol No. 1, and also her freedom of thought, conscience and religion under Article 9 of the Convention. However, the Court ruled that there had been no violation of Article 2. It accepted that while the restriction did interfere with her access to education, it was considered lawful, had a legitimate aim, and was necessary in a democratic society to protect the principle of secularism in Turkey. The Court referred to the concept of the "margin of appreciation," allowing states a certain level of discretion based on their national context.

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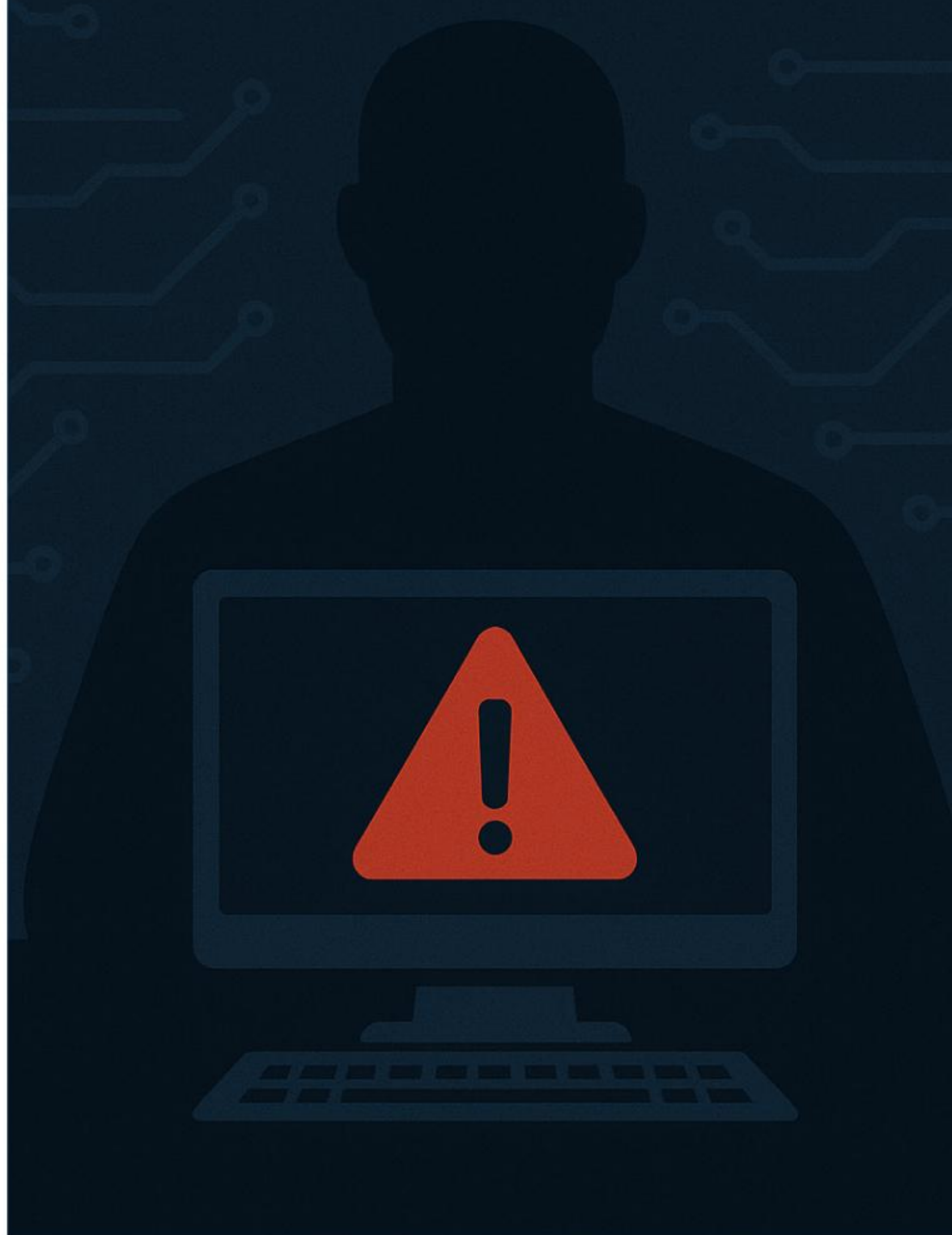
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### Poster

## AHMET YILDIRIM v. TURKEY

A CASE ON INTERNET CENSORSHIP  
AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



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Management  
Information Systems

### AHMET YILDIRIM v. TURKEY

Ahmet Yıldırım v. Turkey: A Case on Internet Censorship and Freedom of Expression

In 2012, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on a significant case concerning internet censorship in Turkey. Ahmet Yıldırım, a university lecturer, had a personal website hosted on Google Sites. In 2009, a Turkish court blocked access to the entire Google Sites platform due to allegedly illegal content found on another user's page. As a result, Yıldırım's own, unrelated website was also blocked.

Yıldırım took the case to the ECtHR, arguing that the ban violated his right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court agreed, stating that the blocking was disproportionate and based on unclear laws. It criticized the lack of safeguards in Turkish internet legislation (Law No. 5651) and emphasized that restrictions on online content must be precise and necessary in a democratic society.

This case was one of the first to link internet access directly to freedom of expression. It highlighted the need for governments to balance online regulation with human rights, and it remains an important reference for digital rights in Europe.

Ahmet Yıldırım v. Turkey is a key case in understanding digital rights in Europe. It shows that laws affecting the internet must respect fundamental freedoms. Today, this decision continues to influence debates about censorship, digital regulation, and free speech online.

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