

WHO
DIS 

MOWING THE LAWN

WHAT ANTI-RIGHTS
NARRATIVES DID TO
SPRING FEVER



Justice for Prosperity

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THE SUBVERSIVE UNDERMINING OF COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE) IN THE NETHERLANDS

Shedding light on the slow erosion of our
democracies

WHO DIS

A Report



Justice for Prosperity

SIDNfonds

The Subversive Undermining of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Netherlands:

WhoDis: A Report: Shedding Light on the slow erosion of our democracies

The Netherlands is ever-increasingly under attack from different subversive groups, which operate their agenda and ideology both domestically and internationally. Subversive actors, with an ideology based on the foundations of Christian nationalism, revisionism, homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny, aim to selectively destabilise specific functions within our democratic system, to weaken the power of the state working for the collective good of society and in turn solely serve the financial and ideological interests of critical individuals and actors, legitimising their divisive and polarising narrative within society.

Both within the Netherlands and abroad, the modus-operandi of anti-democratic actors is designed to remain as undetectable as far as possible, allowing anti-democratic actors to subversively implement their hateful and divisive agenda largely undetected, through the infiltration of influential positions, as well as through reputational harm. Justice for Prosperity has evidence of this pattern occurring through the infiltration of an American fundamentalist Christian lobbying organisation within the United Nations, which has strong ties with similar Dutch organisations, as well as similar organisations and hostile foreign states internationally, where at an event for the UN CSW (United Nations Commission on the Status of Women) in March 2024, the leader of an American fundamentalist Christian anti-LGBTQI+ and anti-SRHR organisation was specifically targeting the “Dutch IPPF representation”, referring to Rutgers Organisation.

Anti-democratic actors are specifically targeting Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) as an ideological standpoint in their efforts to undermine democratic integrity and political trust within society. Indeed, undermining access to CSE can affect the right to information of citizens as well as enhance inequality between men and women, which are both core to a healthy democracy, and impede sustainable development, especially when the global median rate of female labour force participation is about 15 percentage points lower than the male rate (International Monetary Fund 2024). Unfortunately, a similar trend can be seen in the Netherlands, with working women earning around 13,7% less than working men (Atria 2021).

Specifically, the Netherlands has been targeted as it is one of the world’s leading countries in CSE distribution and comprehensive dissemination. *Stichting Rutgers* is the leading provider of CSE in the Netherlands, reaching 1,791,110 people in 2022 (Rutgers Report 2022). While based in the Netherlands, Rutgers operates internationally in over 29 countries. Therefore, the protection and funding of the Rutgers organisation in its domestic and international activities is imperative, as the same actors who are targeting the Netherlands are also targeting abroad.

As of 2024, Rutgers faces significant challenges from radical right-wing organisations, anti-rights movements, conspiracy theorists, and certain political parties. These groups, including influencers spreading disinformation, mainly target worried parents, creating opposition to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). This opposition fuels anti-gender rhetoric, which in turn leads to broader anti-rights narratives and restrictive legislation, with such actions contributing to a shrinking civic space.

October 2024:

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JfP: Justice for Prosperity Foundation (NGO authoring this study)

CSE: Compulsory Sexuality Education

SRHR: Sexual Reproductive & Health Rights

NLP: Natural Language Processing

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WhoDis & Justice for Prosperity:

Justice for Prosperity Foundation (JfP) is a research platform that investigates and exposes anti-right actors and networks. It then shares this intelligence with those under siege, the news media, and the general public to better protect our democracies against this subversion.

JfP's WhoDis Visualisation Tool, powered by AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP), is essential for content verification and media monitoring, particularly in detecting and analysing anti-democratic activities. Developed with Textgain, the WhoDis Visualisation tool monitors online polarising language, narratives, messages, and sources. The tool reconstructs and exposes manipulative actors and their activities. Leveraging NLP, WhoDis identifies and processes a lexicon of hateful and harmful language. However, since language constantly evolves, human input remains crucial. Textgain notes that earlier AI models struggled with the complexities of language, but recent advancements now allow for more accurate comprehension. WhoDis employs a 'human-in-the-loop' approach, where a team of 40–50 annotators with expertise in linguistics and civil society assess and score phrases for toxicity. This team also identifies contextual nuances, such as Q- Anon-specific rhetoric, which computers cannot fully interpret. This human-guided approach enhances the tool's accuracy, making WhoDis highly effective for forensic analysis and threat detection in combating anti-democratic narratives.

Together with OSINT research, as well as infiltration into spaces where anti-rights actors are present online and offline, JfP intends to uncover the links between the messages and references to the social media campaign surrounding *Lentekriebels (Spring Fever week)*, as well as the radical right-wing organisations, anti-rights movement, conspiracy theorists, online influencers and political parties that influence the online and offline debate towards the future of CSE in the Netherlands.

JfP aims to investigate and understand how ultra-conservative groups drive online and offline misinformation to influence governmental policy. These groups operate subversively within the framework of our democratic society through their offline activities and online presence to spread and raise fear within an online debate, allowing the divisive rhetoric to be mainstreamed and influence the public debate. Having resulted in the intended result of division and debate in society, then ultimately, by definition, populist parties will use fear as their business model and will incorporate the ideology and rhetoric within their ideological standpoint.

Rutgers & Lentekriebels:

Lentekriebels (Spring Fever Week) is a weekly recurring campaign launched between March and April of each year, led by Stichting Rutgers since 2005. Stichting Rutgers is the Netherlands IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation). This initiative is targeted at spreading awareness and sharing valuable sexual education with young people of all age ranges. In the Netherlands, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) has been mandated by law since 2012. However, as there is no state-mandated curriculum that dictates specifically what must be taught, schools and educational institutions can freely choose the way that they educate children on sexual education. Nevertheless, 43,2 % of Dutch primary schools use the materials prepared by Rutgers within the context of the Lentekriebels.

Until 2023, Lentekriebels occurred in the Netherlands without any significant controversy surrounding it. The 2023 campaign was marred by targeted and sensationalist coverage across social and mainstream media, resulting in threats, intimidation and a widespread campaign designed to polarise society against the Lentekriebels campaign, as well as Rutgers work, both within the Netherlands, as well as abroad. Furthermore, in response to the reputational damage and spotlight faced by Rutgers within the media frenzy surrounding Lentekriebels, the public funding received by Rutgers was debated within the Tweede Kamer by Thierry Baudet from the far-right populist political party *Forum voor Democratie* (FvD) on the 21st March 2023, severely endangering the status of the Netherlands as a world leader in the provision and development of SRHR and CSE.

Within the WhoDis project, launched by Justice for Prosperity, we have identified how online and offline events are simultaneously connected. Justice for Prosperity (JfP) employs innovative AI technologies for network analysis and multi-source research to investigate how anti-democratic and anti-rights actors manipulate online narratives, particularly on social media. Their findings have garnered attention from international media, including the New York Times and EUROPOL. JfP recognises the escalating threats to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights, and self-determination. It advocates for a collective response through its involvement in coalitions like United 4 Diversity and United for Democracy. Additionally, JfP is part of the Global Alliance against Digital Hate and the European Observatory of Online Hate.

In its WhoDis report presented to the European Parliament in April 2023, JfP identified tactics used by anti-rights actors to manipulate discussions around Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and SRHR in multilateral forums, including the UN. In March 2024, JfP documented incitement against IPPF partners at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. This research equips JfP's consultants with crucial insights into the challenges of advancing SRHR issues. It enables them to develop strategic, evidence-based analyses that support advocacy efforts and identify potential risks and opportunities for countering anti-rights infiltration in multilateral spaces.

Using the example of *Lentekriebels*, the WhoDis AI tool can track the dissemination of the search term *Lentekriebels* online during the Lentekriebels campaign of 2024, including the frequency of the use of this term, as well as the different actors involved in spreading messages referencing *Lentekriebels* and the impact of these messages, such as the different words associated with *Lentekriebels*, and the polarity of the messages related with *Lentekriebels*.

Search Criteria:

The screenshot shows a search criteria form with the following fields and options:

- Title: Lentekriebels
- Select a source: (dropdown menu)
- Since: 01/01/2024
- Enter one or more keywords: (empty field)
- All polarities: (dropdown menu)
- Facebook x
- TikTok x
- Instagram x
- Twitter x
- Dutch x
- Search button
- Save query button

Figure 1: WhoDis Tool's Dashboard: Keyword 'lentekriebels':

The dashboard can request an analysis of a specific word's usage over a particular period and through certain online platforms. In this case, the keyword chosen is "*lentekriebels*", meaning 'Spring Week Fever' in Dutch, referring to the annual campaign on CSE run by Rutgers in the Netherlands, of which the details are described further in the report. Subsequently, the dashboard offers the possibility to choose a polarity of the posts containing the word "*lentekriebels*", meaning to select whether the posts have positive or negative implications through the language used within the posts. In this case, we requested that the dashboard present both polarities. Then, it is possible to select the source of the posts, such as the account or accounts whose posts refer to "*lentekriebels*". In this example, we do not choose a specific source, meaning that all accounts that use the word will be part of the analysis. The social media platform can be selected; in this example, we use Twitter. However, the WhoDis tools allow access to Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram data. The languages can also be chosen; in this example, we decided on "Dutch" to ensure that the context of the keywords and actors associated with the search term "*lentekriebels*" is relevant to the impact of the Rutgers campaign targeted explicitly at the Netherlands, where Dutch is the primary and official language. Finally, the data can also be chosen to analyse a specific period; in this example, we look at word usage from 1st January 2024 to 3rd September 2024.

Counts by platform

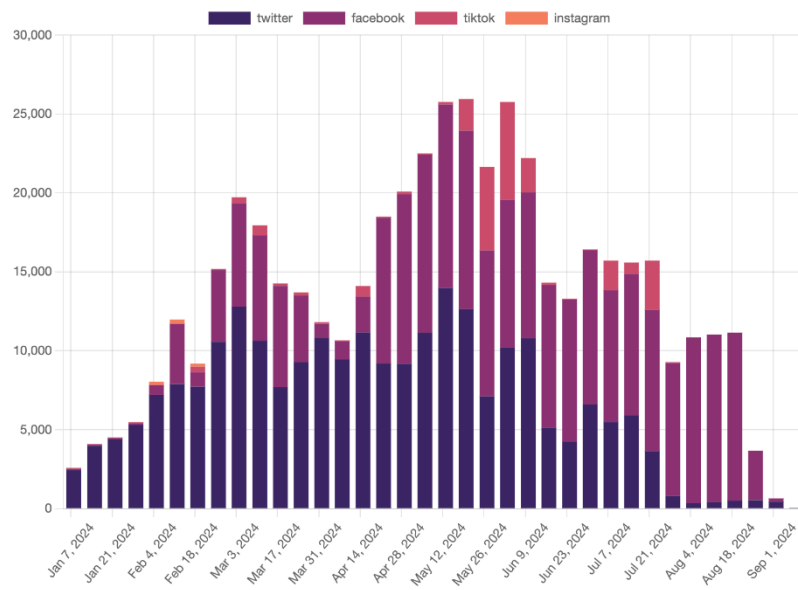


Figure 2: WhoDis Tool's Visualisation of Frequency of the Use of Keywords over Time and by Platforms (keyword 'lentekriebels')

A graphical representation from the WhoDis AI tool can be observed stating the number of counts per social media platform (Facebook, X, TikTok & Instagram) from the WhoDis tool. Between the period examined between 1st January 2024 and 3rd September 2024, we can see two distinct periods where the reference of Lentekriebels is significantly higher than in prior periods. We see the first spike in references to Lentekriebels in the week commencing February 18, 2024 - March 10, 2024, which can be explained due to the media focus on the annual Lentekriebels campaign that occurred between 4 to 8 March 2024. The second spike occurs in the weeks commencing between April 21, 2024, and June 8, 2024. This second spike can be attributed to the formulation period and debate, including on the topics of CSE and SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) surrounding the appointment and agenda setting of the Schoof cabinet, which was inaugurated on 2nd July 2024.

Actors in this query

Username	Platform	Number of re...
Bosboer1	twitter	26
PostvanFenna	twitter	21
superjan	twitter	17
IngeJusta	twitter	17
Isteigerman	twitter	16
MeesterEddy	twitter	15
thierrybaudet	twitter	13
martindogger	twitter	13
_Chrystal_1982_	twitter	10
Eddy Van der Flaas	facebook	10

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Figure 3: WhoDis Tool's Summary of Most Frequent Actors Who Have Used the Keyword over the Assessed Period (keyword 'lentekriebels')

This image shows the top ten users/actors who are the most prominent users who have referenced the keyword searched via the WhoDis Visualisation Tool 'lentekriebels' and the number of times they have retweeted using this keyword. Some of the most prevalent actors in sharing the usernames are those with ultra-conservative views and ideology, such as Hugo Bos (@Bosboer 1), who leads Civitas Christiana, the Dutch chapter of Tradition, Family & Property (TFP). TFP is a global conservative group founded in Brazil in 1971, opposing progressive reforms, including gender and sexuality education. Promoting traditional values, church-based governance, and inherited property, TFP expanded in Europe, leading to Poland's Ordo Iuris Foundation, a prominent anti-abortion and anti-gender education advocate.

We also see tweets from Far-right Dutch political figures, such as Thierry Baudet (@thierrybaudet), who is the leader of the far-right Dutch Political Party, *Forum voor Democratie* (FvD), which was primarily seen as being behind the opposition to Lentekriebels in 2023.

There are also accounts from social media influencers who write articles against vaccination and CSE, amongst other topics, from the viewpoint of Post van Fenna (@PostvanFenna) and those who advocate that CSE should not be included (or reduced) in education, such as Martin Dogger. Analysing the tweets further, we see that these emphasise how female influencers have made antifeminism their battleground, advocating a return to traditional gender roles, which has been linked to extreme right-wing ideals (Tual 2024), as well as a vocal minority calling for sexuality education to be pulled from schools, with these views seen as originating from those who are seen as being involved in education, such as Martin Dogger (@martindogger).

Top keywords

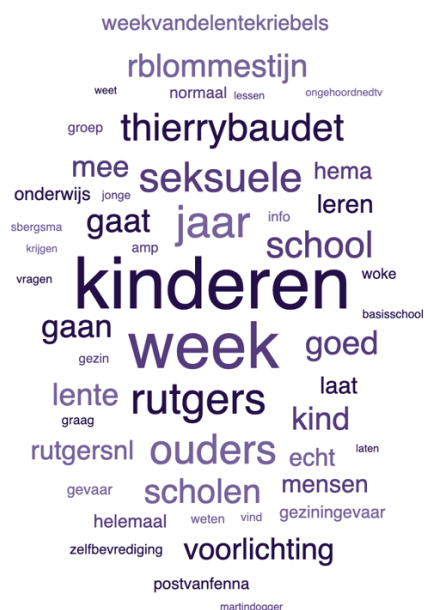


Figure 4: WhoDis Tool's Wordcloud (keyword 'lentekriebels')

This feature permits an overview of the keywords, which are mainly linked to the usage of the generated keyword "*lentekriebels*". Most of the words presented by the tool are strongly linked to the anti-gender movement and political world, as well as words used to describe the theme surrounding the context of hate speech surrounding the Lentekriebels campaign. Indeed, one of the most used words is "**kinderen**", which means children in Dutch, followed by "school". We also see "ouders", which is parent in Dutch. We also see "basisschool", which means primary school in English. Furthermore, we also see references to specific users, such as 'geziningevaar', which refers to the organisational motto of Civitas Christiana, which is the Dutch chapter of Traditional, Family, Property (TFP), as a notoriously influential anti-gender actor operating in over 50 countries internationally. 'geziningevaar' refers to '*Gezin in Gevaar*', translated in English to 'Family in Danger Foundation', founded in 2018 by Hugo Bos, the leader of Civitas Christiana. The purpose of '*Gezin in Gevaar*' is stated to be due to the 'concern for the increasing attacks of the Sexual Revolution on the innocence and education of children'.

The actions of '*Gezin in Gevaar*' have also been deduced to be responsible for using tactics driven by reactionary ideology, familiar from far-right rhetoric, such as inversion and inflammatory accusations, to support the campaign against organisations such as Rutgers and the GGD. With the campaign, '*Gezin in Gevaar*' falsely claimed that organisations such as Rutgers and the GGD promote ideologies like paedophilia or encourage inappropriate behaviours among children, the campaign stirs moral panic. Key public figures and politicians then amplify these distortions, giving legitimacy to the false narratives and escalating the sense of outrage in the public discourse.



Figure 5: Image illustrating members of Civitas Christiana demonstrating against Lentekriebels in March 2024

Within the word cloud, we also see the names of influential Dutch figures linked to populist movements, such as Thierry Baudet (@theierrybaudet) or Raisa Blommenstijn (@rblommestijn), which stands for Raisa Blommestijn's account on X. Therefore, we see how within the production of anti-gender narratives, there is a collaboration between the ideas of the populists, conservatives and extremists. Ideological supporters, often from political or public spheres, amplify the disinformation spread surrounding the opposition to the Lentekriebels campaign. In recent instances, figures such as Raisa Blommestijn, Thierry Baudet, and Kim Feenstra have contributed to the dissemination of these distortions, misleadingly suggesting that the Spring Fever curriculum includes lessons on anal sex or explicit acts.

Raisa Blommenstijn is also a presenter of the Dutch broadcast Ongehoord Nederland, a political channel designed to promote alternative news, specifically in contrast to the public broadcasting system (NPO) on societal issues. Furthermore, Ongehoord Nederland is affiliated with individuals present within the current Schoof cabinet and individuals within Populist political parties in the Netherlands. In addition, in 2024, the Dutch Public Prosecution Service announced that it would prosecute Blommenstijn for defamation and hate speech due to possible racist statements she made on X in 2023.

However, it is essential to remember that all the words used do not necessarily have one meaning. Indeed, since the option "All Polarities" was chosen (see Figure 5), the posts that refer to "lentekriebels" can have positive or negative implications.

Percent of results by polarity (-1 - very negative, 1 - very positive)

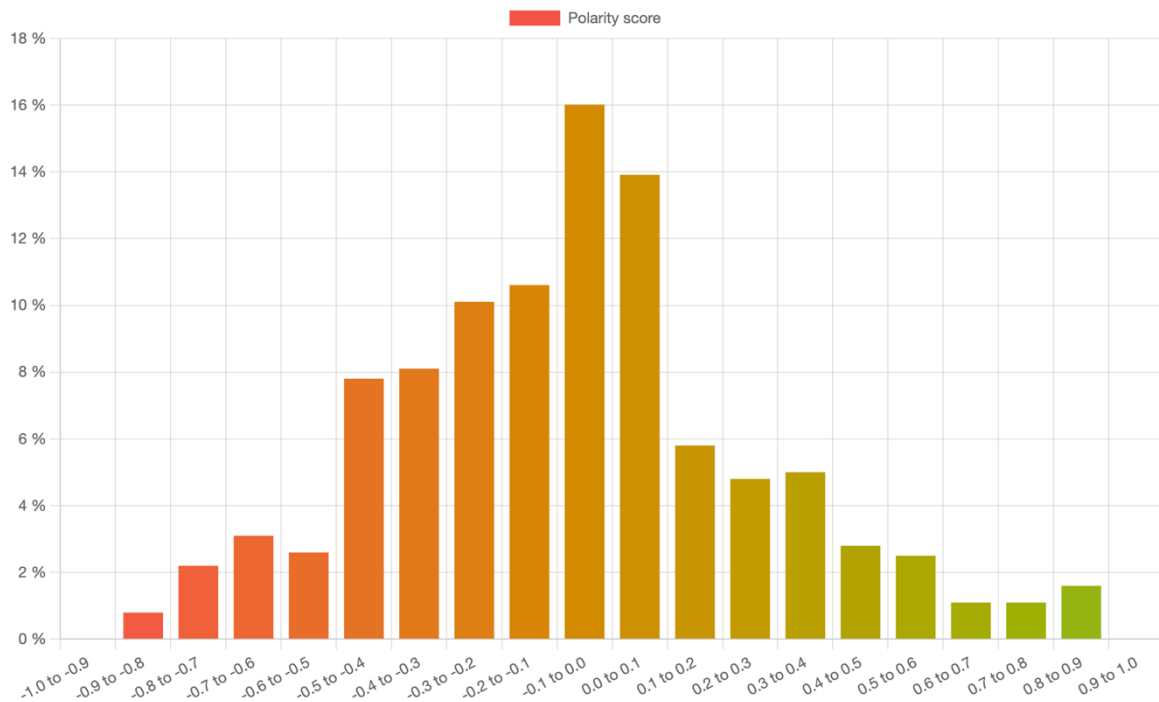


Figure 6: WhoDis Tool's Visualisation of the Polarity of the Messages Containing the Keyword 'lentekriebels'

This chart represents the polarity of the messages referring to the keyword 'lentekriebels'. In other words, it analyses to what extent the context of a message containing the phrase "lentekriebels" has positive or negative implications. The closer to -1, the more harmful the message interpretation is; the closer to 1, the more favourable it is. The chart shows that 16% of the polarity score is neutral, ranging from 0.0 to -0.1, and just under 14% is between 0.0 and 0.1. However, a trend can be seen where the results are skewed to mildly negative, with approximately 26% of messages having a polarity score between -0.5 and -0.2. The chart also notes that there is a minority of messages being extremely positive or negative.

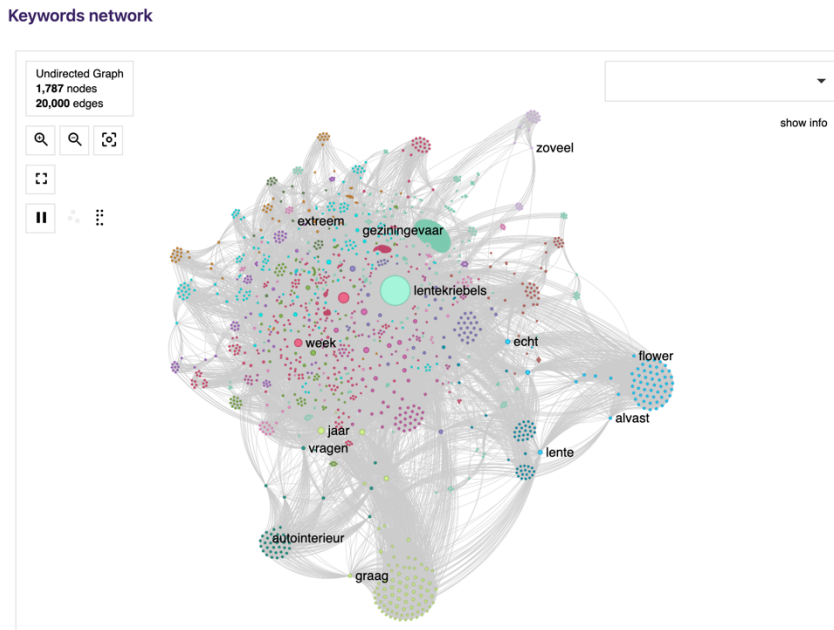


Figure 7: The WhoDis Tool's Visualisation of the Keyword Network Showing the Links Between the Keyword and Other Words and Phrases Associated within the Scraped Messages over the period designated containing the keyword 'lentekriebels'.

This figure illustrates the keyword network analysis, which displays the different words found in messages containing the keyword searched (in the middle). The size and intensity of the circles and lines show the frequency and relevance of the other words associated with the keyword searched, "lentekriebels," and how the words are interconnected.

Earliest mention of "lentekriebels"
December #koffietijdvoormannen
#lentekriebels #cuddleboy #winter #podcast
#vj
 User "koffietijdvoormannen" · Tiktok · 04/01/2024 14:42:15

Figure 8: The WhoDis Tool's visualisation of the first published post about the keyword 'lentekriebels' selected by the user within their search criteria.

The WhoDis Visualisation tool illustrates the first published post that references the keyword chosen by the user. The results show the date, time, platform and user who has shared this entire list of all messages, including the keywords the user selects. This allows the user to view the full text, the user and source of the message, and further details such as the language used and the platform on which the message was published. Finally, the user can select to view the date of when the message was published and the polarity of the message by the date that it was published, allowing the user to see how hate speech spreads over the period selected.

Results						
Text	User	Source	Platform	Language	Date	Polarity
@ongehoordne dtv https://t.co/OEGKEfM8tW	TKordenoordt	Not available	Twitter	Dutch	Sep 2, 2024	-0.003
RT @Sandervanda m2: Ook wel weer ironisch dat deze Sander Schimmelpen nick vandaag weer loopt te pleiten voor het censureren van X vanwege d...	wierdduk	Not available	Twitter	Dutch	Sep 2, 2024	-0.412
RT @BartNijman: Het sfeertje op X wordt eigenlijk alleen maar verziekt door de mainstreamhul ies die klagen over X. De hele dag, iedere dag...	wierdduk	Not available	Twitter	Dutch	Sep 2, 2024	-0.292

Figure 9: A screenshot showing how the WhoDis Visualisation Tool allows the user to search for all messages related to the keyword 'lentekriebels' within the criteria of their search

The WhoDis Visualisation tool illustrates the entire list of all messages, including the keywords the user selects. This allows the user to view the full text, the user and source of the message, and further details such as the language used and the platform on which the message was published. Finally, the user can select to view the date of when the message was published and the polarity of the message by the date that it was published, allowing the user to see how hate speech spreads over the period selected.

The Status of the Netherlands within the Provision of SRHR and CSE:

According to the Guttmacher Institute (2024), the Netherlands invested €95,6 million in International Family Planning Assistance in 2024. This money has reached 8,5 million women and couples, resulting in 2,6 million unintended pregnancies averted, including 794,000 unplanned births, 938,000 unsafe abortions and 2,798 marital deaths prevented.

For every €10 million reduced in funding, 882,000 fewer women and couples will be assisted, resulting in 273,000 unintended pregnancies, 82,000 unplanned births, 97,000 unsafe abortions and an additional 290 maternal deaths (ibid).

A similar illustration can be made for Dutch funding against the fight for HIV/AIDS. In 2024, the Netherlands invested €60 million, providing 93,000 people with antiretroviral therapy, as well as 9,000 mothers treated to prevent HIV transmission to their babies. On a more social level, due to Dutch funding, 2,6 million people received HIV counselling and testing, resulting in 154,000 members of 'key populations' reached with HIV Prevention programmes and 68,000 lives saved (ibid)

For every €10 million reduced in funding, 17,000 fewer people will receive antiretroviral therapy, and 2,000 fewer mothers will be treated to prevent HIV transmission to their babies. Furthermore, 466,000 fewer people will receive HIV counselling and testing, resulting in 28,000 fewer members of 'key populations' reached with HIV Prevention programmes and ultimately 12,000 lives more preventable deaths (ibid).

While based in the Netherlands, Rutgers operates internationally in over 29 countries (Rutgers 2022a). Therefore, the protection and funding of the Rutgers organisation in its domestic and international activities is imperative, as the same actors targeting the Netherlands are also targeting abroad. Ultimately, the reduced investment in Overseas Development Aid (ODA) will tarnish the Netherlands' reputation and global influence, especially as the Netherlands is the world's leading 7th biggest ODA donor (Champion 2022; OECD 2024). Therefore, maintaining Overseas Development Aid (ODA), particularly in SRHR and CSE, benefits the Netherlands by enhancing trade, strengthening global influence, and supporting national security. These investments reduce poverty, improve health, and stabilise key regions, decreasing migration pressures and fostering economic opportunities that benefit Dutch businesses. Additionally, they reinforce the Netherlands' role as a human rights leader, expanding diplomatic partnerships and influence. Empowering local communities, especially women and youth, through SRHR and CSE creates resilient societies and secures a stable, interconnected global economy that aligns with Dutch strategic interests.

Recommendations:

We strongly urge the Dutch government to actively implement selective and targeted recommendations to avoid democratic legitimacy being manipulated and compromised on the international stage unintentionally without realising it, as well as indirectly and unknowingly supporting the weakening of Rutgers and CSE education. Indeed, an example of unknowingly and indirectly supporting the weakening of CSE education can be observed within the *'Hoofdlijnenakkoord 2024 – 2028 van PVV, VVD, NSC en BBB'*, which are the key objectives for policy development and implementation forming the basis of the goals of the Schoof Government 2024 (Kabinetsformatie (2024)). Within this document, CSE is explicitly referred to with the following statement:

(EN) "Goals about relationship and sex education are neutral and better tailored to the age of students, especially in primary education"

(NL) "Doelen over relationele en seksuele voorlichting zijn neutraal en beter toegesneden op de leeftijd van leerlingen, in het bijzonder in het basisonderwijs."

The terms of the phrasing of this statement in the new Cabinet Manifesto of the Schoof Government (in Dutch, Hoofdlijnenakkoord 2024 – 2028) is problematic as the word "neutral" depending on the teacher's perspective could potentially lead to avoiding educating on subjects involving the LGBTQ+ community or other subjects deemed "politically sensitive", leading to children's ignorance, exacerbating a growing concern that students feel themselves that they are not taught enough about sexually transgressive behaviour and sexuality (Stoker 2024), where the rise in support can be seen for influencers on social media who promote conservative and discriminatory attitudes to sexuality and gender roles. Furthermore, the statement "sex education should be tailored to the age of students" is a statement subjective to interpretation, which could also lead to censure of specific topics in schools, such as how to practise safe sex or the concept of consent.

Unfortunately, the framing of Compulsory Sexuality Education in the Netherlands as neutral is not a new phenomenon, as the selective choice of language has occurred within a rising tide for polarising language, which subsequently results in the shrinking societal space available for nuanced debate and actively counteract the emergence of narrowing civic space within public society and discourse. These measures have coincided with changes to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)/ DSA (Digital Service Act) & growth in populist sentiment/ misinformation and disinformation influencing offline events, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ongoing since 2022, and the Anti-Islam Riots during August 2024 in the United Kingdom. **Therefore, we urge the Dutch government to increase public awareness through evidence-based campaigns and strengthen legislative protections for CSE.**

However, a reduction in funding for CSE and SRHR has much broader implications than only within the Netherlands. International aid initiatives like those supported by Rutgers are crucial for the Netherlands' reputation as a leader in human rights and global health. Therefore, we urge that the Schoof cabinet of 2024 does not follow through with their plans to cut official development assistance, or ODA, by €300 million (around \$326 million) in 2025, €500 million in 2026, and €2.4 billion annually from 2027, a reduction of Dutch ODA Spending of 64% between 2024 and 2027.

By promoting CSE abroad, the Netherlands fosters healthier and more resilient societies. This benefits both the receiving countries and the Netherlands by reducing global health costs and mitigating migration pressures. Furthermore, this investment solidifies the Netherlands' standing in international forums, making it a recognised authority in advocating for human rights and gender equality. Therefore, **we strongly recommend that the Netherlands actively invests in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) education, both domestically and internationally.**

However, maintaining and protecting these advancements requires vigilance against the growing influence of anti-rights actors who strategically target CSE and SRHR in their campaigns. Radical right-wing organisations have begun using social media to influence public discourse on SRHR by funding disinformation campaigns and positioning their supporters in influential roles. These groups aim to erode public support for CSE and SRHR by flooding social media and traditional media channels with targeted narratives that distort the reality and benefits of these programs. Through well-organised campaigns, they introduce anti-gender and anti-rights rhetoric into public spaces, particularly social media, where polarising messages have the potential to go viral.

This disinformation attracts conspiracy theorists and amplifies the spread of misleading information, preying on people's fears. For instance, opponents of CSE might promote the false notion that it encourages inappropriate content in schools, which fuels parental anxiety and shifts public perception away from the benefits of SRHR education. This strategic manipulation of public fears and anxieties is crafted to legitimise otherwise irrational concerns, allowing these groups to influence individual beliefs and potentially sway policymakers against CSE investments.

The impact of this movement is profound: as anti-rights rhetoric gains traction, it shapes a political climate that may become increasingly resistant to CSE and SRHR funding. If unchecked, this environment could lead to further restrictions on international aid and the Netherlands' ability to champion these causes globally. To counter this, it is critical for the Netherlands to monitor and address online narratives and provide evidence-based information that reinforces the value of CSE. By doing so, the Netherlands can safeguard its global reputation, protect rights defenders, and ensure continued investment in initiatives contributing to global stability and health values at the core of Dutch international leadership and reputational worldwide.

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