

DRAFT AGENDA (as of October 28, 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:*

- H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- 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 tolerated in one place may be considered offensive or even illegal in some 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. In this context, how can we address the issue of Hate Speech?

Questions for discussion:

- What is a good way to approach the issue of Hate Speech in a global context? Can you apply your own sets of values and beliefs to different contexts and cultures?

- How to best become aware of various understandings and sensitivities around the topic of Hate Speech? How to contextualize them in order to understand better? What's the value of this approach? How can that help inform the debate?
 - Moderator: Kai Wright, Features Editor, *The Nation*
 - Panelist 1: Dr. Agnès Callamard, Director, Global Freedom of Expression & Information, Columbia University
 - Panelist 2: John Yearwood, World Editor, *The Miami Herald*; Chairman, International Press Institute North American Committee
 - Panelist 3: Mohamad Bazzi, Associate Professor of Journalism, New York University (TBC)

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 in news can be found online in the content published by news websites. Indeed, faced with intense competition, news organizations have had to publish content faster, often with less editorial oversight and fact checking. This often results in more generalizations, more labeling, select use of data, divisive language, etc. Increasingly, Hate Speech is also found in the comment sections of online articles, especially articles covering race, gender, religion, immigration, sexual orientation, etc. Commenters don't hold back, and comment sections are rife with abusive language. Finally, social media platforms have also become ideal ground for Hate Speech. Their immediacy, accessibility, and relative anonymity have allowed many hate groups to spread their ideologies, radicalize, and sometimes recruit.

Questions for discussion:

- How much of a concern is Hate Speech for media organizations? How are they addressing the problem 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? Is there any value added?
 - Moderator: David Gura, Reporter, Bloomberg Television
 - Panelist 1: Widad Ketfi, Journalist, Bondy Blog (France)

- Panelist 2: Michael Oreskes, Senior Vice President, Editorial Director, National Public Radio (NPR)
- Panelist 3: 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

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's 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 and more nations have sought to combat Hate Speech. The regulation of Hate Speech online depends on the different laws on Hate Speech 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.

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?
 - How do you curb Hate Speech without at the same time risking limiting people's ability to freely express themselves?
- Moderator: Nihal Saad, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative, 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: TBD

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

* * *

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.