Fascist attack
against the GNOME project

Friday, March 14, 2025, the GNOME free software platform community project was subject to a spam campaign on one of its public chat rooms.

Pedocriminal content, photos of tortured animals and transmisogynistic messages were sent in mass by accounts taking the name of a well-known pro-trump fascist from Free Software communities. At the heart of this attack, violent messages essentializing trans women to mutilated bodies.

Why was the GNOME project targeted? Because it defends values of inclusion and works actively to put them in place since a long time, through its code of conduct and involvement in programs such as Outreachy.

Numerous members of the GNOME community and beyond have personally received these messages exposing them to violent and criminal content, including members of Solidaires Informatique.

These conversation channels are a key tool for project workers and community members. Their goal is not only to hurt the most minoritized persons in the community, but to isolate them and exclude them from free software projects. It is not for the minoritized to leave these spaces but for extreme right-wing activists.

It is worth noting the lack of moderation tools integrated into the core of the used messaging system, and the failure of third-party antispam tools put in place, we must no longer accept that tech-bros design communication tools without taking into account the advanced means of moderation constantly demanded by the most minoritized communities.

But if the moderation tools have failed, **let's not forget that the heart of the issue is the domination systems, racism, transphobia, misogyny and ableism which, crystallized in fascism, are at the heart of this attack.**

Let's protect the workers, let's protect our communities, let's build truly inclusive communication commons and repel fascism, as long as necessary.

Solidaires Informatique's anti-fascist commission