



# MEDIMUN XVI Annual Session 2020



**RESEARCH REPORT – GA3**

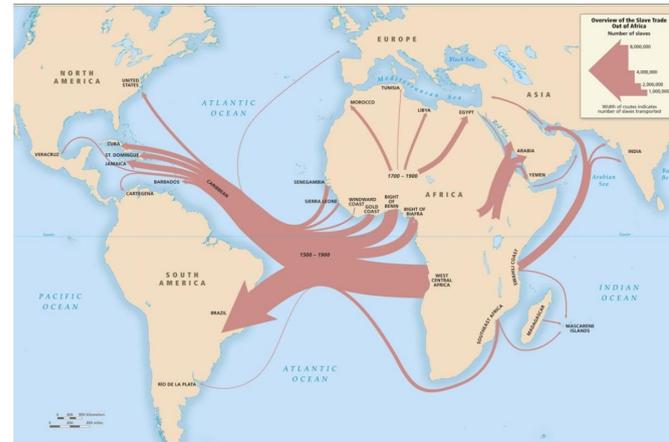
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# Topic 1: The question of racial discrimination and xenophobia in the workplace

## Introduction

In the 15th century, the Portuguese monarchy brought the first people of African descent to Europe, and in 1503 the Spanish shipped the first slaves from Europe to the Americas; and so began years long of slavery. Many years later in 1804, the people of Haiti led a slave revolt against the French, creating the first country in the Western hemisphere to formally abolish slavery. However, things were far from over. It wasn't until the 1960s when legislative changes were being made to establish equal social and work environments for people of different races. Even in today's society racial discrimination in the workplace and xenophobia are still issues that need to be combatted.



## Definition of Key Terms

1. **Race**: A race is one of the major groups which human beings can be divided into according to their physical features, such as the colour of their skin.
2. **Racism**: Racism is the belief that people of some races are inferior to others, and the behaviour which is the result of this belief. Racism also refers to the aspects of a society which prevent people of some racial groups from having the same privileges and opportunities as people from other races.
3. **Discrimination**: Discrimination is the practice of treating one person or group of people less fairly or less well than other people or groups.
4. **Xenophobia**: Xenophobia is strong and unreasonable dislike or fear of people from other countries.
5. **Passive racism**: Passive racism is the denial or the overlooking of the existence of racism which then encourages others to do the same and enables racism to grow.
6. **Institutional racism**: Institutional racism is racial discrimination that derives from individuals carrying out the dictates of others who are prejudiced or of a prejudiced society.
7. **Structural racism**: Structural racism refers to inequalities rooted in the system-wide operation of a society that excludes substantial numbers of members of particular groups from significant participation in major social institutions.

Types of Discrimination in the Workplace

8. Direct discrimination: Direct discrimination is when an employer treats an employee worse than someone else in a comparable situation.
9. Harassment: Harassment is unwanted conduct, bullying or other behaviour that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.
10. Instruction to discriminate: Instruction to discriminate is when a person incites another to discriminate against someone else.
11. Victimisation: Victimisation is where people suffer negative consequences in reaction to a complaint about discrimination.

## **General Overview**

Racism in the workplace is due to many reasons that stem from our society. A recent study separated these reasons to better understand why racism exists (using USA as an example)

These reasons are:

- “1)Categories, which organize people into distinct groups by promoting essentialist and normative reasoning,*
- 2)Factions, which trigger ingroup loyalty and intergroup competition and threat,*
- 3)Segregation, which hardens racist perceptions, preferences, and beliefs through the denial of intergroup contact,*
- 4)Hierarchy, which emboldens people to think, feel, and behave in racist ways,*
- 5) Power,which legislates racism on both micro and macro levels,*
- 6) Media, which legitimizes overrepresented and idealized representations of White Americans while marginalizing and minimizing people of color, and*
- 7) Passivism, such that overlooking or denying the existence of racism obscures this reality, encouraging others to do the same and allowing racism to fester and persist”*

It is seen that there are a multitude of reasons that there is racial discrimination in the work place and different countries may face these issues on different levels. Tackling racism in the workplace also means tackling racism in general, therefore it is important when addressing this issue to carefully take into account the culture and history of the country.

Xenophobia (the fear of people from foreign countries) is primarily due to three main factors:

- 1) The amount of interaction the natives have with people from foreign countries
- 2) The extent of nationalism expressed by the people
- 3) Economic factors such as job opportunities or use of resources

As seen from both racism and xenophobia, they both start with a negative view of people who are different. In a world where globalization is prominent, xenophobia and racism have grown stronger as people who hold such ideas become even more unaccepting of the situation. However, the increase in globalization is unavoidable, so how can countries work together to better the society we live in?

## **Major Parties Involved**

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

The EU, as a body composed of many different countries and cultures, has taken measures to ensure that all workers within the EU have equal rights and are treated fairly. Any legislation passed by the EU holds more sovereignty than the laws of the country. Therefore, the European Union is a leading example of a body that has attempted to resolve these issues with practical and enforceable acts.

### **United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations embodies values such as equality, freedom and quality of life. The UN was one of the first institutions to propose and pass international solutions to this issue. Starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and leading to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) with the development of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to monitor the implementation of the aforementioned convention. The UN has also designated a number of observance days such as the 21st of March (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) 25th of March (International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade).

### **International Labor Organization (ILO)**

Founded in 1919, the ILO is the oldest and the first specialized body of the United Nations. Its goals are to advocate for rights at work, to further decent employment opportunities and create solutions for the minimization of work related issues. In 1998 the ILO adopted the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work stating international workers rights and dedicating the ILO to fighting racism in the workplace. Even if countries are not signatories to any major conventions they are asked to provide annual reports on their status of workers' rights which is reviewed by the Committee of Independent Expert Advisers and their review is then considered by the ILO. The ILO has also spearheaded many projects to reduce racial discrimination and xenophobia in the workplace around the world.

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

The USA is perhaps the first country we think of when we talk about racism. From the moment slavery ended in 1865 until the end of segregation in 1964, almost 100 years later, african americans faced horrific racism in the work place and it wasn't just african americans, many asian minorities as well faced these issues to extreme levels. It took people like William E. B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey and Ida B. Wells, who set up the NAACP, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who led a movement with a dream, and Barack Obama, who became the first african american president of the USA, to combat racism and make changes in society. Even though all of this has happened many still face racial discrimination and xenophobia and things are far from over.

## South Africa

In 1948 South Africa's National Party (NP) rose to power and with it brought apartheid. Apartheid (literally meaning apartness) was a form of racial segregation that was institutionalized throughout the country. The NP passed legislation that favored the white minority and disadvantaged the black majority. People of color in South Africa faced harsh living conditions and working conditions. Even after 1993, after 3 year-long negotiations, racism had not ended. In 2000 South Africa passed legislation to fight against this issue and to some extent it has succeeded. However, in 2013 a government study found that 62.7% of employees at top management level were white and much of the racism has now become less explicit and more implicit, through jokes and mimicking stereotypes.

## **Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

- United Nation's International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
- European Union's Council Directive 2000/43/EC, 2000
- USA's Civil Rights Act 1964 and amendment Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1972
- South Africa's Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000
- South Africa's Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000
- Project by ILO, funded by Sweden: Forced Labor, Discrimination and Poverty reduction among indigenous peoples in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru (2006-2008)

## **Possible solutions**

- I. Encourage more countries to sign the ICERD
- II. Develop ways to support victims of racial discrimination in the workplace
- III. Create ways to educate people and especially the youth to recognize racism and to not promote it
- IV. Update the ways sensitivity training is done so as it is more engaging
- V. Develop more effective ways to be informed about the extent of racial discrimination in countries

## **Appendix/Appendices**

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## Topic 2: The question of the treatment of Muslim minorities in China

### Introduction

More than a million Muslims have been arbitrarily detained in China's Xinjiang region. Some eight hundred thousand to two million Uighurs and other Muslims, including ethnic Kazakhs and Uzbeks, have been detained since April 2017, according to leaked government documents and testimonies of government officials. The 're-education camps' are just one part of the government's crackdown on Uighurs. Most detained individuals have never been charged with crimes and have no legal avenues to challenge their detentions.

### Definition of Key Terms

**Uyghur**, Chinese (Pinyin) Weiwu'er, also spelled Uygur or Uighur: a Turkish-speaking people of Muslim-Turkic ethnicity minority group of interior Asia.

**Forced Sterilisation:** a process or act that renders an individual incapable of sexual reproduction, despite the individual expressly refusing the procedure, without their knowledge or without them being given an opportunity to provide consent.



### General Overview

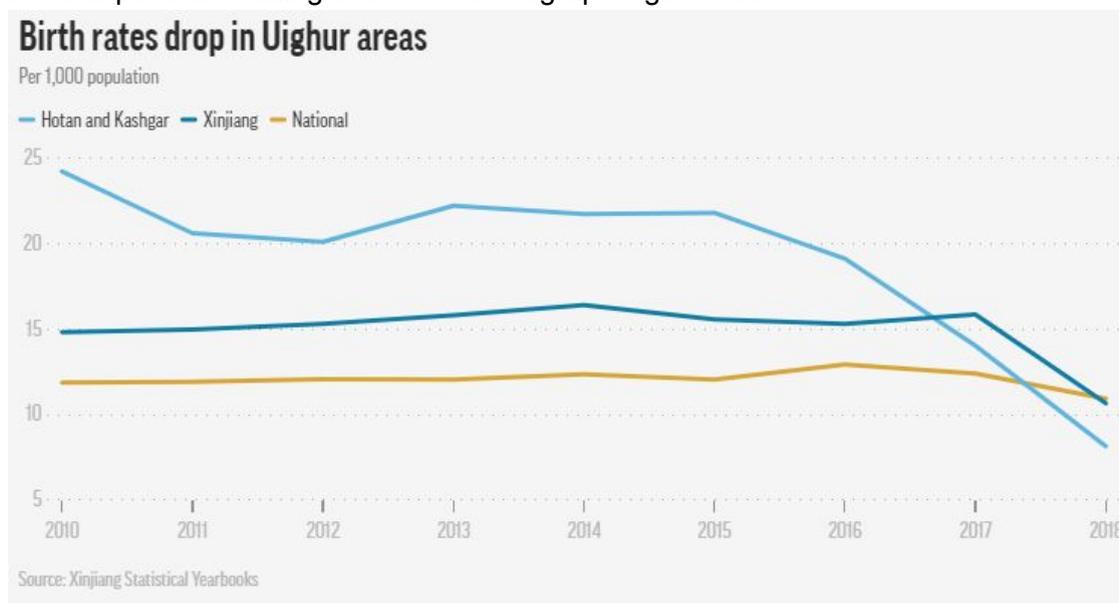
Uighurs live for the most part in northwestern China, in the Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang; there were some 10,000,000 Uighurs in China and at least a combined 300,000 in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in the early 21st century.

The Uighurs are mainly a sedentary village-dwelling people who live in the network of oases formed in the valleys and lower slopes of the Tien Shan, Pamirs, and related mountain systems. The region's economy has for centuries revolved around agriculture and trade.

Media reports implicate the Chinese government in the locking up of hundreds of thousands of Muslims without trial in the western region of Xinjiang. It is believed that the Chinese government has detained up to a million Uighurs over the past few years in what the state defines as "re-education camps". The Chinese government is accused, inter alia, of running a forced sterilisation programme against Uighur women. Several reports strongly suggest that China's 'ideological education' is a guise for torture, rape and indoctrination.

According to survivor testimonies, Uighur women between the ages of 18 and 59 have been systematically forced to have Intrauterine Device (IUD) implantations, preventing them from being able to give birth. In cases where IUD sterilisations were unsuccessful, sterilisation operations were forced upon the women. The sterilisation scheme targeted Uighur women exclusively.

While individual women have spoken out before about forced birth control, the practice is far more widespread and systematic than previously known, according to investigations analysing government statistics, state documents and interviews with 30 ex-detainees, family members and former detention camp instructors. The campaign over the past four years in the far west region of Xinjiang is leading to what some experts are calling a form of “demographic genocide.”



‘The testimonies of some of the survivors indicate that extremely unhygienic conditions prevail in these camps owing to a lack of adequate sanitation, overcrowded and closed spaces, and poor medical facilities.’

### **Stance of the Chinese government:**

The government denies the accusations, claiming that Uyghur Muslims willingly attend special “vocational schools” which combat “terrorism and religious extremism”.

The Chinese Communist party has reinforced what has been described as a propaganda campaign to justify a mass internment programme of more than 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim-majority peoples in the region. The instalment of “The exhibition on major violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang” in the largest museum in Urumqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang region, in February 2020, constitutes a recent example. The instalment serves the purpose of displaying the crimes of murky “terrorist” organisations, according to Chinese authorities.

Sean Roberts, an anthropologist at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs deconstructs how the “terrorism” label was appropriated after 9/11 to explain violent acts of resistance in Xinjiang in his book ‘The War on the Uyghurs: China’s Internal Campaign against a Muslim Minority.’ The International War on Terror constituted justification and inspiration for recent drastic escalations.



### **Uighur oppression in Xinjiang**

After the 9/11 attacks had occurred Beijing convinced Washington to list the Uighur Muslim group living in the Xinjiang region as a terrorist group, resulting in some Uighur Muslims being captured by coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Though this crackdown on the Uighur Muslims began in 2014, it was only in 2017 that these events started drawing global attention.

On April 22, 2018, a satellite had swung over China's far west, which had shown photos of a highly secure compound with a 16 guards tower.

Since 2019, the party has moved hundreds of thousands of Uighurs and other Xinjiang peoples from internment camps and villages into factories in those industrial parks built by east China provinces, cities and companies as part of the development project. It has also transferred tens of thousands of Uighurs to factories in eastern parts of China, housing them in barracks under military-style discipline.

In doing so, the People's Republic of China has made Chinese provinces, cities and hundreds of companies that invested in Xinjiang and built and supplied the internment camps, partners in the Xinjiang concentration camp system. Recent investigations have implicated at least 83 global brands in supply chains connected to this forced labour regime.

Over 380 suspected detention facilities have been identified in the Xinjiang region, according to September 2020 reports of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

Moreover, recent reports by International news organisations show that Uighur Muslims were forced into work by the People's Republic of China to compensate for the shortage of labourers during the first stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has

been criticised as exploitation, as Uighur lives were jeopardized, while other citizens self-isolated, their health and safety being prioritized. This substantiates discrimination claims- the virus can be considered reflective of the way the Uighur minority is treated by the People's Republic of China.

To this day, the number of detained individuals that were infected within the internment camps remains undetermined- it is unknown whether the detainees were provided with the required medical assistance or not.

According to this mounting evidence, China is violating international human rights law. China has ratified several human rights treaties including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). China's ratification of these treaties means it is legally bound to their general purpose as well as their provisions, excluding any reservations. Moreover, China's abuses against the Uighurs are rising to the level of genocide and crimes against humanity, both of which violate jus cogens. Jus cogens are peremptory norms under international law and no State can derogate from these norms. China is violating its obligations under international law with little avenues of accountability.

Social media reports have noted ongoing surveillance of tourists and journalists in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi. Diplomats are, almost without exception, denied access to the region. activists continue to face serious risks and threats, to themselves and their families, for providing information to the UN.

The international Uighur Muslim community has been trying to draw the world's attention through social media platforms such as twitter, where posts raising awareness of the 'mistreatment' of Uighur Muslims went viral. Social media platforms, including the newly launched Tik Tok app, have been used as forums for discussion on the issue, which gained international exposure, especially among younger generation users.



## **Major Parties Involved**

**People's Republic of China:** Beijing's longstanding desire to assimilate the Uighurs has reportedly motivated Uighur oppression in the Xinjiang internment camps. The Chinese authorities constitute a key stakeholder, since they possess the powers to end Uighur oppression. They have not exhibited a desire to do so in recent years; on October 6, 2020, China's ambassador, Zhang Jun, responded to the condemnation of Uighur 're-education' by 30 Member States by targeting the United States. Without addressing the Uighur issue, he claimed China's human rights achievements are "widely recognized" and he urged Washington to "take a good look in the mirror" and eliminate racial discrimination in its own society before attacking other countries. China has, on several occasions, restricted access to the concentration camps, prohibiting reporters and investigative journalists from experiencing a first-hand visit to the facilities.

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):** On June 15, 2019, the Chinese government invited UN High Commissioner Michele Bechelet to visit the region, following Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office Vladimir Voronkov's "guided" tour of the Xinjiang detention camps. However, the UN High Commissioner has declared that she will accept the invitation only in the scenario that Beijing grants free, unconditional access to the camps, guaranteeing the Commissioner's free communication with interns or guards, without elements of censorship.

**Uighur community:** The international Uighur Muslim community demanded that a delegation from the World Health Organization be sent to the internment camps to monitor the outbreak, control the spread of the virus, provide the medical help assistance and pressurise the People's Republic of China to release the Uighur Muslims from the internment camps. This request was not fulfilled.

**International Community-Member States:** On October 19, 2019, British UN ambassador Karen Pierce delivered a joint statement at the general assembly on behalf of 23 countries. In her statement she called on the Chinese government to uphold its national laws and international obligations and commitments to respect human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, in Xinjiang and across China. She also called on the Chinese government to allow the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Procedures immediate unfettered, meaningful access to Xinjiang.

In 2019, 23 countries joined the condemnation of China on the Uighur issue, and the near doubling of countries signaled that there is growing international concern about Beijing's policy toward the ethnic minority in October 2020.



### **Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

Human rights organizations, UN officials, and many foreign governments are urging China to stop the crackdown. However, Chinese officials maintain that what they call vocational training centres do not infringe on Uighurs' human rights.

The UN has been inviting officials to visit Xinjiang to verify abuses against the Uyghurs for months. Evidently, these visits have not been fruitful, since there have been no significant changes to the treatment of individuals currently in the internment camp.

Recently, two Uighur groups filed a complaint against Chinese officials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and urged the prosecutor to investigate genocide and crimes against humanity. The groups argue that since China pursued unlawful arrests in or deportation from Cambodia and Tajikistan, the court has jurisdiction. Cambodia and Tajikistan are members of the ICC. In an interview with JURIST, Rodney Dixon, the lead lawyer on the case, stated that jurisdiction "shouldn't be a barrier at all." In 2018, the ICC ruled it had jurisdiction on Myanmar's criminal activity against the Rohingya because part of that activity occurred in Bangladesh, an ICC member state. Dixon mentioned that the 2018 ruling is in the "early stages of the ICC developing and setting the precedent, but this (Uighur case) would reinforce it." The ICC has, so far, acknowledged receipt of the complaint.

U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) issued their findings and 8 recommendations on the situation in Xinjiang, following investigations and dialogue with a nearly 50-strong Chinese delegation. In August 2018, the UN expert group released a concise but comprehensive document summarising their findings on discrimination in the country, and making recommendations for action by the Chinese government. While diplomatic and largely constructive, the report is nonetheless a clear rebuke of China's blanket denial of repression of Uyghur, Tibetan and other minority populations, and a rebuttal to China's claims of 'ethnic harmony'.

Key areas of concern highlighted by the UN experts include reports of:

1. widespread torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary and incommunicado detention of human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and ethnic minority groups
2. mass detention and 're-education' of Muslim minority groups
3. significant restrictions on the ability of independent civil society organisations to register and operate

Acknowledging that the official government position was one of blanket denial of detention and 're-education' camps, the experts urged an immediate halt to extra-legal detentions, release and redress for those currently in re-education centres, documentation and accountability for racial profiling of Muslims, and a reversal of the effective travel ban on Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

## **Possible Solutions**

There are two main avenues under international law that would hold China accountable for its crimes against the Uighurs but both avenues are blocked because of the structure of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). China has not consented to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, but Chinese authorities can still be put on trial if the UNSC adopts a resolution and refers the resolution to the ICC prosecutor. A UNSC resolution that halts the operation of the camps should be adopted, and that resolution should also be referred to the ICC prosecutor to prosecute the Chinese authorities involved. These pathways of legal accountability would be open if China was not a permanent member of the UNSC.

Other countries, multilateral organisations, NGOs and people outside the US and Chinese governments must think and act with agility to help stop the genocide. Investigations of supply chains, shaming and sanctioning of corporations and officials linked to the Xinjiang gulag and similarly targeted measures will be important.

Providing support and legal refuge to Uighur, Kazakh and other Xinjiang exiles is critical.

The Security Council could be encouraged to adopt a resolution establishing a new sanctions regime, where it can determine the precise sanctions measure – such as arms embargoes, asset freezes or travel bans, for example – that could be imposed.

The Council could also be urged to identify the individuals or entities that can be subject to these 'targeted' sanctions measures. A Sanctions Committee could oversee it, while an expert panel could be established to monitor the implementation of the sanctions measures and report its findings to the committee.

The individuals or entities sanctioned can change – with new names being added or removed from the list.

## **Appendix/Appendices**

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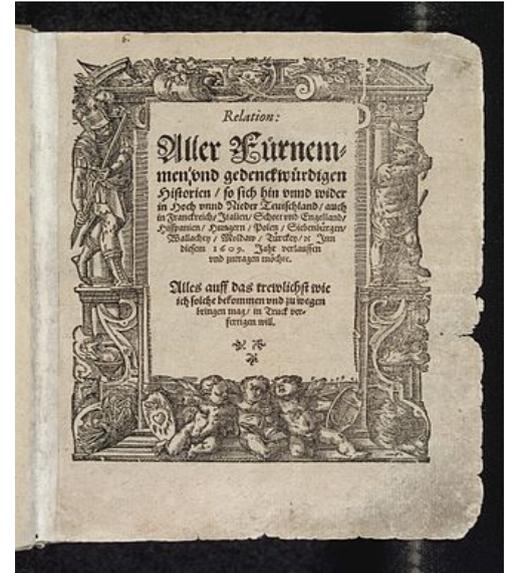
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## Topic 3: The question of tackling disinformation and misinformation in mass media

### Introduction

The first form of mass media was the newspaper and the first one was the *Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien* printed from 1605 onwards, in Strasbourg. Ever since then, misinformation and disinformation has been an issue. In today's world where social media has allowed people to access global news the risk of reading and spreading false information has become more dangerous. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to much misinformation, however there are numerous other examples. For example, in 2016 a story leaked on Facebook with the headline "FBI Agent Suspected In Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead In Apparent Murder-Suicide". Even though it was completely false it was shared over 500,000 times. This is just another example of the extent to which disinformation spreads and that it affects all areas of our lives, from health to politics.

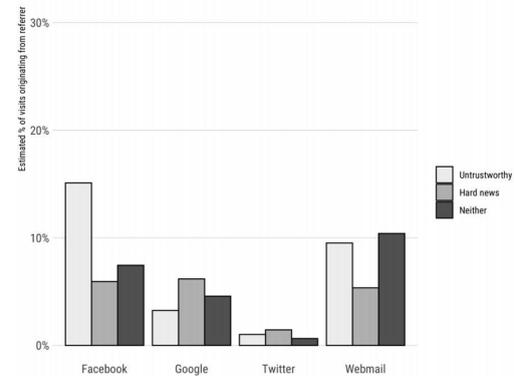


### Definition of Key Terms

- **Disinformation:** Information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organisation or country
- **Misinformation:** Information that is false but not created with the intention of causing harm
- **Mal-information:** Information that is based on reality, used to inflict harm on a person, social group, organisation or country
- **Mass media** refers to a diverse array of media technologies that reach a large audience via mass communication. The technologies through which this communication takes place include a variety of outlets.
- **Broadcasting** is the distribution of audio or video content to a dispersed audience via any electronic mass communications medium, but typically one using the electromagnetic spectrum (radio waves), in a **one-to-many** model
- **Outdoor media** transmit information via such media as AR advertising; billboards; blimps; flying billboards (signs in tow of airplanes); placards or kiosks placed inside and outside buses, commercial buildings, shops, sports stadiums, subway cars, or trains; signs; or skywriting
- **Print media** transmit information via physical objects, such as books, comics, magazines, newspapers, or pamphlets
- **Social media:** interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the creation or sharing of information, ideas, career interests, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks

## General Overview

A research in 2016 around the US presidential election period, conducted by Andrew Guess of Princeton University, found that in a study of over 3000 Americans Facebook was the referrer site for untrustworthy news sources over 15% of the time. By contrast, Facebook referred users to authoritative news sites only 6% of the time.



### **Weaponization of the term**

Julie Posetti, research fellow at Oxford University's Reuters Institute, told the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) that the term "Fake News" had been weaponized to attack and discredit legitimate, critical reporting designed to hold powerful people, governments to account. "It's a term that's gone viral in the most destructive way, and it's unfortunately it's been licensed by democratic governments. We need to find new ways to discuss this crisis."

### **However**

Journalism has been poisoned with vested (political) interests and its profitability has destroyed credibility meaning that factual information is no longer for the benefit of the public, but aimed at manipulating them. This is not only on a minor scale, but there are many countries that have complete control over the media therefore there is no way, or no easy way, these people can find reliable and true information.

## Major Parties Involved

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO is one of the organizations that has taken on the challenge to combat misinformation and disinformation on global scale. In 2013 UNESCO started conceptualizing Internet Universality and created the ROAM principles (Rights, Openness, Accessibility to all, Multi-Stakeholder participation) so that they could define their stance on the topic. Two years later it endorsed these principles which showed a big step forward for UNESCO. In 2019, UNESCO had created a solid platform and with the interest of 13 countries wishing to implement these principles the project has started as a success. In this way, UNESCO has attempted to increase the spread of reliable information.

## Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

This body of the Human Rights Council is the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system. It is tasked with finding facts and monitoring situations in countries on specific issues all around the world and reporting to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly on their topics. As of 7 October 2020, there are 44 thematic and 11 country mandates. The Special Procedures has continued to find and promote accurate information that can be used by the UN, reporters worldwide and individuals who wish to stay updated on certain issues.

## International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

Founded in 1984 by Tom Winship, Jim Ewing, and George Krimsky, the ICFJ is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. that works one on one with journalists worldwide to promote good quality journalism with accurate information. The ICFJ has supplied over 150,000 journalists in 180 countries with reliable information since its creation and has formed ways for journalists to collaborate and communicate. For example, the International Journalists' Network (IJNet) provides resources, not only to journalists but also to civilians, on a variety of issues in eight languages. To combat current rise in disinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICFJ has created the Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum via which people can learn about accurate and up to date information through webinars by health experts, in five languages.

According to research in 2019 by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) the top ten most censored countries are: Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus and Cuba.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

1. The World Health Organization (WHO), which has been leading the battle against the pandemic, is transmitting reliable information based on science while simultaneously striving to counter myths about the issue. One way in which they achieved to minimize the spread of this misinformation is by having information centers within the countries to pass on reliable information in the local language.
2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has published two policy briefs that assess the misinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICFJ supported the briefs, ensuring the information is accurate, reliable and promoted it to journalists worldwide.
3. WHO allied with WhatsApp and Facebook to launch messaging services in several languages, in order to share critical guidance on COVID-19. This

easy-to-use messaging service could reach up to 2 billion people and allows WHO to pass information on directly to the world population.

4. The United Nations worked and continues to work with thousands of civil society organizations globally that are associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) and affiliated with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Together with WHO, the DGC launched a global civil society survey about COVID-19 to learn what misinformation and myths were spread around the world.
  
5. CrossCheck, an online collaboration for the verification of information started in 2017. It's first project was detecting misleading information regarding the French Presidential election, but now it generally aims to provide the public with the necessary information to form their own conclusions about the information they receive. By working collaboratively, we hope to more quickly ascertain what is not factual or reliable, and to give that information to newsrooms and the public.

## **Possible Solutions**

- Create platforms where governments can also share ideas and information on how to deal with this issue
- Encourage countries to pass legislation to ensure that the media within the country remains neutral and portrays accurate information
- Improve some existing institutions that are spreading reliable information so that it reaches more people in more countries
- Find ways to better implement the United Nations' Freedom of Expression Monitors Issue Joint Declaration on 'Fake News', Disinformation and Propaganda
- Educate more people about misinformation and disinformation and where to find reliable data

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## Topic 3: Enter your committee's third topic in full here

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