

Forum: General Assembly 3 (SOCHUM)

Issue: Measures to Reduce the Incidence of Hate Crimes

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Introduction

Before the 1980s, hate crimes had been already a serious problem not only in the United States, but also in many other nations such as Germany and the United Kingdom. Hate crimes have caused many problems and outbreaks recently due to violence over different ethnic groups, thoughts about superiority, and many more factors. According to the statistics of hate crime deaths given by the FBI in 2017, hate crimes have increased by 17 percent. However, it is still difficult to tell if hate crimes are actually increasing or decreasing due to the fact that reporting hate crimes in a voluntary action taken by States and localities.

The reason why hate crimes are so dangerous is because of the “influence” behind these actions. A mob is defined as “a large crowd of people, especially one that is disorderly and intent on causing trouble or violence”. Usually, in a mob, people share the blame and work together without really thinking much. With these characteristics, a mob often carry out hate crimes with disgusting and inhumane methods. For example, in India, lynching is a practice to punish ones who are proved to be wrong or even innocents. Therefore, this is why mob lynching and hate crimes have turned into an international crisis.

Definition of Key Terms

Hate Crime

A crime motivated (caused) because of prejudice such as racism, sexism, and other types of prejudice. Hate crimes are crimes which targets a certain group of people; an example would be crimes which target gay people in specific. This is the key term of this issue.

Discrimination

The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially when it comes to race, sex, or age. Discrimination is a major reason on why hate crimes are carried out often. An example of discrimination would be insults towards blacks.

Racist

Someone who believes that a certain race is more superior than the other.

Race

One of the major divisions of humankind (having distinct physical characteristics). Races are the roots of hate crimes and an example of a race would be people with white skin.

Sexual-orientation

A person's sexual identity; related to the gender in which they are attracted to (homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual).

Religion

The belief in or worship of a superhuman controlling power. An example of religion would be Christianity.

Anti-semitism

The prejudice against Jews.

Assault

An action that consists of physical attack on a certain victim. An example of an assault would be a sexual assault on a lady.

Homophobia

The dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people.

Klu Klux Klan

The name of three of the past and present organizations found in the United States which have advocated extremist reactionary currents.

Holocaust

A destruction or slaughter on a mass scale (mainly caused by fire or nuclear war). An example of a Holocaust would be the slaughtering of Jews by the Nazis.

Genocide

A destruction or slaughter on a mass scale (mainly caused by fire or nuclear war). An example of a genocide would be the Holodomor created by the Soviet Union (USSR).

Closeted

A person who is not open about their sexual-orientation.

Diversity

The state of being diverse (diverse: having a lot of variety).

Disability

Any physical or mental deterioration that limits an individual to carry out major life functions. An example of a disability would be the loss of vision of an individual.

Minority

The smaller number or part of something (most of the time a number that is smaller than 50% of the total). An example of a minority would be Hispanics in the world.

Ethnic group

A group of people who share the same customs, traits, and traditions (categorized by these three factors). An example of an ethnic group would be the indigenous people.

Islamophobia

The fear of the religion, Islam (most of the time because of the “hostility” of the people who follow Islam).

Background Information

Brief History of Hate Crimes

Hate crimes have been carried out for the longest time and still is done currently. If we travel back and look at the history of hate crimes, we can realize that different tribes and people have been carrying such inhumane actions during different time periods. The earliest time period might have been in 64 AD; where a hate crimes were done in the Roman Empire. Due to the fact that Christianity was widely accepted and tolerated by Emperor Nero, when a huge fire burned down a huge portion of Rome in 64 AD, the emperor believed that it was all because of Christians, so he shifted all the guilt to them. He made the lives of Christians even harder by creating laws and inhumane punishments for whoever that followed Christianity. After the year 64 AD, huge and countless of hate crimes were carried out in Rome, making life in Rome harsh and hard. This example is 1955 years ago, so this shows that hate crimes have been carried out 1955 years ago and have not been ceased. This is exactly why the international community is talking and discussing about this crisis currently.

Another example of a mass genocide due to hate crimes was the lynching of blacks in the United States. The lynching of blacks occurred from the late 18th century to the late 19th century and 4,743 deaths were caused because of these inhumane acts of terror (1,297 lynchings were targeted towards whites who helped blacks or believed in anti-lynching). The reason why most whites would do such actions was because they believed that the blacks were the reason of financial problems. Therefore, they wanted some sort of way to resolve the anger found inside themselves (which in this case, was lynching). This example is significantly linked to mobs and the crimes they carry out since most and nearly all of the lynchings were carried out by many white men (technically a mob) and they share the blame, so none of them feel great guilt. In conclusion, these reasons made the lives of blacks hard and caused a substantial number of deaths.

The final example would be the holocaust in Germany found in World War II (WWII). This genocide took place in Nazi Germany and its occupied locations and has happened during 1941-1945 (1933-1945 [broader time period]). This genocide has killed more than six million European Jews and will always be one of the largest massacres in history. Today, the international community, do not know the real reason why Hitler ordered his Nazi men to slaughter such a big number of Jews. However, the most feasible and logical theory was that he wanted something (preferably a tribe or certain group of people) to take the blame just like how scapegoats work. Therefore, he chose innocent Jews to face death for no exact reason and this is why mobs and other groups of people who carry out hate crimes are so violent and frightening. Below are some more specific examples of hate crimes from the past.

Syria

Syria had an outbreak in April 2011 which costed the lives of more than 200,000 Syrians, displaced millions more, and involved numerous crimes against humanity. The conflict is not just simply a civil war between opposing armed forces like normal civil wars, instead, it is essentially a huge hate crime that has caused genocide and other negative impacts on Syria. The main “hate crime” involved in Syria is because of the Sunni and Shia Muslims in Syria. The Sunni and Shia conflict had began in the year 632 after the death of Prophet Muhammad and in present day Syria, the Sunnis and Shias still carry out inhumane and violent hate crimes on each other, resulting the negative environment today in this country. Hate crimes have various types: gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, and many more. Therefore, the situation in Syria currently and in the past falls under the category of religion (Sunni and Shia Muslims) and is categorized as a hate crime crisis.

Rwanda

In 1994, Rwanda’s population of seven million was composed into three different ethnic groups: Hutu (85%), Tutsi (14%) and Twa (1%). 100 days later, between April and July 1994, 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu extremists who had launched a plan to murder every single Tutsis and wipe out the country’s Tutsi minority and any others who opposed the plan. Even though the genocide has ended when the Tutsis overthrew the Hutu government and seized power, the point of this example is for the international community to acknowledge the fact that hate crimes is a dangerous matter to discuss and to take measures on how to reduce it. Therefore, Rwanda is still a developing country trying to climb up the economic ladder to reach the category where more economically developed countries (MEDCs) are.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Germany

Even though Germany may seem like a country that doesn’t have any recent major hate crimes, it is still considered a major country when it comes to this issue due to the Holocaust in WWII. The Holocaust (the word “holocaust” directly means genocide) was carried out by the Nazis in WWII in order to clear up and eradicate all the Jews. This is what most people believe; however, according to many websites and historical events, the Nazis not only targeted Jews, but also other categories found in hate crimes such as gay men, religious priests, and many other types of people, making this event one of the biggest slaughters in history and a kill count of more than 17 million deaths.

Russia

Russia has always been an unstable country throughout history. Hate crimes do not just fall when it comes to racism; however, most hate crime cases in Russia are due to racism. In 2006, Amnesty International (London-based NGO), reported that racism in Russia was “out of control”. Even though, hate crime caused deaths have decreased throughout the years (2004-2015), Russia, currently, has one of the highest immigration rates in Eastern Europe and this is also one of the factors why Russia has countless refugees and discrimination acts. With this problem, Russia is one of the most significant countries when it comes to this issue and should take a further step in solving it (both helping the international community and itself).

United States

The United States of America has a long history when it comes to hate crime laws. The first hate crime laws were passed after the American Civil War which began with the Civil Rights Act of 1871 in order to combat the increase in racially-motivated acts of violence (advocated by the Ku Klux Klan Reconstruction Era). The first hate crime statute (California's Section 190.2) was passed in 1978 and provided consequences/penalties of carrying out hate crimes found in the following four categories: race, religion, color, and national origin. After the first hate crime statute passed, more states such as Washington and Alaska also passed laws that had penalties for other categories such as age, disability, and ethnicity. According to the FBI Hate Crime Statistics report over the years, hate crime incidents have been decreasing which is a good direction in solving this issue. The United States of America is most famous for the inhumane acts and lynching of blacks in the 1800s to 1900s. Today, most hate crimes in USA are towards blacks and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender); therefore, when it comes to solving hate crimes in the United States, member-nations should focus more on these two minorities.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Hate crimes are the highest priority of the Federal Bureau of Investigation due to several reasons. The first reason is self-explanatory and is because hate crimes affect both families and communities and just give off a negative atmosphere in these communities, making certain lives more difficult than others. The second reason is because groups who preach hatred and intolerance may plant seeds of terrorism in the United States (just the United States since the FBI looks only in cases that take place in this country). The Federal Bureau of Investigation is one of the biggest agencies in the world who combats hate crimes. Its history of fighting such crimes can be stretched all the way to World War I and it worked as a local function to protect civil rights. However, after the murders of several civil rights workers such as Michael Schwerner

and Andrew Goodman, the FBI started to investigate and this case became the largest federal investigation ever conducted in Mississippi (since this case was carried out in Mississippi).

International Network for Hate Studies (INHS)

The International Network for Hate Studies (INHS) focuses on a more indirect and peaceful manner when it comes to solving this crisis. It aims to use social media and education to teach and help people (especially students) understand the negative impact hate crimes can produce and how it affects the world in general. Even though it may seem that such solutions are ineffective; however, these solutions are definitely much more efficient which is a significant element in rating solutions. Therefore, the INHS is a huge program that is capable in solving the hate crime issue.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
November 13th, 1997	Hate Crimes Prevention Act is introduced in the House and the Senate
April 29th, 2000	Celebrities and other 45,000 people gather at RFK Stadium in Washington D.C., and the HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch mentions families that have been affected by hate crimes to the crowd.
January 3rd, 2001	MTV airs a movie about the murder of Matthew Shepard and shuts down programming for 17 hours to run through a list of hundreds of victims of hate crimes. More than 50,000 people send emails or other types of signed petitions urging Congress and Bush (the president of the United States at that time) to support the hate crimes bill.
	108th Congress-
April/May, 2003	Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act: reintroduced in the House Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act: reintroduced in the Senate

109th Congress

- May 26th, 2005 Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act: reintroduced in the House
Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act: reintroduced in the Senate
- 2006 (no exact date) Harris Interactive Report states that 54 percent of the people surveyed (all which are LGBTQ) are concerned about being victims of hate crimes.
- October 10th, 2009 President Obama restates his support for hate crimes legislation at the 13th annual HRC National dinner; Dennis and Judy Shepard are honored and given the first annual Edward M. Kennedy National Leadership Award.
- October 15th, 2013 The movie, Hate Crime is released out as a DVD (this shows how urgent and how disturbing hate crimes were at that year).
- January 1st, 2019 Gay couple in London were beaten up by four men after holding hands to celebrate a new year (2019). [Just an example to show that hate crimes still happen all around the world currently].

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping, Stigmatization, Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence Against Persons, Based on Religion or Belief; 3 March 2016 (**A/RES/70/157**)
- A Global Call for Concrete Action for the Total Elimination of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the Comprehensive Implementation of and Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; 5 February 2016 (**A/RES/70/140**)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; 13 March 2013 (**A/RES/67/156**)

- Measures to be Taken Against Political Platforms and Activities Based on Doctrines of Superiority and Violent Nationalist Ideologies which are Based on Racial Discrimination or Ethnic Exclusiveness and Xenophobia, Including Neo-Nazism; 2 March 2005 (**A/RES/59/175**)
- Measures to be Taken Against Nazi, Fascist and Neo-Fascist Activities and All Other Forms of Totalitarian Ideologies and Practices Based on Racial Intolerance, Hatred and Terror; 14 December 1984 (**A/RES/39/114**)
- World conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance : [the Durban] Declaration and programme of action; Durban, 31 August - 8 September 2001
- International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; 30 November 1973, entry into force 18 July 1976

Possible Solutions

Using social media spreads the word efficiently and may have a possible chance to solve this issue. By using social media, civilians get to be influenced efficiently since the word spreads quick. With this method, the hate crime rates of countries will decrease and soon be abolished. Another advantage would be that people tend to use social media much more often nowadays, so this would be one of the more feasible and efficient methods. A disadvantage of this approach would be that it doesn't solve this issue directly. Direct solutions combat issues in a straightforward manner, but when using social media and posting statements online, it doesn't combat hate crimes directly; instead, it provides a more peaceful process.

Educating to civilians is a significant method to use since it decreases hate crimes in the future (the people of the future are educated about hate crimes). By educating people about different social groups, the belief in which everyone is equal, and that they shouldn't judge each other based on their physical appearances is a vital process and is similar to the previous solution (social media) since they both combat the crisis indirectly and are both considered a more peaceful approach. Hate crimes happen all around the world (in both LEDCs and MEDCs), so with organizations supporting these countries that need help by providing education to the people would be one of the more constructive methods. The advantage of this solution is similar to the advantage of social media; both are much more peaceful and do not use forces to oppress this crisis. The disadvantage; however, is that it might have the chance to fail and not succeed. With these risks, plans that could waste money and time might be just a waste.

Donating to organizations that are currently trying to resolve this crisis by supporting them financially is another feasible approach to conflict this issue at hand. Organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the International Network for Hate Studies (INHS), and the Community Alliance to Combat Hate (CATCH) all need civilians and other supports around the world. One of the easiest and most efficient ways to support them is to just go on their websites and donate. With civilians donating to these organizations, these organizations have enough financial aid to start new campaigns and projects to defeat the hate crime crisis. The advantage of this solution is that it is the most efficient one out of the four listed in this section. On the other hand, the disadvantage of this solution is that we can't make sure that civilians are willing to donate and how much they are going to, so this solution also has a chance to fail.

Joining/volunteering to organizations or forces to reduce the hate crime rates is one of the more direct methods to engage in this problem. When organizations stated in the previous solution gain new workers and aids, they have the conditions to create new and more advanced projects to fight this issue. The advantage of this solution is that it combats this issue directly which is different from the other three solutions. The disadvantage of this solution is that there are too many things to lose: soldiers, money, people, shelter, and has too many flaws. Therefore, this solution fits in more extreme countries such as India and Russia.

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