

# defendevropa.com

A far-right website that is critical of non-white migration to Europe. The site has published Holocaust denials and false information about COVID-19.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 17.5/100

## Ownership and Financing

Defend Europa does not disclose its ownership. According to HuffPost, the site was founded by Jason Bergkamp, who previously wrote for the now-defunct white supremacist website Vanguard 14. Bergkamp's Facebook profile indicates that he lives in Amsterdam.

DefendEvropa.com derives revenue from advertising, solicits donations, and sells merchandise through an online store. The site states on its About Us page that it is run by volunteers.

## Content

DefendEvropa.com says on the About Us page that it is "dedicated to spreading information about the current state of Europe that the mainstream media refuses to publish." The site primarily reports on the perceived negative effects of immigration into Europe by non-white people, often focusing on crimes allegedly committed by immigrants. The site predominantly provides negative coverage of policies that facilitate immigration and positive coverage of nations such as Hungary that are pushing policies to boost the fertility rate among non-migrant populations.

Defend Europa organizes its News section into subsections for Islam, Migrants, Population Replacement, Political Correctness, The Establishment, and Diaspora. The site's Culture section focuses on European history and culture, while the Lifestyle section contains life advice articles. The site also publishes interviews and book reviews.

Typical headlines have included "Portugal – Racial tensions in Lisbon escalate as bus driver is beaten in Africanized area," "Hungary's Fertility Rate Continues to Rise!," "This is Why You Need to Read The Classics," and "French 'Right Wing' party goes full commie."

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
-  Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Defend Europa features a podcast called “Radio Europa.”

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Credibility

Information on Defend Europa is inconsistently sourced. Some articles draw on reports by authorities such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Health Organization, or cite credible news outlets such as British daily The Times. However, many articles draw on information from dubious sources or do not list any sources at all, and the site has published false and misleading information on a broad range of subjects.

For example, an April 2020 article, titled “Exploring the IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism,” was a point-by-point response to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s “Working Definition of Antisemitism.” Responding to the IHRA’s charge that it is anti-Semitic to deny “the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people” at the hand of the Nazis, Defend Europa asked: “Were the gas chambers not debunked? There is certainly a lot of evidence and well written articles to suggest that homicidal gas chambers did not exist but were perhaps an invention of Allied/Soviet propaganda to justify the incineration of Germany & much of Europe during World War 2.”

The article also referred to the genocide of Jews in Nazi Germany as “the alleged holocaust,” thereafter using the term Holocaust in quote marks; stated that “there are many examples where it has been either admitted by or proved that Jews and the state of Israel have either invented or exaggerated aspects of the ‘Holocaust’”; and argued that “The concentration camp which is the Gaza strip would seem far worse to me than any concentration camp the ‘Nazis’ ever controlled.”

There is an overwhelming amount of evidence, including eyewitness testimony and detailed government documentation, which proves that the Holocaust did occur. Statements claiming otherwise have no basis in fact.

The site routinely advances the notion of the “Great Replacement,” a conspiracy theory popularised by right-wing French philosopher Renaud Camus, which claims that as the white birth rate declines, global elites are carrying out a plot to replace the white population of Europe with non-whites. The site’s front page promotes a “Great Replacement Series.”

One of these articles, focusing on the UK, claimed that “The academic consensus is that by 2066 white Britons will become a minority in their own country,” that “the government insists we need net migration of 200,000 per year,” and that the government is advancing “an organised replacement of our population.”

There is no evidence that the British government seeks to replace its population with non-white residents, and it has never insisted on net migration of 200,000 per year. Since 2010, successive Conservative governments have had the stated target of reducing net migration to the UK to the tens of thousands, although that goal was never achieved. Defend Europa did not back the assertion that an “academic consensus” holds that by 2066, white Britons will be a minority. This view was espoused in 2010 by Oxford demographer David Coleman, but NewsGuard found no other demographers who have made similar claims. Coleman is a co-founder of British anti-migration campaign group, MigrationWatch UK.

The site has also promoted conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, an April 2020 article, titled “The Coronavirus Pandemic: Reading Between the Lines,” made multiple unsubstantiated or false claims. The article described the coronavirus as “a strain of flu which is admitted by the UK government and the WHO to have mild or moderate symptoms for the vast majority of people;” claimed that “Even the whole idea of viruses causing disease is open to debate”; and suggested that the pandemic had been implemented deliberately to create “a cashless society, control and restrict our freedoms, implement mandatory vaccines, implement a social credit system (Chinese style), and indeed, implement communism by the back door.”

In fact, multiple health authorities and experts have cited data showing that COVID-19 is substantially more deadly than the flu, and a broad medical consensus holds that viruses can, indeed, cause disease — a finding that underpins the efficacy of vaccinations. There is no basis for the claim that COVID-19 was “implemented deliberately.” Health authorities believe the virus was passed from wildlife to humans. The World Health Organization has stated that the virus likely originated in bats, and multiple studies have concluded that the virus was not created in a lab.

Defend Europa has also given dubious health advice regarding the virus. For example, a March 2020 article, titled “Boosting the Immune System with Elderberries,” claimed that “As the coronavirus sweeps the world elderberries are a quick and easy way to keep you healthy.” The article referenced a University of Sydney study, which concluded that “Compounds from elderberries can directly inhibit [the flu virus] entry and replication in human cells.”

It has not been shown that elderberries ward off either the new coronavirus or the flu. The University of Sydney study was retracted in May 2019, after the university acknowledged that “it was overhyping its own science” and that it had “concealed the research was part-funded by company Pharmicare — which sells elderberry-based flu remedies — at the company's request,” the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

Dr. Michael Smit, medical director of infection prevention and control at Children’s Hospital L.A., told the Los Angeles Times that “As far as the medical establishment goes, there is no acceptable evidence to date that elderberry is effective for prevention or treatment of influenza.”

Because Defend Europa has frequently published false information and unsubstantiated or debunked conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false information and does not gather and present information responsibly.

Headlines on the site do not generally make factual statements, instead constituting broad descriptions of the content, such as “Lockdown Lies” and “Making Colonialism Great Again: Part 2.” Consequently, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not publish misleading headlines.

Although the site features separate sections labelled News and Opinion, articles featuring opinionated language are routinely published in the News section.

For example, a June 2020 News article about stay-at-home orders stated that “The right to any form of sincere protest against these measures has been taken from you,” adding that “you are being lied to.”

Another June 2020 News article, titled “Sweden paying Somali debt just because,” claimed that “International institutions hate Europeans and do like to make us know. The reason for this specific debt erasure from Sweden is quite simple. Somalis are one of Sweden’s largest invader communities.”

Because the site purports to draw a distinction between news and opinion, yet publishes opinionated statements in articles labelled News, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not responsibly handle the separation of news from opinion.

DefendEvropa.com does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

NewsGuard contacted the site through a contact form, and was told by a site representative to submit questions. However, NewsGuard’s questions about the stories cited above, the site’s approach to opinion, and the lack of corrections did not draw a response.

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#### Transparency

The site does not disclose its ownership or identify any editors. The About Us page links to a general submission form to reach the site.

Articles are often attributed to pseudonymous authors, under bylines including “Novus” and “SPQR.” No biographical or contact information is provided.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

The site did not respond to NewsGuard's questions about its transparency practices.

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## History

The DefendEvropa.com web address was registered in February 2017.

Site founder Jason Bergkamp received news coverage in 2016 for his Twitter interactions with U.S. President Donald Trump. New York Magazine reported that President Trump had retweeted some of Bergkamp's replies to his tweets, sparking criticism because Bergkamp's account had also tweeted praise for Adolf Hitler as well as a meme depicting President Trump putting Hillary Clinton in a gas chamber.

**Written by:** [Bron Maher](#)

**Edited by:** [Eric Efron](#), [Richard Sambrook](#)

**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

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