

UNITED NATIONS PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

Coalitions to counter hate speech and reclaim inclusive and safe spaces free of hatred needed more than ever

New York, 16 – 17 June 2025 – To drown out the voices of hate, we need partnerships at every level, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres underlined today in a message to mark the fourth International Day for Countering Hate Speech, reminding that “hate speech is poison in the well of society. It has paved the way for violence and atrocity during the darkest chapters of human history”.

“Today, as this year’s theme reminds us, hate speech travels faster and farther than ever, amplified by Artificial Intelligence. Biased algorithms and digital platforms are spreading toxic content and creating new spaces for harassment and abuse. The Global Digital Compact, adopted at the Summit of the Future, offers a path forward: calling for stronger international cooperation to tackle hate online, rooted in human rights and international law,” he added.

Mr. Guterres’ message was delivered by the Acting Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and t UN Focal Point on Hate Speech, Virginia Gamba, at the high-level commemoration event held at the UN headquarters in New York on 16 June. The event marked the opening of a week-long discussion on the nexus of hate speech and Artificial Intelligence, through the prism of partnerships and coalition building.

Co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Office of the Special Adviser, and in partnership with the University of Essex and the Garden of the Righteous Worldwide Foundation, the high-level event urged all actors in society to build and strengthen coalitions to counter hate speech, and to disseminate good practices and lessons learned to enhance knowledge benefiting everyone.

Speaking in her capacity as the Acting Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Gamba stressed that more work is needed in this regard: “We continue to count on collaboration and support in tackling hate speech worldwide by continuing leveraging technological advances, especially when more effort is required to fully understand their capabilities, risks and impact in finding and addressing hate speech, so that we can limit its damage.”

Speaking at the event, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN, Ambassador Omar Hilale, underlined that “the meaningful commemoration of this International day requires more than a moment of contemplation but an urgent call to action to address risks posed by the misuse of AI and to curb harm from the spread of hate speech, misinformation and disinformation.” Ambassador Hilale showcased the efforts deployed nationally, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, to ensure ethical and responsible use of IA to counter hate speech, notably through Morocco’s Digital Strategy and the ongoing work to establish the national AI agency.

In his opening remarks, delivered by his Chef de Cabinet, the President of the UN General Assembly, Philemon Yang, noted that “we must promote robust governance structures and priorities that put safety and respect ahead in the digital space. Let us remember that hate also begins with words but so does peace. Just as hate can be learned, so can tolerance, compassion, and solidarity too. We each have a role to play in turning the tide towards progress.”

Other speakers at the event included the Under-Secretary-General (USG) and High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations, Miguel Angel Moratinos, the USG for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming, the USG and UN Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, Amandeep Singh Gill, the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier, and the Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide on the African Union, Adama Dieng.

The speakers recognized the current global context of increasing polarization and identity-based hate, where hate speech is polarizing communities and where AI and new technologies are shaping how we consume information and understand the world. Noting that AI is only as effective as the data and guardrails that underpin it, speakers underlined that AI needs human and humane training and oversight, with collaborative investment in monitoring, education and with a special focus on the role of young people as leaders in the field. At the same time, they also stressed that tech and social media companies need to be held accountable for their responsibilities and policies.

Following the high-level event, a dedicated session on “Decoding the Future: Beyond Prompts and Algorithms” featured challenges and opportunities on using AI for countering hate speech, which needs to be guided by human rights standards. The session featured Mr. Abdelatif Bencherifa, Dean and Head of the Public Policy Centre at the International University of Rabat, Dr. Gregory Stanton, Founder of the Genocide Watch, Ms. Theresa Rajah, Director of Online Violence Prevention at Moonshot, Ms. Eliška Pírková, the Senior Policy Analyst and Global Freedom of Expression Lead at Access Now, Mr. David Greene, Civil Liberties Director and Senior Staff Attorney at Electronic Frontier Foundation, and Ms. Gabrielle Guillemin, Human Rights Manager and Expressions and Standards lead at META.

Highlighting the context of a new era, where the tools and capacities to address and counter hate speech are present and at hand, speakers shared notable good practices, including updates on policies, community standards of practice, safety protection models and reiterated the importance of collaboration and transparency in action, especially when relating to conflict affected settings.

The International Day for Countering Hate Speech was established in 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/309 on *Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech* spearheaded by the Kingdom of Morocco. This year, the international day is marked with a [week-long series of thematic discussions](#) related to countering hate speech.

Find the recording of the entire [high-level event here](#).

. . . .

For media queries please contact:
Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
Email: osapg@un.org
<http://www.un.org/genocideprevention>