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INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS



Promotion of Equality in Denmark  
Maria Ventegodt, Head of Equality Department

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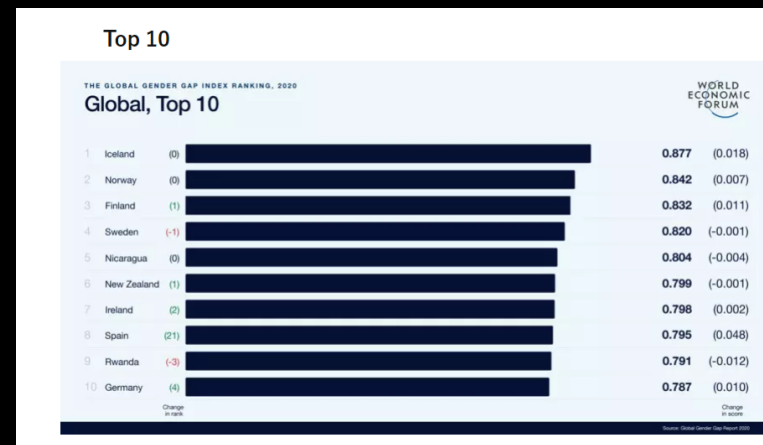
NO DANISH  
EQUALITY LAWS

- Social benefits rather than individual rights
- Collective rights (strong labour unions)
- All equality laws are implementation of EU law



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NOT AS EQUAL AS  
YOU WOULD  
THINK...



World Economic Forum Gender  
Equality Gap Index 2020  
Denmark no. 14  
South Korea no. 108

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## BAN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

- Important legal framework required by human rights law
- Simple and easy complaints mechanism (administrative board)
- DIHR mandate to bring cases of high importance to the equality board

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## CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Prevention of hate speech on line
2. Punishment for hate crimes

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DEFINITION OF  
HATE SPEECH  
APPLIED IN STUDY

*Hate speech is stigmatizing, derogatory, offensive, harassing and threatening statements that are directed at an individual or a group based on the individual's or the group's gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, political beliefs or social status.*

## METHOD AND DATA

- ✓ Quantitative content analysis
- ✓ Danish Broadcasting Agency and Danish TV2
- ✓ 3000 comments from 1700 posts
- ✓ Data collected minimum 12 hours after publishing
- ✓ Survey among Danish Facebook users

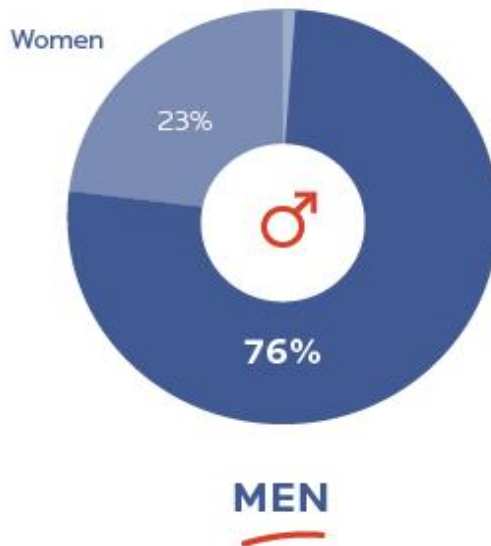
## HOW MUCH HATRED?



Every 7th comment is hateful.



## WHO IS BEHIND THE HATEFUL COMMENTS?



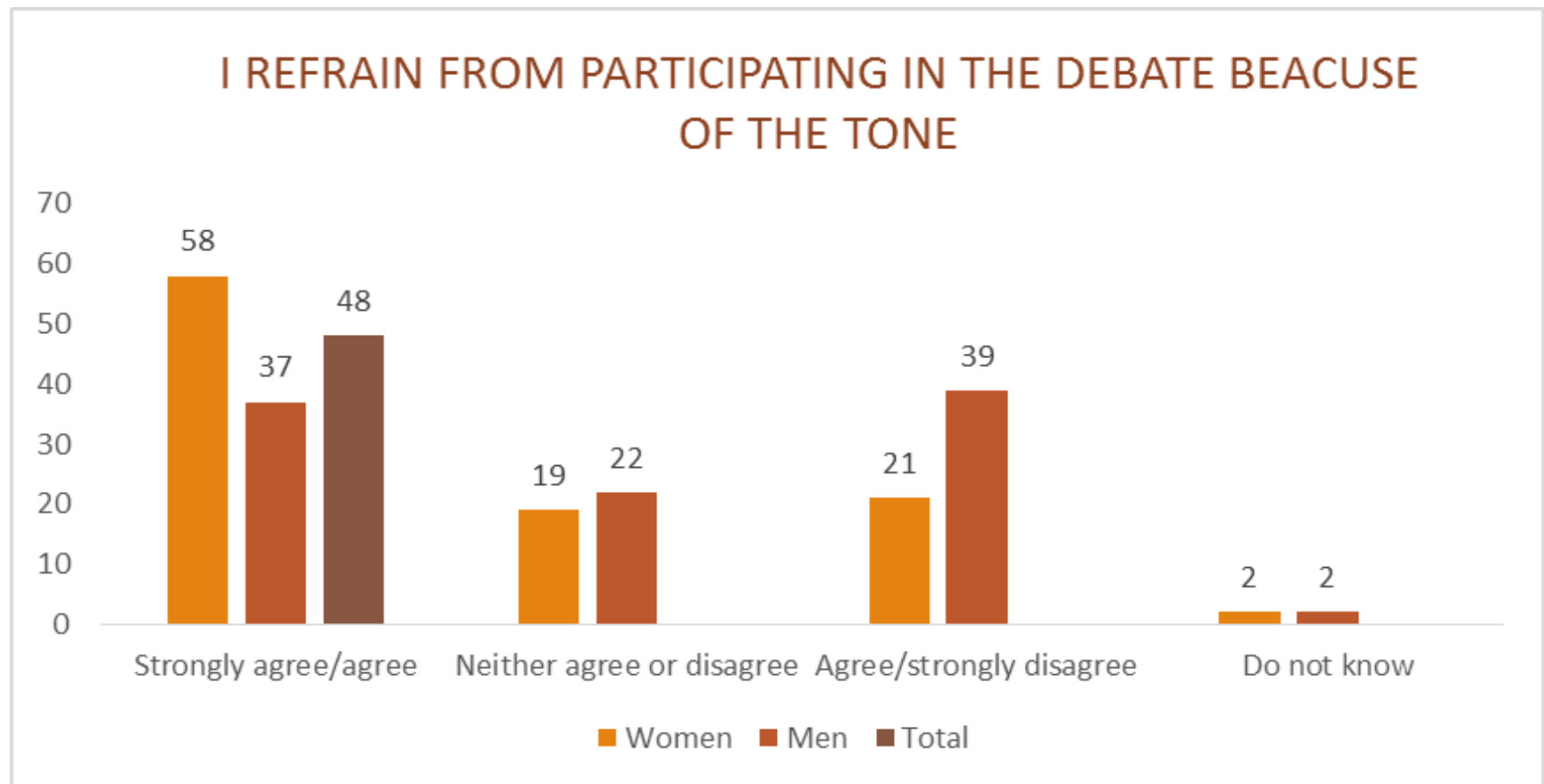


Figure 35: 511 respondents who participate in debates on Facebook. Question: "Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The tone in a debate on Facebook keeps me from participating in the debate"

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Penalise social media who do not take down obviously illegal material
- The Danish Media Liability Act is revised
- Preparation of national action plan on hate speech

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LINK TO REPORTS

2019 Report with English summary:

[Link](#)

2017 Report with English summary:

[Link](#)

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## RACIALLY MOTIVATED HATE CRIME

- Black lives matter movement
- 7% of victims of violence, but only handful of judgments pr year
- Report from UK Equality and Human Rights Commission on causes and motivation for hatecrimes: [Link](#)

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## NEW DEFINITION IN PENAL CODE

[...] evidence that proves the perpetrator *demonstrated hostility* towards the victim based on the victim's race [...]

or the offence was *(partly) motivated* by hostility towards persons who have those protected characteristics

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Thank you for your attention!

The report can be downloaded from  
[www.humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk)