



MODULE THREE



Understanding Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Online Hate



KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES



Identify common features of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate



Learn about how people who perpetrate anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate rationalize their beliefs and actions



Develop a better understanding of the factors that contribute to online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ nonprofit organizations

CONTENT WARNING

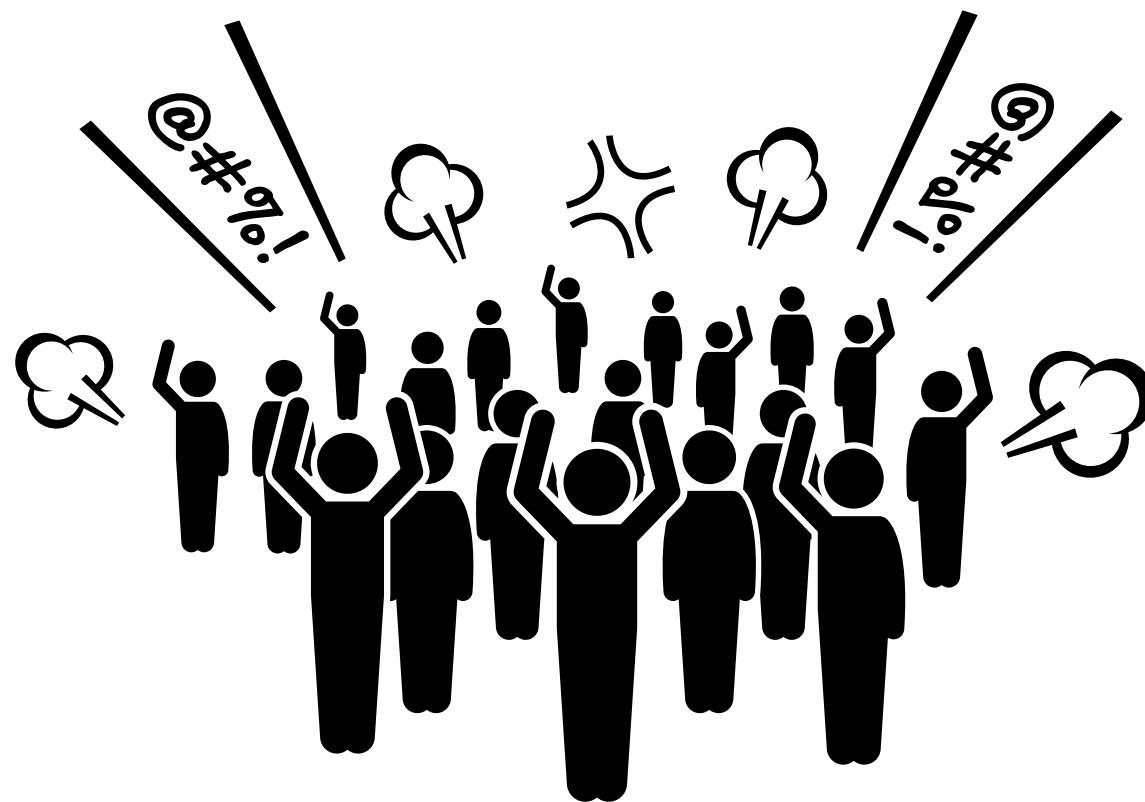
This module includes descriptions of how people who post anti-2SLGBTQIA+ content online justify their hateful beliefs, including the desire of some to eradicate 2SLGBTQIA+ people from society. There is discussion of pedophilia, grooming, violence, transphobia, trans exclusionary radical feminists, religious and cultural beliefs, racism, and prejudice against asexual and aromantic people.

We encourage you to move on to the next module if engaging with this material doesn't feel like the right thing for you.

If you decide to continue with the module and need support, you can find resources in our resources section at the end of this module.

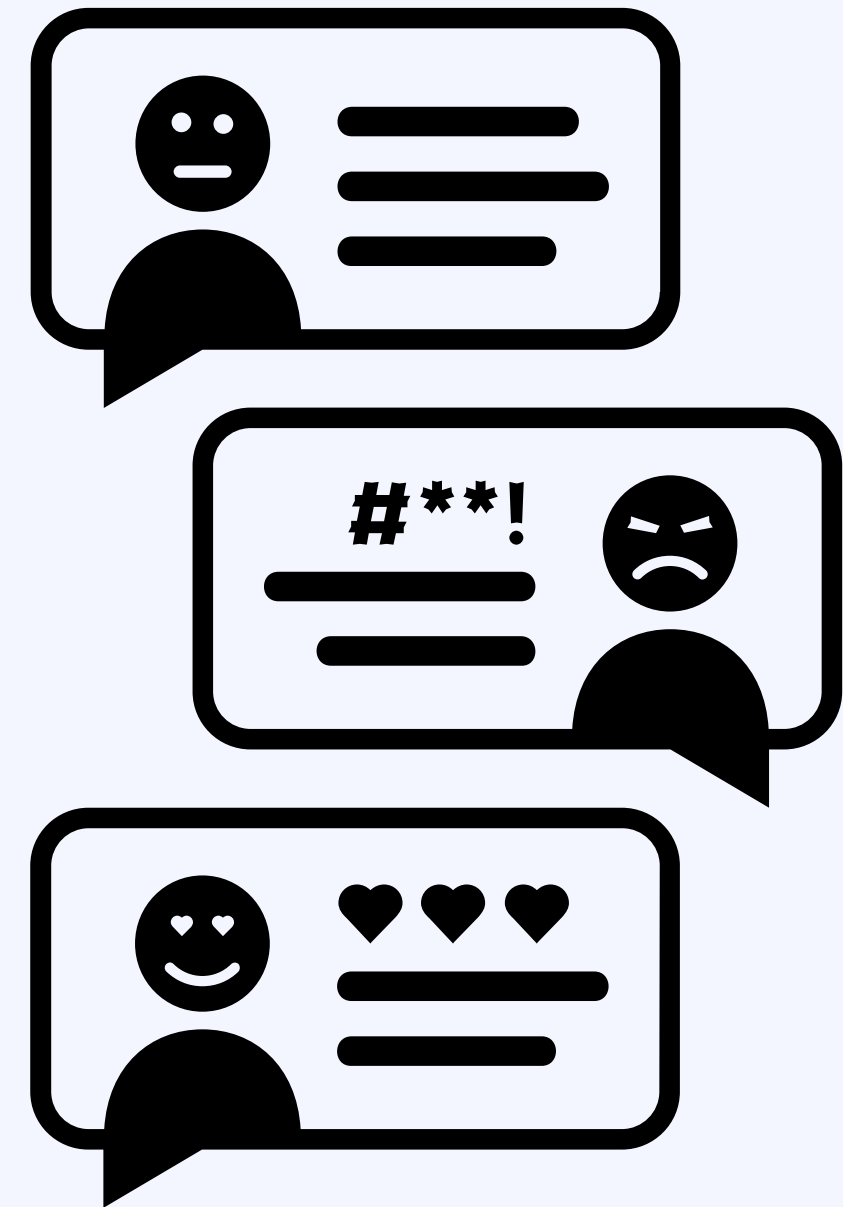
Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate

The Canadian Anti-Hate Network identified the four most common "hallmarks of hate" used against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, communities, and organizations.



Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate

1. The target group is presented as seeking to harm vulnerable members of society (e.g., children).



Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate



2. The target group is depicted as inherently dangerous.

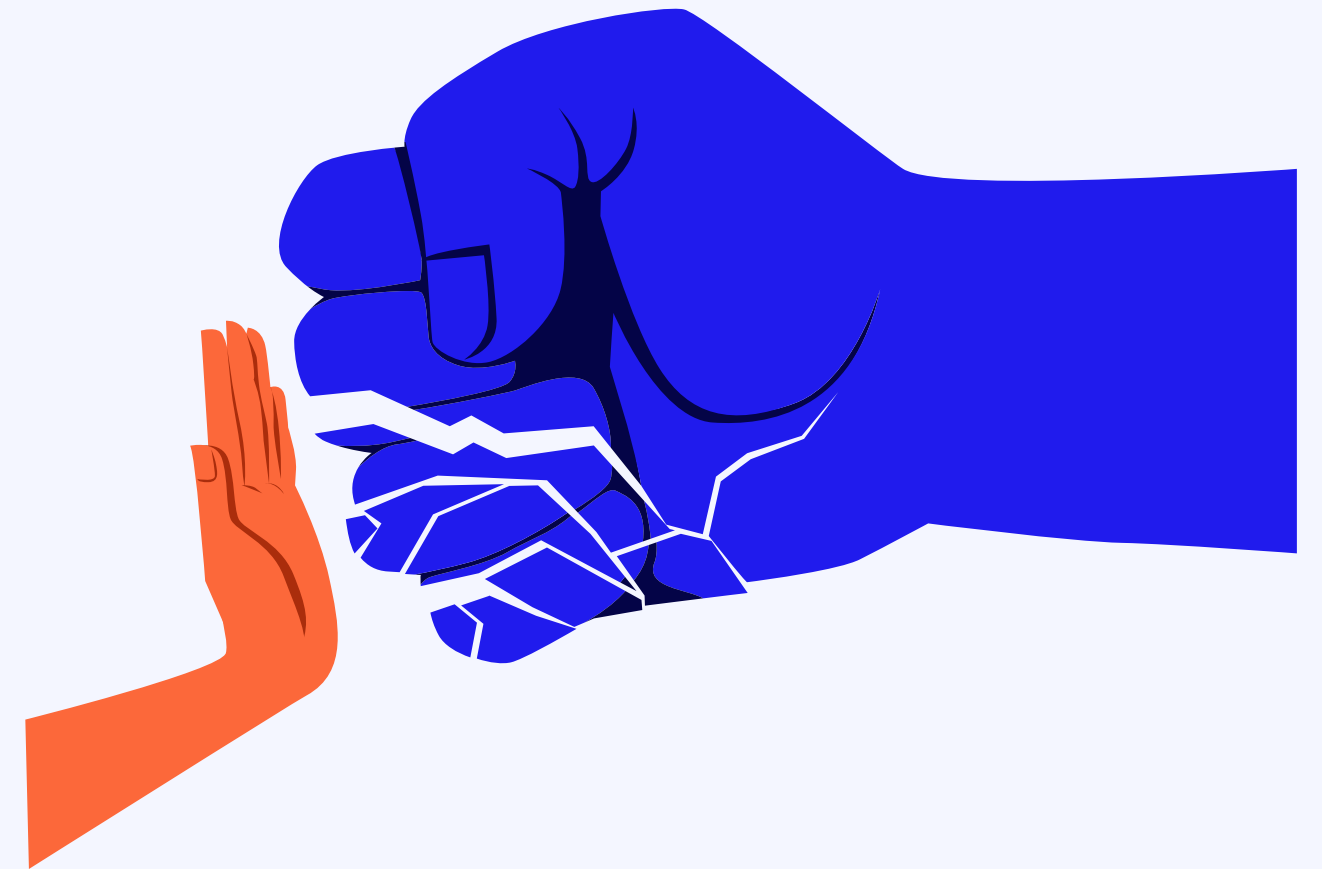
Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate

3. The messages communicate the idea that nothing but the banishment, segregation, or eradication of the target group will save others from the harm being done by this group.



Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate

4. Violence is promoted as a tool to address issues presented by the existence of the target group.



Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hallmarks of Hate

You can access the Canadian Anti-Hate Network's webinar on anti-2SLGBTQIA+ hate "**We Go Where They Go: And Other Antifascist Axioms for Queer Community Defense**" in the resources section.

How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

- In 2023, ODLAN worked with Wisdom2Action on a research project seeking to better understand how Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ nonprofits experience and address anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate.
- The following slides describe our research findings on how people who post hateful content rationalize anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate targeting Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ nonprofits.

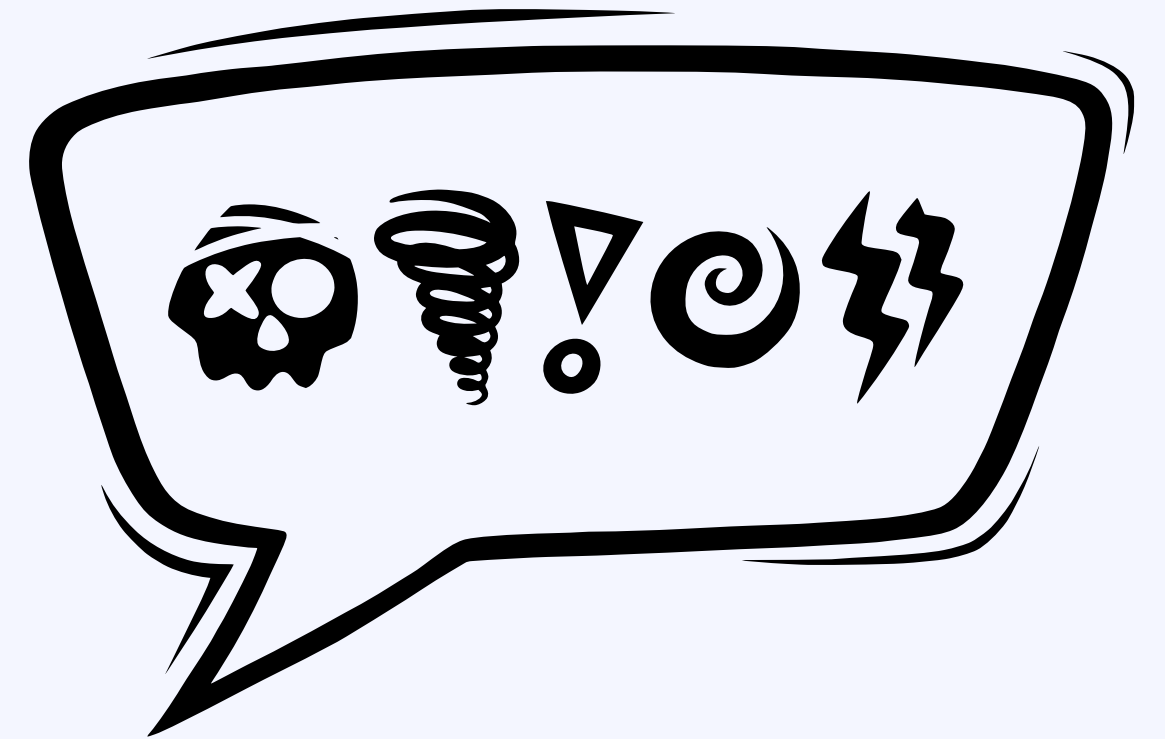
How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

1. People who post hateful content targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people say they want to **protect children** from being sexualized or "groomed" by 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Grooming refers to the process of an adult establishing an emotional relationship with a minor for the purpose of sexual abuse.

How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

2. Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists (TERFs) try to take away rights from trans people, especially trans women, by saying they are protecting "women" (by which they mean cis women).



How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?



3. People who post hateful content targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people use **pseudo-scientific beliefs** (e.g., based on out-of-date studies, biased research, misleading statistics) to justify anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate.

How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

4. **Religious beliefs** are sometimes used to justify anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate.



How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

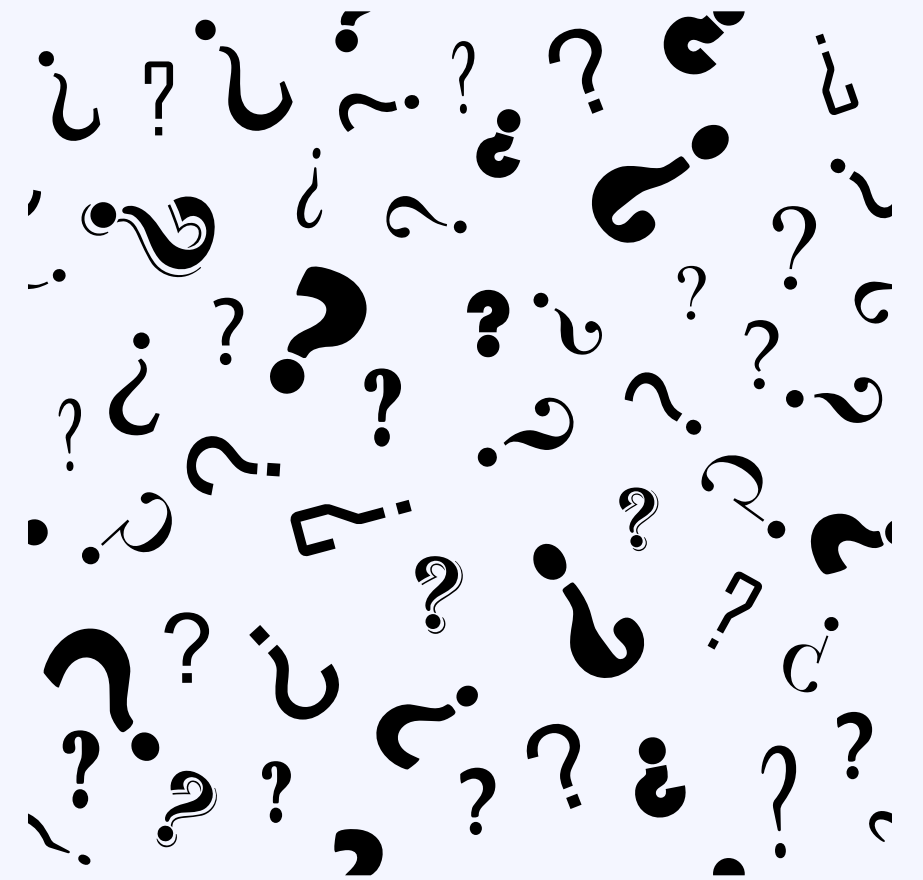
5. Some people who post anti-2SLGBTQIA+ content online argue that queerness and transness are Western concepts and, therefore, shouldn't be accepted as part of their own culture.

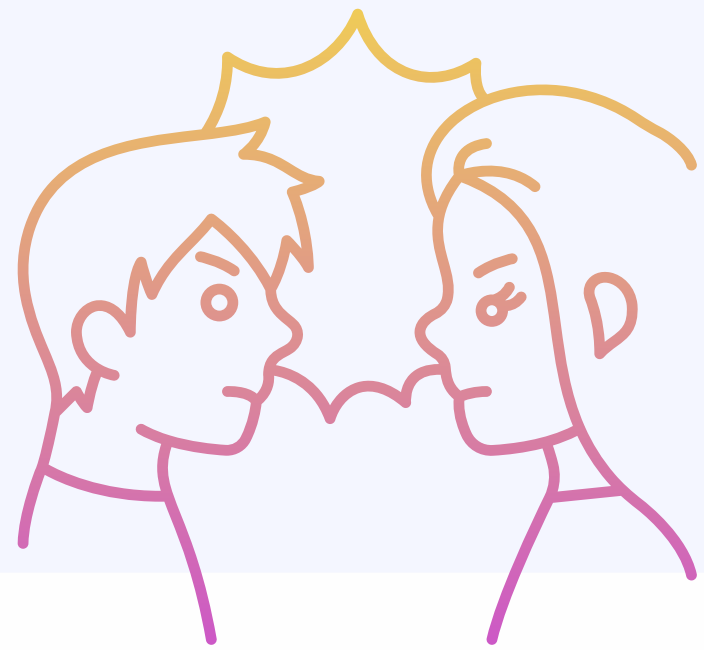


How do people justify online hate targeting 2SLGBTQIA+ people and nonprofits in the colonial state of Canada?

Sometimes the rationalization for the hateful comments is unclear in the comments themselves.

Participants told us that doing additional research, such as reading the poster's profile, can help explain why they are participating in anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate.





Lateral Hate

Lateral hate is also used against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, communities, and organizations. This occurs when 2SLGBTQIA+ people engage in hateful actions against other 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Examples include:

- a generational divide about queerness/transness
- racism and transphobia
- aphobia (prejudice against asexual and aromantic people)



Reflection

What sort of justifications have you seen protesters using when arguing that teachers should be required to out students to their parents if they use a different name or different pronouns than their parents know about?

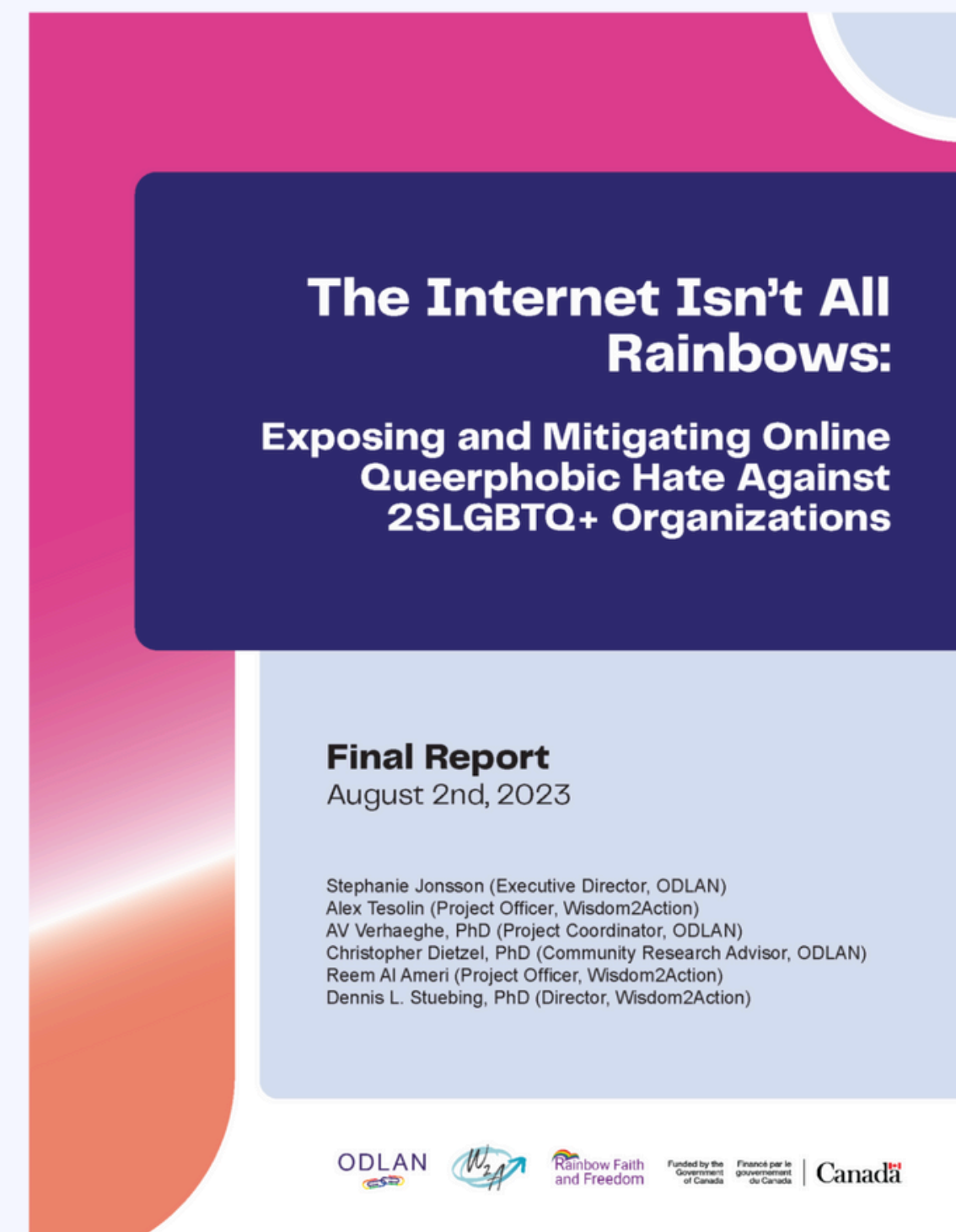


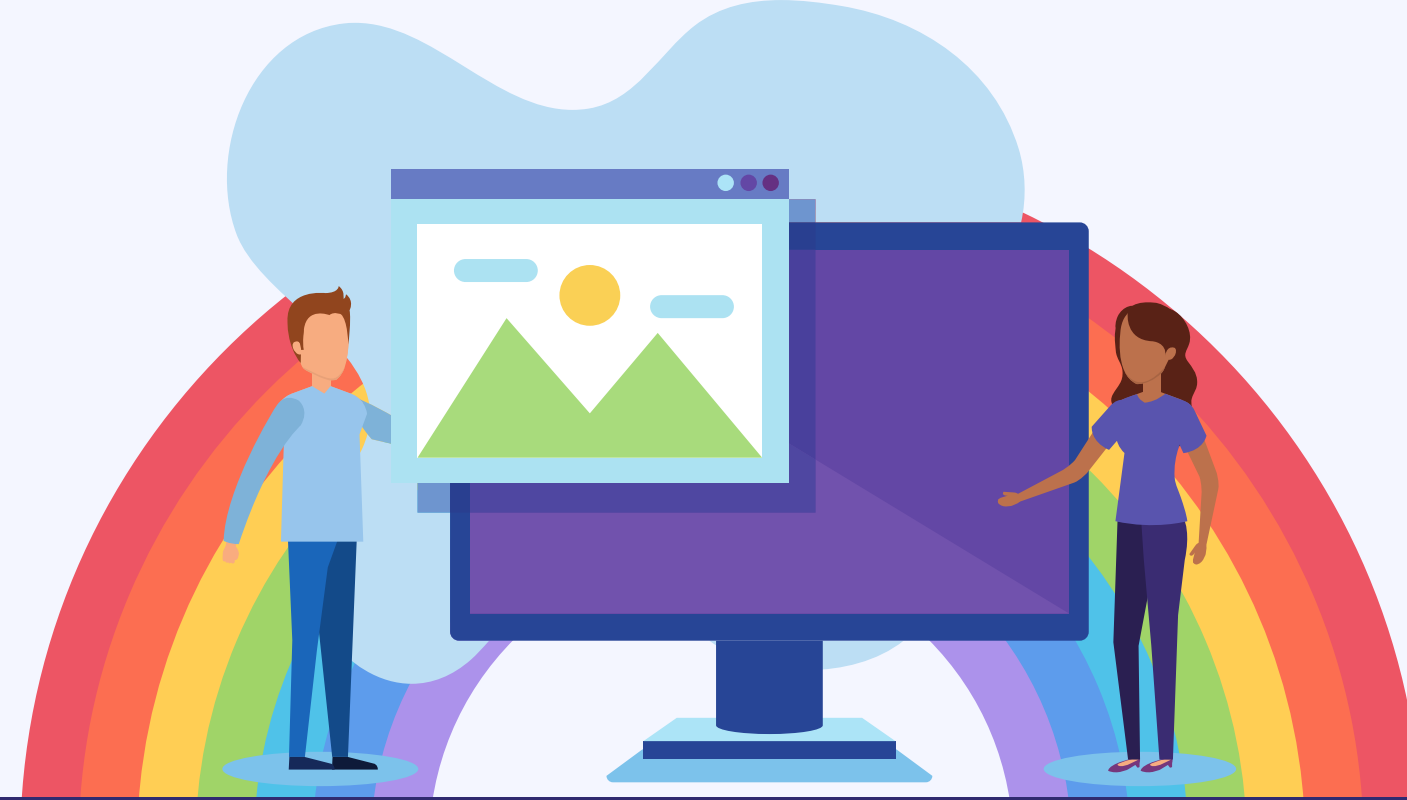
Reflection

While trying to debate topics like transphobia or white supremacy with far-right activists is unlikely to be productive, some of their ideas are becoming more mainstream and are increasingly being positioned as “common sense.” If your organization released a statement in opposition to provincial policies requiring teachers to out students to their parents and someone questioned why you weren’t supporting parental rights, what do you think a productive response might be?

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We encourage you to read the full report, “**The Internet Isn’t All Rainbows: Exposing and Mitigating Online Queerphobic Hate Against 2SLGBTQ+ Organizations,**” which is linked in the resources section.





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