
How do we Counter Hate Speech?

Welcome!

United Religions Initiative



Today's Agenda:

- **Understanding & Identifying Hate Speech (HS)**
- **Meet our CC's: How are they contributing in addressing HS**
- **Spotting HS: What should I do?**
- **Important tools & Recommendations**



Our CC's

[The Devastating Impact of Hate Speech: Say No to Poisonous Words](#) - Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, Africa

[No Hate No Violence](#) - Youth for Peace CC, Bosnia and Herzegovina

[How to Counter Hate Speech effectively?](#) - ALTerHate project - URI Europe CCs - Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Udhetim i Lire (Albania) and Sombor Educational Center (Serbia)

[Interfaith Dialogue as an Alternative to Hate Speech](#) - Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina), KAICIID, and URI Europe

[We All Belong: Interfaith Communities United Against Hate](#) - Bay Area Interfaith Council

[Strategies for Interrupting Hate Speech Online](#) - Youth Cafe

#wepreventviolence.



**Hate
Speech
Resources
from CCs**



Meet Today's Presenters

- ★ Co-Facilitator: Karen Volker, Director, Partnership and Violence Prevention, URI
- ★ Co-Facilitator: Emina Frljak, Program Coordinator, Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- ★ Presenter: Zahed Amanullah (@Zahed on X/Twitter), Senior Fellow, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

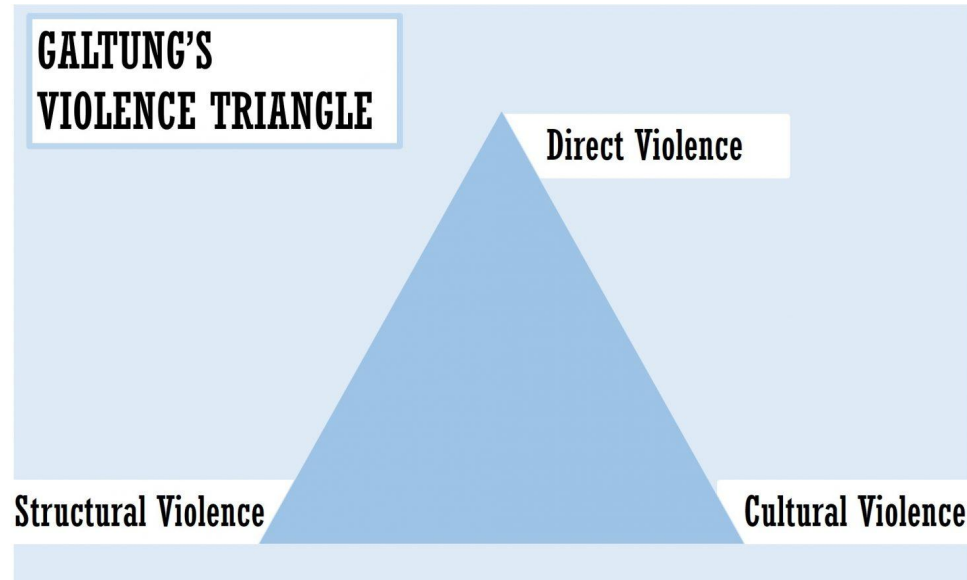


Activity: What is Hate Speech?



Please visit this link:
[https://padlet.com/eminafrljak90/
hate-speech-is-m44venw8yh65ejle](https://padlet.com/eminafrljak90/hate-speech-is-m44venw8yh65ejle)

Connection of hate speech and violence



While not all instances of hate speech lead to hate crimes, all hate crimes involve previous instances of hate speech. In the worst scenarios, when hate speech and hate crimes are left unchecked, situations can degenerate still further and lead to crimes against humanity and genocide.

That was the case in Nazi Germany, in the former Yugoslavia, and in Rwanda: in these places, the target groups were first vilified, denigrated, and then dehumanized in the press, by politicians, and by the broader society (WACC Europe, 2020).

Outside of Europe, in the case of violence against the Rohingya population in Myanmar, similar correlations between increased spreading of hateful messages on Facebook and real-life violence have been documented. The same was true for the 2019 attack against Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the attack against Jews in Pittsburgh, United States, in 2018.



8 Criteria of Hate Speech

- The speech targets a group or an individual as a member of a group
- The message expresses hatred
- The speech causes a harm
- The speaker intends harm
- The speech incites malicious actions beyond the speech itself
- The speech is either public or directed at a member of the group
- The context makes violence possible
- The speech has no redeeming purpose

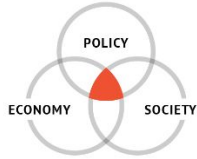
(according to Sellars, 2016)

While all hate speech is potentially dangerous, not all hate speech is equally dangerous. It is important to recognize its diverse forms and degrees, as well as to consider its broader societal context.

A hateful comment posted by a user in a small, closed group will not have the same impact as a comment shared by a politician, religious or community leader with thousands of followers

Severity threshold

ARTICLE 19



1

CONTEXT OF THE EXPRESSION

- existence of conflict in society
- existence and history of institutionalised discrimination
- legal framework
- media landscape
- political landscape



2

THE SPEAKER

- position of the speaker, and their authority or influence over their audience
- relationship of the audience to the speaker
- degree of vulnerability and fear among the various communities
- level of respect or obedience of authority voices



3

INTENT

- intent to engage in advocacy to hatred
- intent to target a group on the basis of a protected characteristic
- having knowledge of the consequences of the action



4

CONTENT OF THE EXPRESSION

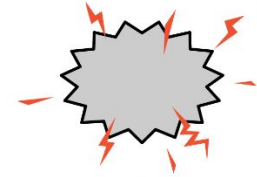
- form and style of the expression
- direct or indirect calls for discrimination, hostility or violence
- nature of the arguments deployed and the balance struck between arguments
- the audience's understanding of the content of the expression



5

EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF THE EXPRESSION

- public nature of the expression
- the means of the expression
- intensity or magnitude of the expression in terms of its frequency or volume
- media freedom, in compliance with international standards



6

LIKELIHOOD OF HARM OCCURRING INCLUDING ITS IMMINENCE

Reasonable probability of discrimination, hostility or violence occurring as a direct consequence of the expression, actual occurrence of harm may be considered an aggravating circumstance in criminal cases

Why Do People Engage in Hate (Speech)?

According to social scientists McDevitt and Levin (1993) there are four reasons people engage in hate acts:

1. Thrill-seeking
2. Defending their cause/community
3. Retaliation (hate for hate)
4. Mission offenders

Other reasons? Please put in the chat box other reasons people might engage in hate speech

Examples of Hate Speech?





If given the choice? Be honest.



3:24 pm · 10 Nov 2019 · Twitter for Android

7 Retweets 58 Likes





In March 2014, during a rally in The Hague, Geert Wilders asked his supporters whether they wanted more or fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands, where Dutch Moroccans constitute 2 percent of the population. “Fewer, fewer!” the crowd chanted. “Then we will arrange that,” the Dutch politician responded, flashing a smile.

Hate Speech and Social Media

- According to Wired Magazine, Facebook removed 9.6 million pieces of content it deemed hate speech in the first quarter of 2020
- In April through June of 2019 alone, YouTube removed 500 million comments due to hate speech

- “Thanks” to social media and anonymity it provides hate speech can spread like a fire through the forest;
- Social media can be used both for spreading, but also for defusing hate speech

Zahed Amanullah

[The Campaign Toolkit](#)

The Campaign Toolkit is a free resource for individuals or organizations looking to create and deploy campaigns against hate, polarization, and extremism. It is intended as a starting point or guide for those interested in developing and running social good campaigns regardless of experience.

Spotting Hate Speech: What should you do?



PAUSE

Refrain from making any hateful comments yourself and/or relaying such content. Whether online or offline, we should all act responsibly to stop the spread of hate and misinformation.



FACT-CHECK

To detect false and biased information, including hate speech propaganda, be sure to check the content's origin with the help of search engines, fact-checking tools and other reliable sources.



EDUCATE

You can help raise awareness of hate speech – online or offline – simply by engaging with your family and friends in conversations about how hateful content can harm societies.



CHALLENGE

You can undermine hateful content with positive messages that spread tolerance, equality and truth in defense of those being targeted by hate.



SUPPORT

Taking a public stand for, and extending solidarity to, people who are the targets of hate speech demonstrates that rejecting hate is the responsibility of every individual.



REPORT

Most online platforms and communities have rules to keep user discussions respectful and will let you easily report hate messages to administrators or moderators.

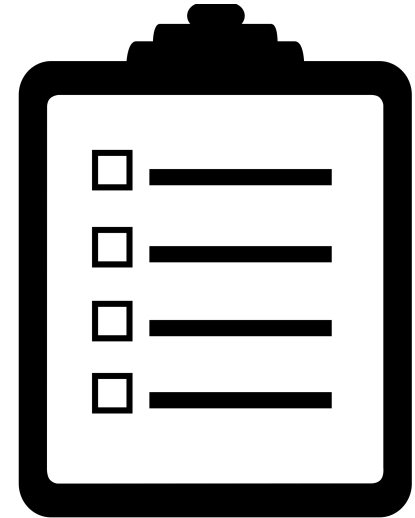


What Else Can We Do?

Share your thoughts

According to INACH network we can also...

- Report hate speech to authorities
- Report hate speech to social media
- Fact Checking and debunking
- Giving friendly warning to the author
- Showing and evoking empathy
- Humanizing the attacked group
- Using humor and satire
- Counter and alternative narratives



No Hate No Violence - Youth for Peace CC, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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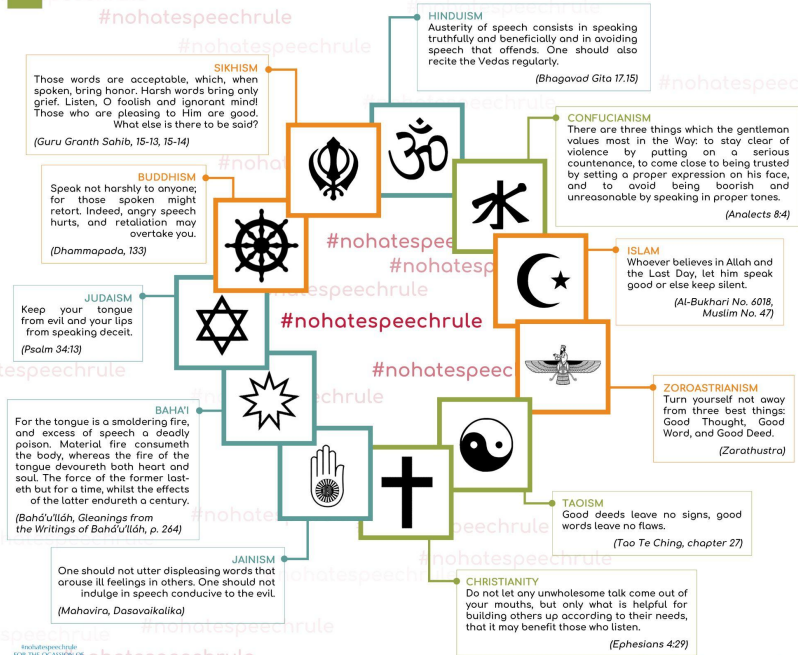
Glossary
Daniel Erar





ALTerHate

#nohatespeechrule



- World Interfaith Harmony Week;
- 1st - 13th February 2021;
- 28 shares on Facebook;
- 7 retweets;
- 751 likes on Instagram;
- 11 600 people reached



Speech4Change

The creators of the poster used the reliable and official English translations of the holy scriptures quoted and any discrepancies with the original books and quotes are not a responsibility of the ALTerHate campaign. The creators are aware that not all the existing religions are not included in this work, but the scarcity of the available resources limited the scope of the ALTerHate team work. If you wish your religion to be included in this poster, please contact us at: rfp.eiyn@gmail.com

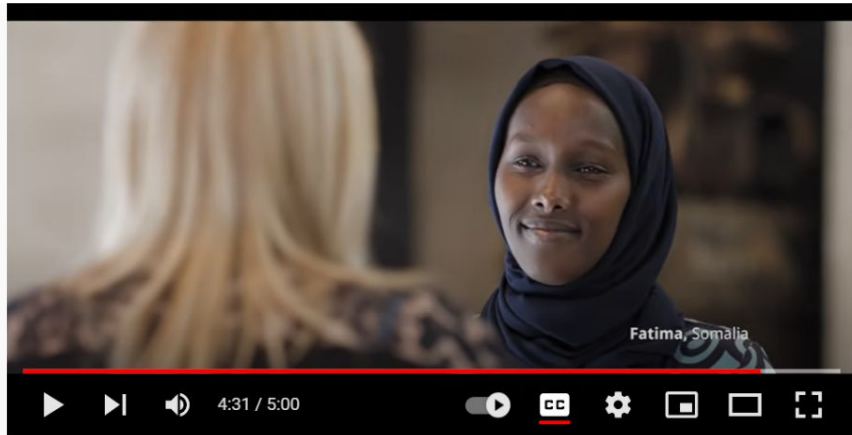




I Covered Hateful Graffiti With Food Art



I grew up in the Westboro Baptist Church. Here's why I left | Megan Phelps-Roper



Look Beyond Borders - 4 minutes experiment



TV 2 | All That We Share

Countering Hate Speech Through Education

UNESCO and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) have developed the [first guide for policy-makers and teachers](#) to explore educational responses to this phenomenon and give practical recommendations for strengthening education systems

Use a Fact Sheet

When in doubt or simply wishing to understand more about HS, their impacts and what you can do to address it, check the [#NoToHate Fact Sheets](#). It's straightforward and an important source of information.

Document: UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech

Access the [UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech](#) and get insights on how the UN is currently **addressing root causes, drivers and actors** of hate speech by **supporting the victims**, engaging in **advocacy** and **developing guidance** for external communications using the **technology**.

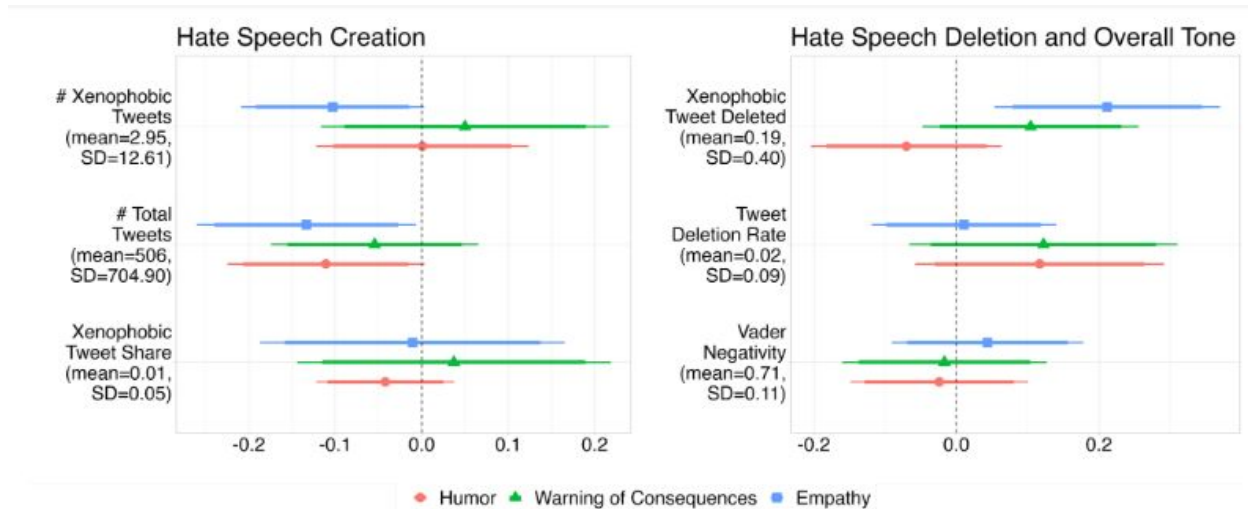
Did you know that **Empathy-based counterspeech can reduce racist hate speech in a social media?** Briefly meet this 2021 field experiment:

Researchers from the Department of Political Science of Stanford University modeling their interventions on current I/NGO practice, by randomly assign **English-speaking Twitter users** who have sent messages containing xenophobic (or racist) hate speech to one of three counterspeech strategies—empathy, warning of consequences, and humor—or a control group.

The researchers intention-to-treat **analysis of 1,350** Twitter users shows that **empathy-based counterspeech messages can increase the retrospective deletion of xenophobic hate speech by 0.2 SD and reduce the prospective creation of xenophobic hate speech over a 4-wk follow-up period by 0.1 SD.** They find, however, no consistent effects for strategies using humor or warning of consequences.

Together, these results can advance our understanding of the central role of empathy in reducing exclusionary behavior and inform the design of future counterspeech interventions.

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- Anonymized text data, analysis code, and additional replication materials have been deposited in a Harvard Dataverse at <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ARZ9PU> (16).

Applying the Health Approach:

Which of the following components of the health approach to violence prevention apply when addressing hate speech?

- Detect and Interrupt hate speech before it happens
- Change the behavior of the highest risk
- Change the norms that support hate speech

Thank you for attending our session!

Now we want to hear from you:

1. How inspired you are to promote Hate Speech awareness and prevention?
2. How URI can support you in the next steps?
3. What changed in you after today's session?
4. Give us feedback!

