**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF:** Addressing the rise of hate speech due to the increase in digital media usage

**MAIN-SUBMITTER:** People's Republic of Bangladesh

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** State of Qatar, Republic ofTürkiye, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Colombia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Italian Republic, Dominion of Canada, the Republic of Ecuador

**SIGNATORIES:**

The Human Rights Council,

*Deeply concerned* with the uprise of hate speech in digital media platforms as well its detrimental impact on social cohesion, well-being of individuals, and individual rights,

*Expecting* all member states to recognize the immense impact of hate speech, particularly its potential to incite real-life violence and discrimination against marginalized communities

*Reaffirming* all states' obligation to respect, promote, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals and to foster an enabling and safe environment,

*Recalling* Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which emphasize the right to freedom of expression while prohibiting advocacy of hatred that incites discrimination, hostility, or violence,

*Affirming* the need for collective action to combat hate speech and its detrimental effects on social cohesion and public safety,

*Condemns* any form of hate speech that violates human dignity and promotes division,

1. Strongly urges the redefining of hate speech or the limitation of its interpretation to a certain extent, including but not limited to:
	1. defining hate speech as any kind of communication that attacks or uses derogatory language against individuals or groups based on, but not limited to:
		1. ethnicity
		2. nationality
		3. religion
		4. gender
		5. sexual orientation
		6. any other of the 9 protected characteristics according to the Equality Act of 2010;
	2. incorporate such definitions of hate speech into social media platforms and government legislation, to:
		1. update automated algorithms that scan for hate speech,
		2. inform policies and penalties on social media platforms as well as government legislations;
2. Calls upon social media platforms to:
	1. develop and enforce clear guidelines that prohibit hate speech, including any content that incites or encourages:
		1. violence
		2. discrimination
		3. hostility against individuals or groups based off race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or other characteristics
		4. content that spreads disinformation or theories that fuels hate speech;
	2. promote these re-established guidelines to the public through the spread of awareness,
	3. publish transparency reports regularly on official government websites and within them including:
		1. reports detailing their efforts in monitoring hate speech
		2. statistics on reported incidents and implemented measures;
3. Calls for the creation of an international audit with adequately trained government officials across member states, ensuring non-bias based on the reaffirmed definition of hate speech to oversee and address hate comments through measures, such as but not limited to:
	1. the development of a centralized report facility software across all major social media platforms where individuals can report hate comments easily including measures such as but not limited to:
		1. including anonymity options for reporters to protect their identities
		2. incorporating educational resources that explain the reporting process and the importance of combating hate speech
		3. conducting a 24-hour real-time user policies service center on each social media platform
		4. informing users that the actions taken as a result of their reports, such as content removal or account suspension;
	2. the conducting of an initial assessment of reported comments to determine their classification and severity by measures such as but not limited to:
		1. determining if the comment qualifies as hate speech based on established definitions
		2. implementing a tiered severity scale (in the clause of penalties);
	3. the gathering of additional context by investigators, if necessary, including but not limited to:
		1. the intent behind the comment
		2. the context in which it was made (e.g., public figures, community events),
		3. any related incidents of violence or discrimination;
	4. mandating regular reporting of hate speech information to the public, detailing:
		1. the number of reports received
		2. outcomes of investigations
		3. types of penalties imposed, defined by tiers in (clause of penalties)
		4. trends observed in hate speech incidents over time;
4. Further requests governments to adopt policies or programs that promote diversity and freedom of expression through informing the public on the realities behind prejudices built on historical biases or disinformation:
	1. developing public awareness campaigns targeting wider audiences such as but not limited to,
		1. social media campaigns promoting appropriate, responsible, and healthy use of online platforms
		2. raising awareness about the dangers of hate speech through targeted campaigns across various major social media platforms
		3. producing content by collaboration with influencers which features experts and documentaries from victims of online hate to highlight its security and societal impacts;
	2. incorporating digital media literacy into the educational curriculum to:
		1. educate students to critically evaluate online content and identify from a young age,
		2. offer lessons on the ethical use of social media, including respect of other communities and cultures,
	3. encouraging partnerships with private and civil society organizations through means such as but not limited to:
		1. partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to deliver workshops, forums, and seminars on digital citizenship
		2. engaging media outlets to spread positive messages of inclusivity, tolerance, and respect;
	4. developing future initiatives that promote positive narratives and counter-speech against hate speech, including but not limited to:
		1. campaigns that highlight diversity, inclusion, and the benefits of multicultural societies
		2. community dialogues encourage individuals to share their experiences and perspectives, building empathy and understanding among different groups;
5. Suggests member states to enhance education and awareness programs to address the root causes and reducing of hate speech, including:
	1. engaging in activities to foster dialogue and understanding including:
		1. supporting community-led initiatives to educate and build understanding among diverse groups
		2. establishing platforms for intercultural and interfaith dialogue to promote mutual respect and reduce prejudice
		3. organizing workshops, forums, and campaigns that bring together individuals from different backgrounds to share experiences and perspectives;
	2. partnering with educational institutions and community organizations to promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB)-focused digital literacy programs that:
		1. teach users to recognize and challenge hate speech
		2. encourage empathy, respect, and understanding in online interactions;
	3. conducting capacity-building workshops on countering hate speech and misinformation in ways such as,
		1. holding workshops that should occur every half-year, focusing on empowering communities with knowledge about online safety
		2. engaging with local leaders and educators in these initiatives to maximize the impact;
6. Recognizing the importance of balancing freedom of expression with the need to protect individuals and communities from harm:
	1. the necessity of defining hate speech in a way that respects both cultural sensitivities and universal principles
	2. the potential for unregulated hate speech to incite violence and undermine social stability
	3. the role of international cooperation in establishing consistent standards to address this issue such as, but not limited to:
		1. consistent and concise definitions of hate speech
		2. cross-border associations aimed at regulating guidelines
		3. punishment on account of offenders;
7. Encourages all member states to adopt and implement legislation aimed at combating the dissemination of misleading or false information, particularly on digital platforms, by:
	1. establishing penalties for individuals who are found guilty of intentionally spreading false information that encourages violence, hatred, or discrimination
	2. preserving public order, national security, or public health
	3. ensuring such laws comply and are consistent with international human rights standards, particularly the right to freedom of expression as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
	4. aligning the concept of hate speech and deceptive information proposed by the UN to the legislation
	5. ensuring inclusivity and effectiveness, civil society, tech companies, and community leaders should be involved in developing legal frameworks
	6. ensuring the participation of people from a variety of backgrounds based on but not limited to;
		1. religious
		2. ethnical
		3. political
		4. any other of the 9 protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act;
8. Urges all member states to enforce regulatory measures and pass legislation for breaching hate speech laws while preserving freedom of speech, in ways such as, but not limited to:
	1. review and include legislation to differentiate hate crimes for clarity, in order to:
		1. inform citizens and youths about the prevalence of online hate speech
		2. define consequences for violating hate crime legislations in particular
		3. encourage rehabilitation through community engagement initiatives
		4. provide a clear incentive for individuals and groups to cease discrimination;
	2. establish a tiered fine system based on the severity of the offense, judged the same as public acts of spoken violence, according to existing state government legislation, with fines and punishments pertaining to:
		1. mild cases, whose punishment contain a fine, starting from a base fine that is decided by state governments
		2. moderate cases, whose punishment contains a fine with a higher starting base fine, decided by state governments, along with community service hours for offenders
		3. severe cases, whose punishment contains that of moderate cases, along with potential imprisonment, with the duration decided by state governments;
9. Requests for adequate monetary funding from governments and organizations such as but not limited to
	1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
	2. Office on Genocide Prevention and the responsibility to protect (OSAPG)
	3. World Bank
	4. Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) of the United Nations;
10. Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue through measures such as but not limited to,
	1. developing initiatives that empower religious minorities by providing them with platforms to share their experiences and educate others about their cultures and beliefs
	2. collaborate with non-governmental organizations that focus on human rights to support victims of hate speech in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. counseling
		2. legal aid
		3. community
		4. support networks;
	3. create platforms for interfaith dialogue among different religious communities to foster understanding and solidarity
	4. encourage joint campaigns against hate speech
	5. conduct training sessions for religious leaders and journalists on how to identify, respond to, and counter hate speech on social media through measures, such as:
		1. educating them about the impact of hate speech
		2. equipping them with tools for effective communication.