Annual Report 2019
The #defyhatenow initiative works on providing community-based and data-driven solutions to the problem of hate speech, disinformation and misinformation. Our work focuses on creating a framework for increasing trust between stakeholders through mobilizing civic action against all forms of hate speech and incitement to violence.

#defyhatenow seeks to support the voices and actions of citizens working against online induced conflict within and outside affected regions by bringing youth, community leaders, grassroots organizations and further civil society stakeholders into a peace-oriented media and information literacy framework. Bridging gaps of knowledge and awareness of social media mechanisms between those with access to technology and those without.

In 2019 a #defyhatenow Community Based Organisation has been legally registered in South Sudan, while further crisis intervention initiatives have been introduced in Cameroon and Ethiopia.

#defyHatenow is an initiative to combat social media hate speech by the r0g_agency for open culture and critical transformation, Berlin.
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Creating Strategies to Prevent Violent Extremism, Online and Offline

An engaging three-day workshop in Douala, Cameroon’s capital, with the support of UNESCO. The workshop brought together 60 participants who included youth leaders, political parties representatives, artists, activists, and media professionals. This event led to the formation of ‘les influenceurs’, an online community, of artists with diverse talents who brainstormed on creative ideas that can be used to engage the public in hate speech mitigation activities. The participants were able to come up with a short video on hate that has been viewed more than 10,000 times so far.

15th October 2019

EWER / Hate Speech Monitoring Platform - Multi-Party Development initiated

A platform for analysing data and providing insights on the use of hate speech on social media. In conjunction with local monitors, piloting a system that, with the aid of analytics tools can help predict conflict exacerbating situations and identify conflict influencers.
25th November 2019

**#Act4Peace237 - Fellowship and Micro-Grant Program Launch**

Introduction to identified CSOs to apply for up to 8 grants for 3-month rapid implementation proposals awarded to organisations engaged in a.) media policy/tech dev b.) community peacebuilding or c.) art / culture activism for targeted actions / activities / campaigns / AV productions

22nd - 25th November 2019

**Field Guide Content Sprint**

Regional Peacebuilder Experts Meeting to contextualise, research, and gather information to develop a Cameroon specific and bilingual English / French language ‘Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide’. Twelve experts from seven peacebuilder organisations participated in forming an editorial team, focusing on training systems and strategies to address conflict mitigation.

5th December 2019

**Yaounde International Fair/UNESCO**

This day sought to enhance access to information for public opinion and more specifically for the young Cameroonian on the Dangers of Hate Speech in Cameroon. The Yaoundé Internal Festival brought together the public for an in-depth reflection on Hate Speech. Focus was on the root causes of hate speech and ways of mitigating its spread.
6th December 2019

**Hate Free Messages with the Media and Artist**

This day sought to understand how the media and artists utilize their platforms to combat hate speech messages. I also empowered them on various sensitization campaigns and enabled participants to broaden their ideas on hate speech theatrics and foster peace messages.

12th - 13th December 2019

**#FactsMatter Bloggers training**

Specialised conflict mitigation, content moderation, and fact-checking training for 30 leading Cameroonian bloggers. The aim was that each blogger would be able to enhance his/her blog to be more factual based and less susceptible to the spread of hate speech and misinformation in Cameroon.
27th - 28th December 2019
**PeaceBuilder MakerSpace Design Sprint**

A two days design sprint with ‘maker space’ groups to develop community-based resource centres and tools on “How does a Peacebuilder Maker Space look like and how will it function.”

4th - 5th January 2020
**#FactsMatter237 Fellowship Douala**

A two-day workshop with Fellows selected from the bloggers’ workshop, from 5 towns in Cameroon. They were trained on Fact-Checking Techniques, methodologies to write reports in English and French.

5th January 2020
**Trauma and Healing Meetup**

A One-day trauma and healing session in the Buea-South West Region, with Internally displaced persons (IDP) most of whom were girls. The town has witnessed a rise in the number of its inhabitants who carry sexual, physical, and mental trauma from the Anglophone Crisis.
A two-day workshop with Fellows selected from the bloggers’ workshop, from 5 towns in Cameroon. They were trained on Fact-Checking Techniques, methodologies to write reports in English and French. This session reviewed the one month Fact-Checking period of FactChecking by the Fellows.

8th - 11th February 2020

**Students Retreat on Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence**

Students from secondary and high school led by school administrators and student leaders were called upon to develop poems, make sketches, and talk to other students on the dangers of hate speech and incitement to violence in schools, online, and in different communities.

17th - 19th February 2020

**Community Radio Animators Training in Mbalmayo**

Training local/Community radio media personalities in cooperation with UNESCO on Hate speech, incitement to violence, and post-electoral reporting in their communities. These personalities who report in local languages, Pidgin English, French, and English will act as community relays to information dissemination and community outreach.
A one day workshop with pidgin broadcasters drawn from four regions in Cameroon. The North West, the South West, the Littoral, and the Center region to raise awareness on the dangers of biased reporting, hate speech, incitement to violence in the wake of the Anglophone community. Pidgin English, the most widely used lingua franca in the two anglophone regions, has been the primary communication tool between the people as well as between separatist fighters.
The main focus of the workshop was to provide international and regional perspectives and strategies on data protection and give insight into the data protection landscape in South Sudan. This gave the much-needed background information that revealed the vital role that data protection policies would play in the country.

The aim of the workshop was to unveil the gaps and issues in data protection in the South Sudanese context, and highlight how they can be addressed by the South Sudanese government, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.
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