

**Forum:** Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (GA3)

**Issue:** Tackling the glorification of extremist ideologies fueling racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance



**Student Officer:** Elsa Lindstrom

**Position:** Co-Chair

---

## Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Elsa Lindstrom, I am an IB1 student at St. Catherine's British School and it is my utmost honor to serve as your Co-Chair in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee for this year's ACGMUN conference. Due to my passion for global discussions, through this study guide—and during the course of the conference—I hope to help you share viewpoints and form insightful clauses to eventually come to a respected consensus for the evocative issue at hand: “The glorification of extremist ideologies fueling racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.” The topics we will be covering in this committee all involve core attributes of humanitarian ethics, philanthropy and collaboration, all of which are vital pillars of socialization and global engagement beyond the MUN simulation. Thus, I excitedly await to observe you working together to find creative solutions and endeavor to fuel your passion throughout debate as a guiding mentor for you all. I cannot wait to share this experience with you and make the conference an enjoyable and fruitful one for all involved. Furthermore, I would like to remind you that this study guide entails an outline of the broader key topics and aspects of the issue, hence I encourage you to optionally conduct further research after reading the guide for additional insight if you wish. If any difficulty arises or there is confusion about the contents of the study guide, feel free to contact me at: [elindtzeve@gmail.com](mailto:elindtzeve@gmail.com)

I look forward to meeting you all this March!

Sincerely,

Elsa Lindstrom

## Topic Introduction

In a world where human nature is driven by a thirst to put forth one's personal opinions and encourage others to align with them, a fine line between expression and coercion must be clearly identified. Our global society is fabricated with numerous diverse branches of people groups of various races, ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds. Linking to the conference's theme of 'Balancing Infinite Opportunities,' this is something that fosters fertile ground for the creation of infinite opportunities to tackle issues of a global scale by providing the prospect for diverse people to learn from each other, embrace their differences as commonalities and coexist as one globalized, cooperative society. However, this has not always been attainable in all corners of the world due to timeless biases, prejudices and further indoctrinated notions regarding national identity that have been passed on throughout generations, thus creating an imbalance within societies, an urgent matter to be tackled.

Programmed discriminatory opinions and prejudice against members of marginalized groups due to their cultural or racial background has existed throughout the world at various scales, and an important factor, increasing that scale, particularly in modern society, is the impact of extremist individuals or groups who make it their mission to amplify typically hostile, discriminatory views. They do so by branding them as something agreeable to the public, gaining support through deceitful coercion and propaganda. This has been observed for instance—from a psychologically analytical approach—through online propaganda, such as social media content promoting their ideas, gradually brainwashing audience members, many of which are youthful, by using the appeal of belonging to a group through peer pressure to recruit members.<sup>1</sup>

Although it is true that opposing views in society are inevitable, having a universal ethical consensus on what is morally right or wrong at a fundamental level for all nations to adhere to is imperative to prevent targeted hostility, discrimination and violence. This is also necessary to maintain global peace, something that racist, xenophobic and related intolerance completely negates, and thus mitigate threats to human rights posed onto future generations. Infinite opportunities in favor of global peace cannot be balanced when extremist ideologies cheat the system, taking the upper hand on the weighing scale.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bowman-Grieve, Lorraine. "A Psychological Perspective on Virtual Communities Supporting Terrorist & Extremist Ideologies as a Tool for Recruitment." *Security Informatics*, vol. 2, no. 1, 23 Mar. 2013, <https://doi.org/10.1186/2190-8532-2-9>.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Xenophobia<sup>2</sup>

“Extreme dislike or fear of foreigners, their customs, their religions, etc.”

### Racism<sup>3</sup>

“Ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one color or ethnic origin” and consequential prejudice and/or discrimination towards those not belonging to said group.”

### Intolerance<sup>4</sup>

“Unwillingness to let other people act in a different way or hold different opinions from you.”

### Extremism<sup>5</sup>

“A tendency or disposition to go to extremes or an instance of going to extremes, especially in political matters.”

### Extremist<sup>6</sup>

“A person whose opinions, especially about religion or politics, are extreme, and who may do things that are violent, illegal, etc. for what they believe.”

### Extremist Groups<sup>7</sup>

“A group of individuals whose values, ideals, and beliefs fall far outside of what society considers normal. An extremist group is often associated with violent tactics to convey their

---

<sup>2</sup>---. “XENOPHOBIA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 16 Oct. 2019, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/xenophobia](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/xenophobia).

<sup>3</sup> “Racism.” *Home-Affairs.ec.europa.eu*, [home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/racism\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/racism_en).

<sup>4</sup> “Definition of Intolerance.” *Collinsdictionary.com*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 20 Dec. 2024, [www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/intolerance](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/intolerance). Accessed 21 Dec. 2024.

<sup>5</sup> “Definition of Extremism | Dictionary.com.” *Www.dictionary.com*, 2019, [www.dictionary.com/browse/extremism](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/extremism).

<sup>6</sup> “Extremist Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced American Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com.” *Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com*, 2022, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english/extremist](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/extremist).

<sup>7</sup> *Study.com*, 2022, [study.com/academy/lesson/extremist-groups-definition-criminology-lesson.html](https://study.com/academy/lesson/extremist-groups-definition-criminology-lesson.html).

point to outsiders; thus, many definitions may refer to these groups as 'violent extremist groups'."

### **Ideology<sup>8</sup>**

"A set of beliefs or principles, especially one on which a political system, party, or organization is based."

### **Marginalization<sup>9</sup>**

"The act of treating someone or something as if they are not important."

## **Background Information**

### **Roots of Extremist Ideologies**

In order to delve into the contemporary examples and events related to glorified extremist ideals, an understanding of how such ideals first emerged and proceeded to popularize is essential. Becoming an extremist inherently derives from an urge for reform or a desire to be heard in a society that predominantly holds opposing views than such an individual, and this is something which has proven to often develop into hostile, forceful or violent projections of these niche radical ideologies onto other members in society. Historically, periods of profound social turmoil during historical movements have inspired the birth of such eccentric views which proceeded to stimulate the formation of extremist groups and greater extremist movements, namely Al-Queda, the Islamic State (ISIS), and more. This is because such difficult time periods, during which individuals' identity and place in society feels threatened, can create uproar relating to, for instance, dissatisfaction with one's nation's governance, radical changes in society that defy traditionalist or nationalist ideologies that individuals have been brought up to believe, and deficient quality of life overall. Thus, it is conclusive that the rise of extremist rhetoric and action stems from both psychological and sociopolitical factors.

---

<sup>8</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "IDEOLOGY | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 2024, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ideology](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ideology).

<sup>9</sup> ---. "MARGINALIZATION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, 2023, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization).

## Psychological Factors

A handful of psychological theories can be useful to elucidate the humanitarian impulses driving extremist ideologies, one being the Cognitive Theory<sup>10</sup> which demonstrates the idea that the way humans act in their environment is based on their own perception and relationship to it. More specifically, each individual holds personal views and opinions towards their environment and that is what determines their behavior with it. This highlights the idea that extremist activities are rooted from a dissatisfaction with one's society, particularly during times of major social turmoil, which is what makes them feel inclined to act radically. A less abstract way to understand psychological motives behind the rise of extremism is by acknowledging the familiar human tendencies that exist in, as political scientist, Martha Crenshaw suggests, 'four categories of motivation among terrorists: The opportunity for action, the need to belong, the desire for social status, and the acquisition of material reward'.<sup>11</sup> Narcissism, for instance, is considered a driving force in the formation of nationalist ideologies which have been subject to extremist development throughout the course of history. In essence, a sense of superiority of one's self or their society over all others, often fueled by charismatic leaders who streamline such concepts, can swiftly lead to oppressive acts of extremism in the form of xenophobia, racism and related intolerance.



Flow diagram of how extremist ideologies form<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004.  
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004.  
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Flow diagram of how extremist ideologies form: Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004.  
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf>

## Incidents of Racism and Xenophobia Fueled by Extremism

One particular historical example of where extremist ideologies were popularized at a time of social distress is the rise of Nazism in Germany after World War I. The nation faced great humiliation after their defeat and an increase in unemployment, political instability and social change contributed to form economic instability throughout the country.<sup>13</sup> This fragility, fear and frustration was taken advantage of by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party who took the opportunity to promote an 'easy fix' to society's problems in the form of anti-semitic ideals, putting forth a front which promoted unification of the nation as a disguised excuse behind the terror that came to be the Holocaust. Thus, this is a prime example of how glorified and fueled extremist ideologies stemmed from times of general social turmoil.

Another notable incident involves the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 where the Tutsi minority were maligned and discriminated against. The mass extremist violence arose from Hutu extremist propaganda, prominently a system of rules entitled 'The Hutu Ten Commandments'<sup>14</sup>, published initially in an extremist Anti-Tutsi newspaper named 'Kangura' which explicitly outlined discriminatory and villainizing attitudes towards the Tutsi people. The fact that the spread of such extremist notions escalated into acts of inhumane violence and ultimate genocide highlights the idea that ideology is the 'foundation on which campaigns of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity were built'<sup>15</sup> as they allow for vulnerable societies to find hope for a new society amidst social turmoil, leaving them blinded by propaganda and unable to distinguish the radical absurdities behind such ideologies.

## Impact of such Incidents on Society

Overall, incidents such as the ones mentioned above significantly impact societies on numerous levels. Primarily, on an individual level, the profound psychological impact of those experiencing systemic discrimination is of utmost importance to highlight, but the psychological impact of glorified hateful ideologies is even more so. The ability to shift the ideologies, notions and beliefs of the majority of a population is an alarming strategy which has proven to work far too well, thus, it is imperative that the psychology behind this is understood to acknowledge how popularized extremist ideologies evolve.

---

<sup>13</sup> United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Aftermath of World War I and the Rise of Nazism, 1918–1933 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum." *Www.ushmm.org*, 2024, [www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust/aftermath-of-world-war-i-and-the-rise-of-nazism-1918-1933](http://www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust/aftermath-of-world-war-i-and-the-rise-of-nazism-1918-1933).

<sup>14</sup> Wikipedia. "Hutu Ten Commandments." *Wikipedia*, 10 Oct. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutu\\_Ten\\_Commandments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutu_Ten_Commandments).

<sup>15</sup> Maynard, Jonathan Leader. "Extremist Ideologies and the Roots of Mass Atrocities: Lessons for Ukraine." *Just Security*, 14 Oct. 2022, [www.justsecurity.org/83555/extremist-ideologies-and-the-roots-of-mass-atrocities/](https://www.justsecurity.org/83555/extremist-ideologies-and-the-roots-of-mass-atrocities/).

It is also noteworthy to stress the fact that such incidents impact societies at large by furthering divides between people groups and promoting violence, hate and prejudiced intolerance rather than developing a unanimous global society of integrated cultures coexisting. This is backed by a senior United Nations official, "violence often starts with words — words of hatred that spread intolerance, divide societies, and promote and endorse discrimination."<sup>16</sup>, highlighting how it impacts the concept of globalization in a negative way while also impacting the people's quality of life by fueling hostile, narrow-minded perceptions of foreign people groups.

## Modern Day Relevance

### Rise of Far-Right Movements

In modern day society, extremism continues to take new forms, fueling recent incidents of violence due to the resurgence of far-right ideologies that advocate for racial superiority and systemic discrimination disguised as something agreeable. Recent instances such as the anti-black shooting in Charleston, South Carolina (2015) are considered 'modern lynchings' all of which are predominantly driven by the glorification of white supremacy and consequent brainwashing. This has proven to impact modern society greatly as modern globalization has fueled the intolerance of extremists by shining light on new people groups as targets, such as immigrants or the LGBTQ+ community.

A method extremist groups in the US have used as an excuse to recruit is the Great Replacement theory. This theory entails the intolerant notion that in the US, a period where the white race is being 'replaced' is ongoing. The promotion of this theory by extremist groups and individuals fuels xenophobic, racist and nationalist ideologies in modern day society, leading to modern acts of white supremacist terrorism such as the aforementioned Charleston attack. Along with the propagation of such generalized theories, racist claims exist in more forms in modern society as seen through the excuses of individuals involved in modern acts of white supremacist terrorism. For instance, Dylann Roof, a murderer involved in the 2015 Charleston shooting rationalized his actions by promoting a glorified version of the racist hate crime, stating that Segregation was a "defensive measure to protect the white community from black Americans" in an attempt to fuel white supremacist ideologies. Furthermore, an alarming modern

---

<sup>16</sup> "Intolerance, Hate Speech Often Very Cause of Wars, Conflicts, Speaker Tells Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *Press.un.org*, 14 June 2024, [press.un.org/en/2024/sc15731.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15731.doc.htm).



extremist movement has been through heavy involvement on social media where for instance, white supremacist terrorism is streamed through livestreams for thousands of viewers, reiterating the alarming power that social media has over streamlining extremism in modern society.<sup>17</sup>

### **Terrorism and Religious Extremism**

Another intrinsic link between the glorification of extremist ideologies and modern-day advancements is the way that extremist religious groups, namely ISIS and Al-Qaeda, promote their ideologies and recruit members by excusing their acts of terrorism with religion. Through the use of religious narratives to disguise their actions, claiming that their actions are right and just and that they align with the beliefs of their religion, these modern terrorist groups expand and gain support by brainwashing. As a result, hateful, discriminatory ideologies, that are glorified with religious intent to the masses, further spread and incidents of violence against religious minorities occur.

### **The Role of Social Media and Technology**

The driving tool throughout most aspects of modern society is decidedly social media, chiefly when it comes to the spread of shared notions, ideas, and beliefs. Primarily, a way to briefly explain the psychology behind the way people adopt the beliefs they are surrounded by is the Social Learning theory<sup>18</sup> which is an encompassing term for the influences of nature vs nurture. This theory suggests that human behavior (in this case, the adoption of extremist ideologies) is heavily influenced by our environment; when extremist rhetoric is propagated, consumers of that media get drawn in. Since social media has taken the modern world by storm, this allows for all types of people from across the globe to freely spread ideologies beyond geographical borders, making the spread of hostile and discriminatory rhetoric almost inevitable. Therefore, social media acts as an alarmingly effective tool working in favor of the glorification of extremist ideologies that drive racism and xenophobia, predominantly targeting the youth who are prone to exist within social media the most. A notable instance of brainwashing the youth through media was by a creator on the social media platform,

---

<sup>17</sup> Ware, Jacob. "Modern Far-Right Terrorism Is a Repeat of Reconstruction-Era Themes." *TIME*, Time, 14 May 2024, [time.com/6977494/far-right-terrorism-reconstruction-era-essay/](https://time.com/6977494/far-right-terrorism-reconstruction-era-essay/). Accessed 12 Sept. 2024.

<sup>18</sup> Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/208552.pdf>



TikTok, who promoted far-right anti-semitic and racist ideologies to their youthful audience.<sup>19</sup> Instances like this one—out of countless existing ones—are what have shown to have direct statistical links with the surge of youthful perpetrators committing racially and ethnically driven radical acts of extremist violence. Specifically, a recent incident where a British teenager planned to attack a synagogue, and where another British teenager posted social media content that inspired deadly mass shootings in the US. Along with this, UK counter terror policing statistics showcase that 20% of all those arrested in 2022 were under 18, highlighting the idea that the youth is heavily impressionable. One additional method of brainwashing to spread glorified intolerant ideals through social media is the use of specialized websites, chat groups and encrypted messaging apps in which recruiters easily expand their extremist groups, plan acts of hate with supportive members across the world and overall, coerce youthful individuals into adopting their radical beliefs. The website '4chan' is a clear example of a platform where this takes place through anonymous discussions, with groups such as the Alt-right, a far-right nationalist movement, spreading discriminatory rhetoric in the form of engaging media for the youth to easily absorb such as memes and trolling.<sup>20</sup>

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

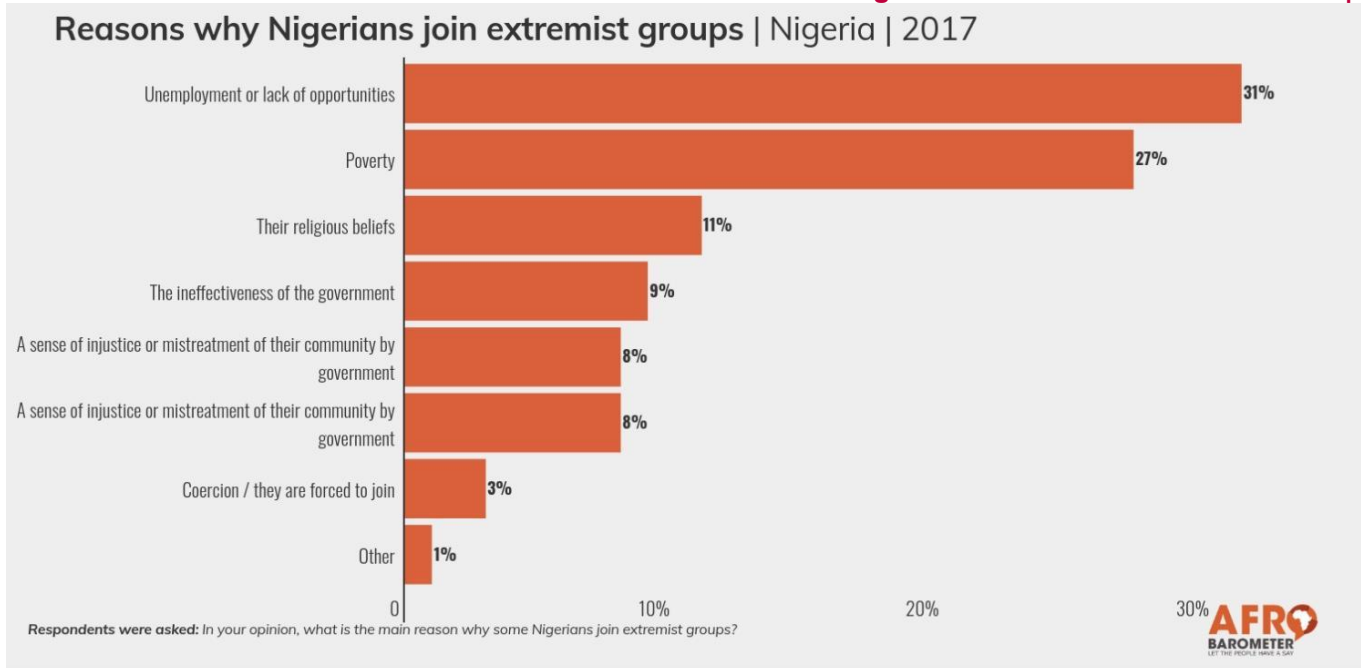
### Nigeria

Nigeria persists to be bombarded with the issue of ethnic division due to the popularization of ethnocentrism and other intolerance and along with that, the rise of extremist group recruitment in the country. A survey by the research network, Afrobarometer, indicated the reasons for the popularization of such intolerant extremist groups by demonstrating the reasons behind the development of discriminatory ideologies:

---

<sup>19</sup> Bryden, Tom. "Blocked." *Thesun.ie*, 2024, [www.thesun.ie/news/13977343/far-right-tiktokers-brainwashing-kids-anti-semitism/](http://www.thesun.ie/news/13977343/far-right-tiktokers-brainwashing-kids-anti-semitism/). Accessed 29 Dec. 2024.

<sup>20</sup> Geiger, Jonathon. "Hate Speech, Habitus, and Identity Signaling on 4chan's Politically Incorrect Board." *The Aquila Digital Community*, 2020, [aquila.usm.edu/masters\\_theses/772/](http://aquila.usm.edu/masters_theses/772/). Accessed 29 Dec. 2024.



21

### *Dominant reasons for individuals joining extremist groups in Nigeria*

Furthermore, the surge of ethno-racially targeted attacks by extremist terrorist groups in Nigeria, namely, Boko Haram, has left the nation in dire urgency to monitor and eliminate the indoctrination of glorified hate-speech and other forms of intolerant propaganda to mitigate further recruitment and activity of such groups. This Sunni Islamic extremist group has continuously made violent attempts to overthrow the Nigerian government and replace it with a regime surrounding Islamic law. Particularly, in 2014 they led 'near-daily attacks against Christians, security and police forces, the media, schools and politicians', having first perpetrated an attack against Western interest through a vehicle-bomb attack on UN headquarters in Abuja where 23 people were killed and more than 80 were injured.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Afrobarometer. "Unemployment, Poverty, and Religious Beliefs Drive Some Nigerians to Join Extremist Groups, according to Afrobarometer Survey." *Afrobarometer.org*, 2018, [www.afrobarometer.org/articles/unemployment-poverty-and-religious-beliefs-drive-some-nigerians-join-extremist-groups/](http://www.afrobarometer.org/articles/unemployment-poverty-and-religious-beliefs-drive-some-nigerians-join-extremist-groups/). Accessed 24 Dec. 2024.

<sup>22</sup> National Counterterrorism Center. "Boko Haram." *Counter Terrorism Guide*, 2013, [www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/boko\\_haram.html](http://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/boko_haram.html).



*Bombing of the UN Headquarters by Boko Haram in Abuja, Nigeria.<sup>23</sup>*

### **United States of America (USA)**

The US has historically been a central nation facing racism and xenophobia, and has thus proven to continuously strive towards combating it both nationally and advocating against the glorification of such intolerance internationally. For instance, in regards to localized extremist violence resulting in the US in previous years, the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics for 2017 shows an increase of 17% in hate crimes compared to the year before, with a total of 7,175 incidents reported of which 59.5% were motivated by race or ethnicity bias.

### **European Union (EU)**

The European Union continuously expresses their condemnation towards discrimination in all forms and has persistently advocated for policies and legislative measures that combat the spread of glorified hateful extremist rhetoric. For instance, under EU law, the 2008 Framework Decision on 'Combating certain forms of expression of racism and xenophobia' states that individuals or groups exercising 'public incitement to violence or hatred based on race, color, religion, descent or national or

---

<sup>23</sup> Campbell, John. "Bombing of the UN Headquarters in Nigeria." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 26 Aug. 2011, [www.cfr.org/blog/bombing-un-headquarters-nigeria](http://www.cfr.org/blog/bombing-un-headquarters-nigeria).

ethnic origin' must be criminalized.<sup>24</sup> This legal ground, as well as many others, emphasizes the EU's strong intolerance towards hate crimes themselves but also the spread of idealized discriminatory ideologies and narratives, treating them as almost equally condemnable.

## Interpol

This inter-governmental organization lays emphasis on their efforts to tackle the rise of popularized extremist ideologies, having made numerous statements stressing the need for global cooperation to combat the issue. One particular statement shone light on the great role of social media as a vessel which streamlines such radicalized hateful media to the masses. They distinguished the alarming fact that social media makes the spread of extremist discriminatory ideologies far easier while simultaneously making abilities to combat and restrict this spread less attainable, thus suggesting to develop 'global police communications system, global databases and network of National Central Bureaus' in order to monitor the now virtual—and therefore, global—threat of discriminatory propaganda.<sup>25</sup>

## Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

This US based non-governmental organization (NGO) has publicly led projects, produced investigative reports on far-right extremist groups and ultimately advocated against the spreading of glorified ideologies of systemic discrimination. Their successful impact includes suing numerous hate groups—such as the United Klans of America and the Aryan Nations—for their violent acts or exposing their behavior and thus destroying the groups or decreasing their impact. Additionally, they have released an annual report and census of US hate and antigovernment groups since 1990.<sup>26</sup>

## United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The UNHRC has consistently shown support towards tackling the glorification of extremist ideologies. Specifically, they have drawn up multiple programs, resolutions and discussions to

---

<sup>24</sup> European Commission. "Combating Hate Speech and Hate Crime." *Commission.europa.eu*, [commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-hate-speech-and-hate-crime\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-hate-speech-and-hate-crime_en).

<sup>25</sup> INTERPOL. "Preventing Internet Radicalization of Youth Requires Global Police Network, INTERPOL Chief Tells Police Summit." *Www.interpol.int*, 21 Sept. 2010, [www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2010/Preventing-Internet-radicalization-of-youth-requires-global-police-network-INTERPOL-Chief-tells-police-summit](http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2010/Preventing-Internet-radicalization-of-youth-requires-global-police-network-INTERPOL-Chief-tells-police-summit).

<sup>26</sup> Southern Poverty Law Center. "Hate & Extremism." *Southern Poverty Law Center*, 2018, [www.splcenter.org/issues/hate-and-extremism](http://www.splcenter.org/issues/hate-and-extremism).

implement regulations surrounding the spread of discriminatory radical ideologies. For instance, their Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (2023)<sup>27</sup> highlights this issue and encourages Member States to work in order to counter the spread of such ideologies, emphasizing their keen focus on tackling the issue.

## Blocs Expected

**Alliance 1: Nations facing issues due to the rise of extremist ideologies** - Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France, India, Nigeria, Greece, Turkey, Kenya, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia

**Alliance 2: Nations that are not impacted by the rise of extremist ideologies** -Germany, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Myanmar, Egypt, China, DPRK

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1919-1923	The rise of Nazism in Germany after World War I.
21/12/1965	The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) treaty established to combat racial discrimination in all forms
1994	The Rwandan Genocide
20/09/2006	Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by UN Member States
04-05/10/2012	Rabat Plan of Action is developed at the wrap-up meeting held in Rabat, Morocco
17/06/2015	Anti-black shooting in Charleston, South Carolina
18/06/2019	UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech is released

<sup>27</sup> "OHCHR | Combating Glorification of Nazism, Neo-Nazism and Other Practices That Contribute to Fuelling Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Call for Input 78th Session of the General Assembly." OHCHR, 10 Aug. 2023, [www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/combating-glorification-nazism-neo-nazism-and-other-practices-contribute](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/combating-glorification-nazism-neo-nazism-and-other-practices-contribute).

31/05/2024	Resolution 78/190 is written up to tackle the glorification of modern Nazism
------------	--

## Relevant UN Resolutions, Treaties & Events

### The UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech of 18th June 2019<sup>28</sup>

Through this strategy published in 2019, Secretary General, Antonio Guterres lays an emphasis on the need for “collaboration between 16 entities under the UN Working Group on Hate Speech” due to the alarming effects of spreading hate speech in relation to discrimination and extremist violence. It addresses the idea that monitoring hate speech does not defy the international right to freedom of speech but would rather act as a preventive method to refrain hate speech from escalating into dire situations such as violent and discriminatory attacks towards marginalized communities, something which violates international law.

### The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of 21st December 1965<sup>29</sup>

This human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965 aims to combat racial discrimination in all forms: apartheid, segregation, separation, in order to strengthen the importance of harmonic coexistence between people of all backgrounds. It stresses the threats that hostile practices and the promotion of racist ideologies pose on global society and urges member states to form policies and legislative measures to combat the spread of such intolerance. Thus, this treaty is a fundamental representation of the entitlement of equal human rights for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity or cultural background.

### Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006<sup>30</sup>

This global instrument was adopted by consensus of all United Nations Member States in 2006 in order to develop strategic methods to combat terrorism on a global scale. It particularly focuses on

<sup>28</sup> Nations, United. “The UN Strategy and Plan of Action.” *United Nations*, 2019, [www.un.org/en/hate-speech/un-strategy-and-plan-of-action-on-hate-speech](http://www.un.org/en/hate-speech/un-strategy-and-plan-of-action-on-hate-speech).

[https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/advising-and-mobilizing/Action\\_plan\\_on\\_hate\\_speech\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/advising-and-mobilizing/Action_plan_on_hate_speech_EN.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> United Nations. “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.” *OHCHR*, United Nations, 21 Dec. 1965, [www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial](http://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial).

<sup>30</sup> ---. “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Un.org*, 2006, [www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy).



finding measures to mitigate terrorism levels through monitoring the spread of glorified discriminatory ideologies, strengthening the capacity of states in preparation to combat localized terrorism while also upholding a balance between international law and right of expression. This strategy presents a highlighted implication towards the effects of radicalization, noting this as something to be monitored and addressed in order to combat terrorism, as terrorism is often built off of extremist rhetoric, inciting promotion and radical action.

**Resolution 78/190: Combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/HRC/56/67) of 31st May 2024<sup>31</sup>**

This resolution by the Human Rights Council in May 2024 outlines the particular alarming nature of glorifying inherently unethical, discriminatory ideologies and how the popularization of such ideas affects contemporary society and will continue to mutate the doctrines of future generations. It stresses the distinction of notions that are fundamentally hostile towards targeted people groups and therefore should not be excused when promoted (for instance, on social media), aiming to draw up policies and measures refraining the spread of media and hate speech propagating such hostile ideals to the masses through consensus between Member States.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

### The Rabat Plan of Action of 4-5th October 2012

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights UN Human Rights (OHCHR) experts developed this plan of action at the wrap-up meeting in Rabat in order to draw clear legislative distinctions between what is to be considered legal when it comes to promoting one's 'national, racial or religious hatred', particularly through incitement. Their objectives were to highlight a distinction between the dangers of this practice and the upholding of the right to freedom of speech, to develop measures to combat the surge of inciting methods promoting hazardous hate speech against people groups, and to 'identify possible action at all levels' to balance freedom of expression with the need to prevent incitement to hatred.

---

<sup>31</sup> United Nations General Assembly. *Human Rights Council*. 31 May 2024.  
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/084/14/pdf/g2408414.pdf>



## Possible Solutions

### Refining Educational Systems and Programs

Considering the fact that the major cause behind the birth and spread of extremist ideologies results from a lack of well-rounded and globally engaging education, a primal solution would be to refine education systems by including topic-specific areas where students are taught the importance of embracing and welcoming different cultures, races and ethnicities rather than solely having a one-dimensional education on their local culture. This would allow them to expand their global knowledge horizons, thus preventing further doctrines of nationalist bias and racial prejudice from augmenting.

Additionally, implementing curriculums within state education where students are taught about the dangers of social media and how to be cautious online by re-evaluating the media they consume would help as a preventative method by allowing people to formulate their own opinions and sticking to them rather than easily being swayed by extremist ideologies propagated online.

Aside from only refining existing education systems, creating new and specialized education programs and courses which deal with recognizing and tackling the glorification of hostile xenophobic or racist extremist propaganda would benefit society as an additional didactic approach to combat indoctrinated discriminatory intolerance.

### Establishing Legislative Measures

Streamlining ideologies that promote systemic discrimination is an act which violates human rights and can easily lead to alarming targeted acts of violence, regardless of the right of expression. Thus, an imperative method to prevent or mitigate such rhetoric from being falsely glorified into something excusable and ideal, imposing rigid laws relating to direct acts of explicit discrimination or unequal treatment is essential, particularly upon groups engaging in violent extremist activity.

Though acting as a first and essential step, placing such laws towards direct violence and intolerance is not the only measure possible. Considering the fact that the key issue at hand is the spread and augmentation of such intolerant ideologies, it would be beneficial to also establish laws and policies towards incitement and heavy promotion of racist and xenophobic rhetoric in a way that aligns with freedom of speech, ensuring that a line is drawn between the right of expression and coercion through false glorification of explicitly unethical, humanly violative ideologies.

## Social Media and Network Regulation

In contemporary society, social media is a vessel of streamlining ideas, opinions and notions on a global scale. Thus, it is an ideal platform for extremist ideas to spread and be portrayed in manipulative, mutated ways. A way for states to prevent the indoctrination of intolerant ideologies from permeating through mass society, and particularly future generations, would be to have executive teams regulating the media that is posted online. Creating specialized algorithms and regulations to track what is being propagated and posted online would be an efficient way to spot the perpetrators, take down posts which promote discriminatory extremism and thus prevent it from spreading further.

## International Cooperation

By continuing to host conferences and forming strategies with the involvement of international Member States to foster diplomacy, a collective effort to combat the spread of glorified hateful narratives can be more efficiently attainable. When nations work in unison, embracing their differences and merging them to form one united, welcoming and diverse society, hateful discriminatory rhetoric can be mitigated as a whole, further ameliorating the fight against the glorification of extremist ideologies leading to racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

## Bibliography

### General Bibliography

Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004.

Bowman-Grieve, Lorraine. "A Psychological Perspective on Virtual Communities Supporting Terrorist & Extremist Ideologies as a Tool for Recruitment." *Security Informatics*, vol. 2, no. 1, 23 Mar. 2013, <https://doi.org/10.1186/2190-8532-2-9>.

Bryden, Tom. "Blocked." *Thesun.ie*, 2024, [www.thesun.ie/news/13977343/far-right-tiktokers-brainwashing-kids-anti-semitism/](http://www.thesun.ie/news/13977343/far-right-tiktokers-brainwashing-kids-anti-semitism/). Accessed 29 Dec. 2024.

Cambridge Dictionary. "IDEOLOGY | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary."

*Cambridge.org*, 2024, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ideology](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ideology).

[dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization).

---. "XENOPHOBIA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 16 Oct. 2019, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/xenophobia](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/xenophobia).

“Definition of Extremism | Dictionary.com.” *Www.dictionary.com*, 2019,

[www.dictionary.com/browse/extremism](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/extremism).

“Definition of Intolerance.” *Collinsdictionary.com*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 20 Dec. 2024,

[www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/intolerance](http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/intolerance). Accessed 21 Dec. 2024.

Euronews. “Far-Right Terrorism “Is Surging” in Western Countries, Report Warns.” *Euronews*,

Euronews.com, 25 Nov. 2020, [www.euronews.com/my-europe/2020/11/25/far-right-political-](http://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2020/11/25/far-right-political-terrorism-is-surging-in-western-countries-report-warns)

[terrorism-is-surging-in-western-countries-report-warns](http://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2020/11/25/far-right-political-terrorism-is-surging-in-western-countries-report-warns). Accessed 29 Dec. 2024.

European Commission. “Combating Hate Speech and Hate Crime.” *Commission.europa.eu*,

[commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-](http://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-hate-speech-and-hate-crime_en)

[discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-hate-speech-and-hate-crime\\_en](http://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-hate-speech-and-hate-crime_en).

“Extremist Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced

American Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com.” *Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com*,

2022, [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english/extremist](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/extremist).

Geiger, Jonathon. “Hate Speech, Habitus, and Identity Signaling on 4chan’s Politically

Incorrect Board.” *The Aquila Digital Community*, 2020, [aquila.usm.edu/masters\\_theses/772/](http://aquila.usm.edu/masters_theses/772/).

Accessed 29 Dec. 2024.

Gençtürk, Ahmet . “55% of Hate Crimes in Sweden Have Racial Motivations: Report.”

*Www.aa.com.tr*, 25 Jan. 2023, [www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/55-of-hate-crimes-in-sweden-have-](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/55-of-hate-crimes-in-sweden-have-racial-motivations-report/2796429)

[racial-motivations-report/2796429](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/55-of-hate-crimes-in-sweden-have-racial-motivations-report/2796429).

INTERPOL. “Preventing Internet Radicalization of Youth Requires Global Police Network,

INTERPOL Chief Tells Police Summit.” *Www.interpol.int*, 21 Sept. 2010,

[www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2010/Preventing-Internet-radicalization-of-youth-](http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2010/Preventing-Internet-radicalization-of-youth-requires-global-police-network-INTERPOL-Chief-tells-police-summit)

[requires-global-police-network-INTERPOL-Chief-tells-police-summit](http://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2010/Preventing-Internet-radicalization-of-youth-requires-global-police-network-INTERPOL-Chief-tells-police-summit).

“Intolerance, Hate Speech Often Very Cause of Wars, Conflicts, Speaker Tells Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *Press.un.org*, 14 June 2024, [press.un.org/en/2024/sc15731.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15731.doc.htm).

Maynard, Jonathan Leader. “Extremist Ideologies and the Roots of Mass Atrocities: Lessons for Ukraine.” *Just Security*, 14 Oct. 2022, [www.justsecurity.org/83555/extremist-ideologies-and-the-roots-of-mass-atrocities/](https://www.justsecurity.org/83555/extremist-ideologies-and-the-roots-of-mass-atrocities/).

National Counterterrorism Center. “Boko Haram.” *Counter Terrorism Guide*, 2013, [www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/boko\\_haram.html](https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/boko_haram.html).

Nations, United. “The UN Strategy and Plan of Action.” *United Nations*, 2019, [www.un.org/en/hate-speech/un-strategy-and-plan-of-action-on-hate-speech](https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech/un-strategy-and-plan-of-action-on-hate-speech).

OHCHR. “OHCHR | the Rabat Plan of Action.” *OHCHR*, 5 Oct. 2012, [www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/rabat-plan-action](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/rabat-plan-action).

“OHCHR | Combating Glorification of Nazism, Neo-Nazism and Other Practices That Contribute to Fuelling Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Call for Input 78th Session of the General Assembly.” *OHCHR*, 10 Aug. 2023, [www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/combating-glorification-nazism-neo-nazism-and-other-practices-contribute](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/combating-glorification-nazism-neo-nazism-and-other-practices-contribute).

“Racism.” *Home-Affairs.ec.europa.eu*, [home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/racism\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/racism_en).

Southern Poverty Law Center. “Hate & Extremism.” *Southern Poverty Law Center*, 2018, [www.splcenter.org/issues/hate-and-extremism](https://www.splcenter.org/issues/hate-and-extremism).

Stark Rivinius, Jessica . “Terrorist Violence Decreases Worldwide in 2017, but Remains Historically High | START.umd.edu.” *Www.start.umd.edu*, 1 Aug. 2018,

[www.start.umd.edu/news/terrorist-violence-decreases-worldwide-2017-remains-historically-high](http://www.start.umd.edu/news/terrorist-violence-decreases-worldwide-2017-remains-historically-high).

United Nations. “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.” *OHCHR*, United Nations, 21 Dec. 1965, [www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial](http://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial).

---. “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *Un.org*, 2006, [www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy).

United Nations General Assembly. *Human Rights Council*. 31 May 2024.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. “Aftermath of World War I and the Rise of Nazism, 1918–1933 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.” *Www.ushmm.org*, 2024, [www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust/aftermath-of-world-war-i-and-the-rise-of-nazism-1918-1933](http://www.ushmm.org/learn/holocaust/aftermath-of-world-war-i-and-the-rise-of-nazism-1918-1933).

Ware, Jacob. “Modern Far-Right Terrorism Is a Repeat of Reconstruction-Era Themes.” *TIME*, Time, 14 May 2024, [time.com/6977494/far-right-terrorism-reconstruction-era-essay/](https://time.com/6977494/far-right-terrorism-reconstruction-era-essay/). Accessed 12 Sept. 2024.

Wikipedia. “Hutu Ten Commandments.” *Wikipedia*, 10 Oct. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutu\\_Ten\\_Commandments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutu_Ten_Commandments).

Wikipedia Contributors. “Hate Crime.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Feb. 2019, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate\\_crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_crime).

*Study.com*, 2022, [study.com/academy/lesson/extremist-groups-definition-criminology-lesson.html](https://study.com/academy/lesson/extremist-groups-definition-criminology-lesson.html).

## Media Bibliography

Afrobarometer. “Unemployment, Poverty, and Religious Beliefs Drive Some Nigerians to Join Extremist Groups, according to Afrobarometer Survey.” *Afrobarometer.org*, 2018,

[www.afrobarometer.org/articles/unemployment-poverty-and-religious-beliefs-drive-some-nigerians-join-extremist-groups/](http://www.afrobarometer.org/articles/unemployment-poverty-and-religious-beliefs-drive-some-nigerians-join-extremist-groups/). Accessed 24 Dec. 2024.

Borum, Randy. *Psychology of Terrorism*. University of South Florida, 2004.

Campbell, John. "Bombing of the UN Headquarters in Nigeria." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 26 Aug. 2011, [www.cfr.org/blog/bombing-un-headquarters-nigeria](http://www.cfr.org/blog/bombing-un-headquarters-nigeria).

Finnish Government. "Minister for Foreign Affairs Haavisto to Deposit Finland's Instrument of Accession and Attend NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brussels - Finnish Government." *Finnish Government*, 2023, [valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/minister-for-foreign-affairs-haavisto-to-deposit-finland-s-instrument-of-accession-and-attend-nato-foreign-ministers-meeting-in-brussels](http://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/minister-for-foreign-affairs-haavisto-to-deposit-finland-s-instrument-of-accession-and-attend-nato-foreign-ministers-meeting-in-brussels), <https://doi.org/10081688/valtioneuvosto-sosiaalinen-media-korttikuva.jpg/61d96af1-94f4-fe8c-147e-44472f25b5e5>. Accessed 13 Nov. 2024.

Stark Rivinius, Jessica . "Terrorist Violence Decreases Worldwide in 2017, but Remains Historically High | START.umd.edu." *Www.start.umd.edu*, 1 Aug. 2018, [www.start.umd.edu/news/terrorist-violence-decreases-worldwide-2017-remains-historically-high](http://www.start.umd.edu/news/terrorist-violence-decreases-worldwide-2017-remains-historically-high).

U.S. Department of Justice. "Hate Crime Statistics." *Justice.gov*, United States Department of Justice, 14 Nov. 2023, [www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics](http://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics).

Wikipedia Contributors. "Hate Crime." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Feb. 2019, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate\\_crime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_crime).

