DRAFT AGENDA (as of November 04, 2015)

Tracking Hatred: An International Dialogue on Hate Speech in the Media

Wednesday, December 02, 2015
United Nations Headquarters, Secretariat Building, Conference Room 4
09:00 AM – 6:00 PM

@UNAOC #SpreadNoHate

09:00 – 09:30   **REGISTRATION**

09:30 – 10:00   **OPENING SESSION**

– *Opening Statements:*

o H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al–Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

o Ms. Cristina Gallach, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information (TBC)

– *Keynote Remarks:* Journalist TBD

10:00 – 11:30   **PANEL 1: UNDERSTANDING HATE SPEECH IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT AND ACROSS CULTURES**

The rise of the Internet and the instantaneous global communications that it enables have raised a number of questions about how to handle hate speech when it can be read, viewed, and heard by all types of audiences around the world. A country's approach to hate speech is informed by its history and traditions. Content that is considered acceptable in one place may be considered offensive, discriminatory or even illegal in other places that have different sets of values, beliefs and laws. People's understanding of hate speech is also impacted by race, religion, socio-economic background, structural inequalities in society, and many other factors. Hate speech does not have a universally accepted definition[1], which leads domestic laws and international agreements to vary widely on the topic.

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[1] Factsheet on Hate Speech, European Court of Human Rights (June 2015)
http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Hate_speech_ENG.pdf

Questions for discussion:
- What are sensible approaches to hate speech in a global context?
- What are ways to approach the question of hate speech in different contexts and cultures?
- How can a reporter learn about local "red lines" when reporting on controversial issues at home and abroad?
- What to do with one's sets of values and beliefs when studying other societies and cultures?
- What are ways to learn about the various understandings, sensitivities and perceptions of what constitutes hate speech? How can one contextualize them?

    – <u>Moderator</u>: Kai Wright, Features Editor, *The Nation*

    – <u>Panelist 1</u>: Dr. Agnès Callamard, Director, Global Freedom of Expression & Information, Columbia University

    – <u>Panelist 2</u>: John Yearwood, World Editor, *The Miami Herald*; Chairman, International Press Institute Committee

    – <u>Panelist 3</u>: Dr. Moustafa Bayoumi, Professor of English, Brooklyn College; Author of "How Does It Feel To Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America" (Penguin Press)

At the end of the session, participants are invited to ask questions and share comments with the panel. They are also invited to join the conversation online using #SpreadNoHate.

11:30 – 01:00   **PANEL 2: THE MEDIA AS A VEHICLE FOR HATE SPEECH**

Hate speech in the media adopts many forms. It can be found in the content published and aired by traditional media. Faced with intense competition, news organizations have had to publish content faster, often with less editorial oversight and fact checking. This can result in more generalizations, more labeling, divisive language, etc. Increasingly, hate speech is also found in the comment sections of online articles. While online comments offer readers an important space to express themselves and to sometimes provide additional information to reporters and fellow readers, they are also ideal ground for hate speech, especially on articles covering "sensitive" topics such as race or religion. Finally, social media platforms have also become rife with abusive language. Their immediacy, accessibility, and relative anonymity have allowed many hate groups to spread their ideologies.

Questions for discussion:
- What constitutes hate speech in the media, and how to balance the right to freedom of expression with a need to prevent the spread of dangerous rhetoric?
- How can reporters avoid fueling hatred, especially when reporting on religions and political tensions?

- How are media organizations addressing the issued of hate speech?
- What role should media organizations play in monitoring hate speech coming from their audience? Should they play a role?
- How much room can be given to hateful voices in reporting? What are the risks of fueling tensions and inciting more hate?

  – <u>Moderator</u>: David Gura, Reporter, Bloomberg Television

  – <u>Panelist 1</u>: Widad Ketfi, Journalist, Bondy Blog (France)

  – <u>Panelist 2</u>: Michael Oreskes, Senior Vice President, Editorial Director, National Public Radio (NPR)

  – <u>Panelist 3</u>: Eric Newton, Innovation Chief, Professor of Practice, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University

At the end of the session, participants are invited to ask questions and share comments with the panel. They are also invited to join the conversation online using #SpreadNoHate.

01:00 – 02:00　　**LUNCH BREAK**
　　　　　　　　Lunch and refreshments will be provided to participants

02:00 – 03:30　　**PANEL 3: MONITORING, REGULATING, AND LIMITING HATE SPEECH**

　　　　The anonymity, immediacy and global nature of the Internet have made it an ideal tool for hatemongers, racists and extremists. Often, it has enabled previously diverse and fragmented groups to connect, propagate their rhetoric, recruit, and organize. This rise in hate speech online is compounded by difficulties in policing such activities, and the Internet remains largely unregulated. More nations have sought to combat hate speech. The regulation of hate speech online depends on the different laws around the globe and the enforcement policies of the governments. It also largely depends on the definitions of hate speech adopted by the leading Internet service providers and the leading social media platforms, and how they choose to intervene in instances of hate speech.

Questions for discussion:
- What are some examples of measures to curb hate speech? What can be learned?
- Whose role is it to combat hate speech?
- What are ways to curb hate speech without risking restraining people's ability to express themselves?
- What are steps news organizations can take to uphold freedom of expression when moderating sensitive or controversial comments?

- Moderator: Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

- Panelist 1: Guy Berger, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO (TBC)

- Panelist 2: Online Hate Prevention Institute (Australia)

- Panelist 3: TBD

At the end of the session, participants are invited to ask questions and share comments with the panel. They are also invited to join the conversation online using #SpreadNoHate.

| 03:30 – 05:00 | **PANEL 4 - THE IMPACT OF HATE SPEECH ON MINORITIES: THE CASE OF IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES** |

- Moderator: Jane Sasseen, Journalist; Executive Director, McGraw Center, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism; Author, *A Clash of Cultures: Hate Speech, Taboos, Blasphemy, and the Role of the News Media* (Center for International Media Assistance) (TBC)

- Panelist 1: Ashraf El Nour, Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the United Nations

- Panelist 2: Mirta Ojito, Director of News Standards, Telemundo; Assistant Professor, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; Author of *Hunting Season: Immigration and Murder in an All-American Town* (Beacon Press, 2013)

- Panelist 3: Wilson Liévano, Journalist/Editor, News animator, *The Wall Street Journal Americas*

| 05:00 – 06:00 | **CLOSING SESSION: CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND WAY FORWARD** |

- Keynote Speaker: Mr. David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (TBC)

- Rapporteur: Ms. Michelle Mittelstadt, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Migration Policy Institute; Director of Communications, MPI Europe (TBC)

- Closing Remarks: H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

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A full report of the day's discussions will be made available on the website of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (www.unaoc.org). For any questions related to the UNAOC Hate Speech initiative, please contact: HateSpeech@unaoc.org.