Online Hate Resolution

Resolution JYA 2022 – 8

The Online Hate Committee of the first annual Jewish Youth Assembly of the World Jewish Congress,

CONSIDERING that scapegoating and perpetuating prejudice against certain ethnic, religious, or other types of groups has led humanity to the horrors of Nazism during the Second World War;

RECOGNIZING that discrimination against the Jewish people had started long before the rise of Nazism and has spread globally for thousands of years, evidenced by, i.e., the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and other hateful conspiracies, specifically the ones promulgated in the times of Covid-19;

BEARING IN MIND that the internet is a powerful global form of communication, that can be used both in positive and negative ways, where hate speech may proliferate exponentially and is challenging to stop or remove;

ACKNOWLEDGING that online hate speech and the spread of misinformation, specifically directed against the Jewish people, being expressed as anti-Zionism or other forms of prejudice, camouflages deeply antisemitic attitudes;

NOTING that 65% of the population of developed countries note being exposed to increased racism and antisemitism online;

BRINGING INTO STRONG CONSIDERATION par. 2 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reiterates the global commitment to free speech;

RECALLING also the resolution of the UN General Assembly A/75/L.115 “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance and countering hate speech”;

UNDERSCORING that Article 20(2) of the ICCPR prohibits national, religious, or racial hatred that incites violence, discrimination, or hostility;
ENCOURAGES all stakeholders, such as governments, NGOs, and the public and private sectors, to work jointly on issues relating to hate speech, as recommended by the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide;

URGES stakeholders, including social media platforms, to recognize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as a benchmark definition to definitively suppress antisemitic hate speech;

CALLS UPON educational institutions worldwide to inform on the history and impact of genocides on humanity, and notes the link between hate speech and hate crimes;

UNDERSCORES that blatant anti-Israel bias contribute to the spread of anti-Jewish hatred;

MAINTAINS the value of non-governmental representatives of minority groups in continued education against hate speech;

ENCOURAGES social media platforms to create mechanisms to educate their users on issues that may be surrounded by hate speech and to implement software on their platforms for the purpose of detecting and deterring hate speech, while promoting awareness;

APPLAUDS the social media companies that keep updating their platforms in order to prevent and delete content that may be harmful or disrespectful towards their community;

URGES online platforms to integrate additional support from relevant stakeholders to prevent the spread of misinformation;

CONCLUDES reiterating that hate speech has a direct correlation with hate crimes perpetrated by groups as much as individuals, exacerbating the division and polarization within modern societies.

Approved by the 1st WJC Jewish Youth Assembly, 27 February 2022