FOREF: Decontaminate Europe: The New Totalitarian Threat to Civil Liberties

Peter Zoehrer
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“Decontaminate Europe”: The New Totalitarian Threat to Civil Liberties

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How self-styled “anti-hate” monitors catalogued 700+ organizations and 3,200 individuals into a blacklist of “viral contaminants.”

By Peter Zoehrer, Executive Director of FOREF Europe | October 13, 2026

The language of epidemiology has officially breached European politics.

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On October 12, 2026, inside the halls of the European Parliament, a coalition of advocates launched *The Hate Review*—a massive, 457-page report produced by the NGO Forbidden Colours. Covering 47 countries over 25 years, the report purports to map out the “anti-gender movement” in Europe. It meticulously catalogued over 3,200 “elements” and more than 700 “actors”—ranging from international legal alliances and Catholic family associations to grassroots parental networks, classical feminist groups, and secular LGB organisations.

As Executive Director of the **Forum for Religious Freedom Europe (FOREF)**, I have spent decades defending civil society and fundamental rights against institutional overreach. Yet, the launch of this report marks one of the most urgent and dangerous escalations I have witnessed in recent memory: the total pathologisation of legitimate civil society engagement.

In our recent FOREF release introducing an in-depth analysis by Martin Locksley, we highlighted the underlying mechanism of this dossier. It does not merely disagree with opposing viewpoints—it seeks to exclude them from democratic discourse as if they were a disease.

Throughout its pages, the report uses variants of the words "contaminate" or "contamination" no fewer than 149 times. Civil society groups upholding biological reality, defending the traditional family, or advocating for unborn life are not characterized as democratic opponents or ideological rivals. They are branded as a **"viral load"** infecting the continent, a **"chronic infection that never clears,"** and a **"hydra"** whose heads must be severed.

The report's explicitly stated ambition? "The decontamination of Europe" through the "patient dismantling" of these organizations, their supporters, and their ideas.

> "Describing citizens and civil society as a 'viral load' to be 'decontaminated' does not engage in democratic disagreement—it treats opposing viewpoints as a biological disease to be eradicated."

At FOREF, we recognize this taxonomy for what it is: an existential assault on democratic pluralism, freedom of expression, and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).

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The Medicalization of Political Dissent

History offers a stern, recurring warning: whenever political or ideological factions begin borrowing terms from pathology to describe their fellow citizens, grave human rights violations are rarely far behind.

By classifying peaceful, conscience-driven engagement as a pathogen, The Hate Review does not merely engage in robust debate—it seeks to render its targets subhuman and sub-democratic. You do not reason with a virus. You do not negotiate with a chronic infection. You eradicate it. You 'decontaminate' the space it occupies.

The irony is as stark as it is tragic. Self-styled "anti-hate" monitors, who claim to guard against prejudice, have produced a manual of profound intolerance. By framing basic moral, religious, and philosophical convictions as an infectious threat to be cleansed from the public square, they employ the exact dehumanizing mechanics they claim to oppose.

An Assault on Freedom of Religion or Belief

This rhetoric is a direct broadside against Freedom of Religion or Belief, as protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Article 10 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Millions of European citizens act from deeply held religious convictions and the dictates of conscience. The belief that human life possesses inherent dignity from conception, that biological sex is an immutable reality, that the integrity of the family unit deserves state protection, and that children should be safeguarded from premature sexualisation—these are not extremist inventions. They are foundational principles of major world religions and traditional human rights frameworks.

> "Treating moral, religious, and philosophical convictions as an infectious hazard strips believers of their status as equal citizens in the European public square."

Treating the public expression of these convictions as a medical contagion strips religious believers of their status as equal citizens. It signals to faith communities across Europe—**Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox Christians, Muslims, and Orthodox Jews** alike—that living and speaking according to their conscience within the democratic process makes them a biological hazard to the state.

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A Net So Wide It Traps Everyone

To appreciate the authoritarian sweep of this vision, one must look at who **The Hate Review** captures in its net.

The report places transnational legal organizations like **ADF International** and the **European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ)** alongside **Catholic family associations** (**FAFCE**), **pro-life charities (40 Days for Life)**, and **bioethics institutions**. But it does not stop there.

Because the report defines any effort to 'limit or attack' its gender paradigm as part of the 'infection,' it groups together traditionally opposing factions. Secular gender-critical feminists, old-school gay and lesbian rights advocates (such as LGB Alliance and Sex Matters), and religious family activists are all catalogued together as a singular 'threat aimed directly at the unity of the progressive side.'

Across every European nation, small, lawful civic associations have been placed on this state-adjacent blacklist:

- **Austria:** Aktion Leben, Jugend für das Leben, Plattform Ärzte für das Leben, TeenSTAR, #fairändern, Wiener Akademikerbund.
- **Germany:** Demo für Alle, Stiftung Ja zum Leben, Weißes Kreuz, ALFA, Schützt unsere Kinder.
- **France:** La Manif Pour Tous / Syndicat de la Famille, Fondation Lejeune, Marche pour la Vie, Juristes pour l'enfance.
- United Kingdom: Christian Institute, CARE, For Women Scotland, SPUC, Sex Matters, Get the L Out, LGB Alliance.

· Croatia, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland… the list extends into every corner of the continent.

By grouping these diverse voices under a single headline of 'contamination,' the report reveals its true objective: the total enforcement of ideological conformity across the European continent.

The Institutional Threat to Article 2 TEU

Launching this report inside the official precincts of the European Parliament was no accident. It represents a deliberate strategy to leverage official EU spaces to grant fringe, totalitarian rhetoric the varnish of institutional authority.

If European institutions, funding bodies, and media outlets adopt The Hate Review as an authoritative guide, the consequences for civic space will be catastrophic:

Shrinking Civic Space: Non-governmental organizations defending biological reality or traditional ethics will face systemic de-banking, loss of charitable status, and exclusion from public consultations.

Viewpoint Discrimination: Public grants and legal protections will be conditioned on ideological compliance, breaching the core EU commitment to equal treatment.

Chilling Effect on Expression: Citizens, academics, and politicians will self-censor out of fear of being publicly archived, profiled, and labeled a 'viral threat.'

This trajectory directly violates **Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)**, which explicitly commits the Union to a society founded on pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, and freedom of expression. Pluralism cannot exist if the state or its favored NGOs reserve the right to 'decontaminate' minority moral viewpoints from the public arena.

> "Europe does not need to be 'decontaminated' from family advocates and religious believers—it needs to be protected from the real virus: totalitarian intolerance."

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Defending the Patient: Reclaiming Pluralism in Europe

As analyst Martin Locksley demonstrates in his detailed examination of the report, the methods and language of **The Hate Review** represent a threshold moment for European democracy.

Europe's historical strength lies not in compulsory ideological uniformity, but in its ability to sustain an open public square where radically different worldviews can contend peacefully under the rule of law. The moment we allow civil society actors to be pathologized as a 'viral load,' we surrender the democratic contract to ideological totalitarians.

We must reject this rhetoric unequivocally. **The European Parliament** and **EU member states** must refuse to endorse or utilize registries that dehumanize citizens for their conscience, faith, or scientific convictions regarding biological sex.

Europe does not need to be 'decontaminated' from pro-life advocates, religious believers, or defenders of the family. It needs to be protected from the real virus threatening its core: the virulent intolerance that seeks to erase pluralism in the name of progress.

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Key Sources & Further Reading

- **FOREF Europe Primary Statement:**
  FOREF Europe: "Decontaminate" Europe? New Anti-Hate Report Describes Pro-Life and Child-Protection Advocates as a "Viral Load"
  Introduction by Peter Zoehrer and analysis by Martin Locksley (October 12, 2026).
- **Primary Report under Review:**
  Forbidden Colours: *The Hate Review – How the Anti-Gender Movement Spread Across Europe*
  The full 457-page database profiling 700+ organizations and 3,200 elements across 47 European nations.
- **Civil Society & Institutional Responses:**
  ADF International Statement on *The Hate Review* Launch at the European Parliament
  Initial reaction from human rights advocates inside the European Parliament.
- **EU Legal Framework & Charter:**

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Article 10 (Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion)

Treaty on European Union (TEU) – Article 2 (Core Values of Pluralism and Tolerance)

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