



Addressing the spread of hateful ideologies in politics

General Assembly 4



From a separated world to global peace: the need
for a new look on institutions.



Forum: General Assembly 4

Issue: Addressing the spread of hateful ideologies in politics

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Introduction

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR; 1948) sets forth the freedom of opinion and expression for all. Today, we value this right, because it prevents the abuse of power by governments, but also because one should not exclude another from public debate.

Unfortunately, interpreting this right too freely can also infringe on other fundamental rights, including the prohibition of discrimination. One is obliged to behave responsibly and respect the rights of others, so there are restrictions around national security, terrorism, crime, hate speech, and more (Equality and Human Rights Commission). This contradiction in the exercise of these fundamental human rights create a difficult challenge for (established) democracies in the world where both of these right are held in high regard.

Over the past few years, Europe and the USA have seen an increase in far-right groups, networks, and incidents. Sometimes these groups even become militant groups. There is a wave of anti-immigrant and Islamophobic violence in these established democracies. Anti-government sentiments are on the rise, as are (verbal) attacks on political opponents.

Members of the "Reichsbürger" movement wanted to storm parliament to stage a coup, Italy's Giorgia Meloni leads the most right-wing government in a democratic Europe since World War II, Donald Trump's right-wing populism emerged in the United States. The list goes on and seems inexhaustible (The Economist).

These hateful ideologies cause hate crimes, political violence, and even in some cases acts of terrorism.



Definition of Key Terms

Hateful ideology

Ideologies that are inherently polarising and are opposed to things like, but not limited to, migration and government, and promote violence and/or hate speech.

Populism

Political program or movement that champions, or claims to champion, the common person, usually by favourable contrast with a real or perceived elite or establishment (Munro).

Political violence

The deliberate use of power and force to achieve political goals (WHO).

Terrorism

The use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act (Wehmeier).

Art. 19 UDHR

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers (UN).

Art. 10 ECHR

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights establishes the right to freedom of expression and information (Equality and Human Rights Commission).

Hate crime

Violent acts that are committed against people because they are of a different race or ethnic group, because they are gay, inter alia (Wehmeier).

Alt-right

People with extremely right-wing political views, often including extreme views on race, who reject normal political processes and often use the internet to promote their beliefs (Wehmeier).

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities (IHRA).

Discrimination

The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability (APA).

Political polarization

The divergence of political attitudes to ideological extremes (Abramowitz en McCoy).



General Overview

The past few years have been incredibly challenging and deeply worrying as politics has been increasingly infiltrated by hateful and oppressive ideas such as racism, terrorism and far-right extremism. These dangerous ideologies pose a serious threat to our society and must be fought relentlessly if we are to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and equality. This sharp rise in populism and polarization is particularly prominent in countries with high levels of migration, which has led to an increase in nationalism and growing distrust of outsiders. This has had significant effects on social cohesion and created a climate of fear and insecurity. The violent attack on the US Capitol on 6 January 2021 served as a horrifying reminder of how dangerous extremist ideologies can be if left unchecked. The consequences of this kind of violence cannot be underestimated, and we must take action to ensure that these ideologies do not spread further and are properly regulated to ensure that our society remains safe.

The proliferation of far-right ideologies has spread around the world and leaders such as US President Donald Trump, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán have all been accused of promoting controversial extreme views. This has had dramatic consequences for both countries and led to a worrying increase in terror attacks, hate crimes and other forms of violence stemming from these extreme ideologies.

We must take immediate action to address the alarming spread of hateful ideologies in politics before the situation gets out of hand. We cannot allow these dangerous and divisive ideologies to continue to fester without tangible solutions. It is essential that we come together as a society and find meaningful ways to combat this problem before it is too late.



Major Parties Involved

Hungary

In recent years, Hungary has seen a rise in far-right populism and anti-gypsyism. This has been largely driven by the ruling Fidesz party, which has used its power to promote an agenda of xenophobia and racism. This has had a devastating effect on the country's Roma population, who have been subjected to discrimination and violence. The situation is further complicated by the fact that many of these policies are supported by a large portion of the Hungarian population.

Brazil

Following false allegations of electoral fraud in Brazil's 2022 parliamentary elections and to prevent a possible return of Lula as president, Jair Bolsonaro staged a coup against the Brazilian Congress in 2023. This raid had devastating consequences for Brazil's political and social order.

United States

The United States has seen a dramatic increase in racial resentment, negative partisanship and polarisation since the election of President Donald Trump. This has been fuelled by a combination of factors, including the president's rhetoric and policies and the widening divide between Democrats and Republicans.

Poland

In 2015, the populist authoritarian party Law and Justice (PiS) won both parliamentary and presidential elections in Poland. This was a result of a combination of factors, including unsustainable economic growth and cultural backlash against the liberal reforms of the previous administration. The PiS' victory marked an important shift in Polish politics, as it shifted away from the traditionally pro-European Union stance of its predecessors.

This political shift has had profound implications for Poland's relationship with the EU and its neighbouring countries. It has also resulted in an increase in populism in Polish politics which has had a significant impact on public discourse and policymaking.

Netherlands

Populism and nationalism are on the rise in the Netherlands, as evidenced by the success of Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV) in recent elections. The PVV and other nationalist-populist parties have used social media to spread their message of anti-immigration and anti-multiculturalism. This has led to an increase in racism against immigrants, especially Muslims, and opposition to the country's immigration policy.

Canada

Populism and right-wing extremism have also been on the rise in Canada, with the emergence of the People's Party of Canada (PPC) led by Maxime Bernier. The PPC has been



vocal in its anti-establishment, anti-immigration, and nationalist views. This has been further emboldened by the recent trucker protest which saw thousands of people take to the streets to voice their opposition to government policies.

The rise of populism and right-wing extremism in Canada is a cause for concern as it can lead to racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance.

Italy

Italy's government is currently in a precarious position, with the far right having an unprecedented level of influence. In recent years, Italy has seen a resurgence of links to Mussolini-era fascism, and this has been reflected in the country's politics. This has resulted in the most right-wing government Italy has seen in decades, with far-right parties such as the League and Brothers of Italy playing a major role.



Timeline of Events

Viktor Orbán becomes prime minister again	2010
PiS wins both parliamentary and presidential elections	2015
The PPC formed by Maxime Bernier	2018
United States Capitol attack	January 6, 2021
Invasion of the Brazilian Congress	January 8, 2023



Previous attempts to solve the issue

Strategic campaigns were used to raise public awareness of the very real dangers posed by hateful ideologies and the ways we can work together as a society to prevent their spread. Such campaigns highlighted our shared humanity and the need for understanding, compassion and tolerance to create a more inclusive world.

States have been called upon to ensure accountability and reparations for human rights violations at borders and adopt a racial justice approach, including by adopting policies to address structural racism in the management of international migration flows.



Possible solutions

A comprehensive approach to combating hateful ideologies in politics is essential, requiring both short-term and long-term strategies. This includes working at both local and national levels, and developing programmes that can promote understanding and tolerance between different cultures and groups. It is also paramount to develop initiatives that address the root cause of such hateful ideologies by promoting educational opportunities, economic empowerment and social inclusion for everyone, especially including also those who are most vulnerable and marginalised. This will help build a more united and harmonious society. All these measures together will contribute to a climate where respect is the norm and there is no place for hatred. In the near future, it is of utmost importance that laws and policies aimed at addressing hate speech and discrimination are swiftly implemented to ensure a safe and just environment for all. Such measures are essential to promote social cohesion, reduce animosity between different groups and create an atmosphere of mutual respect. While in the long run, it is necessary to create a culture of acceptance and understanding. Education and awareness campaigns can also play an important role in combating hateful ideologies by educating people about the dangers of such ideologies.

Moreover, by actively encouraging dialogue and cooperation between different social groups, it is possible to bridge the gaps between them and build mutual understanding. Ultimately, dealing effectively with hate ideologies requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account all aspects of society, such as education, politics, religion and culture.



Useful documents

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