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What is hate speech?
International standards and free expression

COUNTERING HATE SPEECH
International standards based on the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, set out:

- What kinds of speech must be legally banned
- What may be legitimately banned
- What is legally permitted even when offensive to some
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LEGAL LIMITS ON HATE SPEECH:

**RACE-RELATED SPEECH**
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

**HATRED ON THE BASIS OF NATIONALITY OR RELIGION**
ARTICLE 20 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR)

**HATRED BASED ON PEOPLE’S GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR OTHER FEATURES**
MAY BE LIMITED IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 19 OF THE ICCPR (POSSIBLE, BUT NOT REQUIRED)

ALL LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE:

SPECIFIED IN LAW – NECESSARY – PROPORTIONATE – FOR LEGITIMATE PURPOSE
RABAT PLAN OF ACTION
SIX-POINT THRESHOLD TEST FOR CRIMINAL HATE SPEECH
SOCIAL RESPONSES TO ONLINE HATE SPEECH
MONITORING AND DISCUSSING HATE SPEECH

FACTORS FOR IDENTIFYING ONLINE INFLAMMATORY SPEECH IN KENYA
(from the Benesch Framework):

TARGETS A GROUP OF PEOPLE

- Dangerous speech towards a group can occur across different lines, including religious, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political affiliation, and more.

MAY CONTAIN ONE HALLMARK OF DANGEROUS SPEECH

- Comprising a group of people with animal, insect, or vermin
- Suggesting that the audience faces a serious threat or violence from another group, specifically the same group that is a target of the inflammatory speech (e.g., a country in a war)
- Suggesting that some people from another group are selling the purity or integrity of the speaker’s group

CONTAINS A CALL TO ACTION

- Encourages a particular audience to commit acts of violence towards a group of people.
- These can include calls to kill, hurt, injure, steal, rob, and forcibly evict.

NB: A hate comment about an individual is not necessarily hate speech. It targets the individual as part of a group.
MOBILIZING CIVIL SOCIETY
INITIATIVES TO INCREASE RESPONSE MECHANISMS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Women, Action & the Media

TellMAMA: Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks

FIGHT AGAINST HATE

everyday sexism project

HATEBASE
MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY
RECOMMENDATIONS

STATES
SHOULD WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS TO COMBAT HATE SPEECH.

INTERNET INTERMEDIARIES
SHOULD DEVELOP COLLECTIVE PRINCIPLES FOR PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING ONLINE HATE SPEECH.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
SHOULD MONITOR HATE SPEECH AND ENGAGE IN COUNTER SPEECH.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS
SHOULD LEAD MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY CAMPAIGNS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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