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Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

**Report of the UA-MUNC Secretary-General
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1. Introduction

Peace. A word that over the years has lost its meaning more and more. The organization of International Alert defines peace as, “When people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the quality of their lives.” The Security Council UN along with other organizations is working to promote that sense of peace on a global scale along with security which stated by Kofi Annan, “embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights...preventing conflict...freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment.” Hate. A single word that leads to actions indescribable beyond compare. Leading to actions caused by individuals such as violence that has affected the lives of millions throughout the years. The Guide for Thematic Discussion on topics related to crime and hate crime by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice states that there is no universal official definition approved for what is hate crime itself. However, in the Guide previously mentioned it defines generally hate crime as, “Crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind.”¹ Even though there is a definition put in place, it is put in vague terms and the United Nations recognizes the need to implement and specific and universal definition as a basic step into solving this issue of hate crime. One of the most sensitive forms of hate based crimes are mass shootings in a place of worship. More than 175 people were killed worldwide in the last 8 years only by specifically white-nationalist linked attacks.² This includes fatalities from shootings in places of worship. That is only one specific group targeting others, so it’s easy to understand how widespread this problem is, accounting for the many different religions that are present worldwide.

¹ Economic and Social Council-Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:
<https://undocs.org/E/CN.15/2019/6>

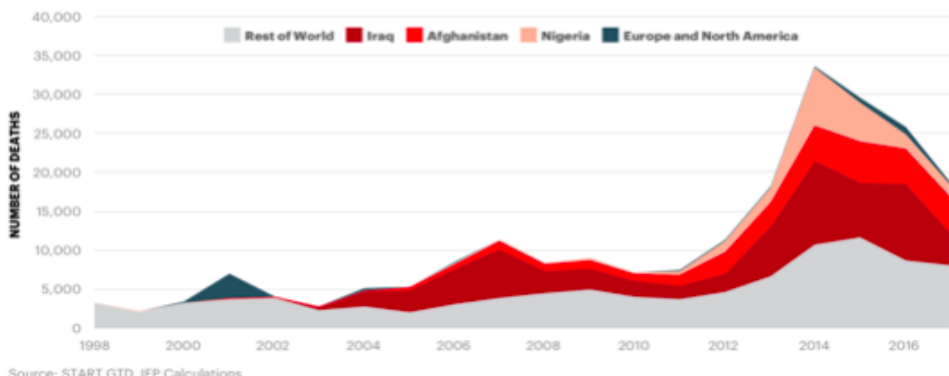
² More Than 175 Killed Worldwide In Last Eight Years In White Nationalist-Linked Attacks:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/aug/04/mass-shootings-white-nationalism-linked-attacks-worldwide>

2. Background

Terrorist Acts Based on Intolerance, Racial, or Religious Discrimination:

The Intstitute for Economics in Peace has created a Global Terrorism Index every year with the most recent Index of 2018 stating that after 9/11, 4 trends have risen in hate crime on a global scale³;

- 1) 2002-2007: hate crime attacks increased the rate of violent conflict in Iraq.
- 2) Hate crime attacks have increased in effect on the US troops in Iraq, leading to deaths of hate crime “dropping by 35 percent between 2007 and 2011”.⁴
- 3) 2011-2014: the level of global hate crime surged , with deaths from hate crime “increasing by more than 350 per cent in just three years”.⁵ This occured after the Arab Spring and according to the Global Terrorism Index of 2018, this even increased violence in Iraq with ISIL, created the start of the Syrian Civil War and enncouraged Boko Haram to form again in Nigeria.
- 4) 2014-today: there is a considerable decrease in casualties caused by hate crimes mostly in Iraq and Nigeria. This is due to the increase of counterterrorism forces from states and international forces, the increase of political stability in several states, and the calming down of the Syrian Civil War.⁶



*This graph demonstrates the number of casualties hate crimes have caused from 1998-2016.

³ Global Terrorism Index 2018: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>

⁴ Global Terrorism Index 2018: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>

⁵ Global Terrorism Index 2018: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>

⁶ Global Terrorism Index 2018: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>

⁷ Global Terrorism Index 2018: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>



Mass Shootings in Places of Worship Historical Timeline:

➤ **April 13, 2014: Overland Park Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom Retirement Center Shooting**

Frazier Glenn Miller Jr., a racial and religious descriminaror, was sentenced to death for the death of 3 individuals at 2 Jewish Centers outside of Kansas City. Miller founded the White Patriots Party and the Carolina Knights of the Klu Klux Klan, amongst the 3 victims was his 14 year old grandson. All 3 victims were Christian and Miller stated in his trial that we wanted to kill Jewish people before he dies of chronic emphysema.⁸

➤ **Jan. 29, 2017: Quebec City Mosque Shooting⁹**

Alexandre Bissonnette opened fire on 50 people in the Islamic Center of Quebec City with the result of 6 fatalities and 17 injured. Alexandre Bissonnette is a university student that was described as “an inti-immigrant loner”. Bissonnette’s attack came just hours after Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, rejected US’s new restrictions on travel to the US from 7 countries that are majorly Muslim. This info was previously stated by former classmate of Bissonnette’s, Antione Cabanac who also stated that Bissonnette had an “online life, full of hate”.¹⁰⁺¹¹

➤ **Sept. 25, 2017: Burnette Chapel Shooting¹²**

The Burnette Chapel Church of Christ located in Antioch, Tennessee had a tragic event that day where an individual named, Emanuel Kidega Samson shot a woman who was walking to her car while he was armed with 3 handguns and a rifle, a mask and a tactical vest. He then entered the church and started “indiscriminately shooting”. The result was 7 people injured and 1 fatality, who was Samson himself who shot himself when confronted by an armed church usher. The Associated Press reported that Samson maybe opened fire on the Chapel as revenge for another church attack that happened 2 years earlier at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal in Charleston in South Carolina where nine black parishoners died during Bible study to a racial and religious descrimination attack.¹³⁺¹⁴

➤ **Nov. 5, 2017: Sutherland Springs Church Shooting¹⁵**

This mass shooting at a Church in Sutherland Texas caused 26 fatalities. It happened through a said “familia sequence of events: A gunman enters a Church or temple and opens fire on unsuspecting worshippers.”¹⁶ This act was done by 26 year old, Devin Patrick Kelley.¹⁷

⁸ A Short History of Mass Shootings At Houses of Worship: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/texas-church-shooting/short-history-mass-shootings-houses-worship-n817786#anchor-BurnetteChapelChurchofChrist>

⁹ Quebec City Mass Shooting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec_City_mosque_shooting

¹⁰ Quebec City Mass Shooting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec_City_mosque_shooting

¹¹ A Short History of Mass Shootings At Houses of Worship: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/texas-church-shooting/short-history-mass-shootings-houses-worship-n817786#anchor-BurnetteChapelChurchofChrist>

¹² Burnette Chapel Shooting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnette_Chapel_shooting

¹³ Burnette Chapel Shooting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnette_Chapel_shooting

¹⁴ A Short History of Mass Shootings At Houses of Worship: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/texas-church-shooting/short-history-mass-shootings-houses-worship-n817786#anchor-BurnetteChapelChurchofChrist>

¹⁵ Sutherland Springs Church Shooting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutherland_Springs_church_shooting

¹⁶ A Short History of Mass Shootings At Houses of Worship: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/texas-church-shooting/short-history-mass-shootings-houses-worship-n817786#anchor-BurnetteChapelChurchofChrist>

¹⁷ A Short History of Mass Shootings At Houses of Worship: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/texas-church-shooting/short-history-mass-shootings-houses-worship-n817786#anchor-BurnetteChapelChurchofChrist>



➤ **June 16, 2017: Attack in Jerusalem**

2 Palestinian men opened fire on Israeli police officers in the sacred City of Jerusalem. This resulted in 4 police officers being injured. Another attacker then stabbed a police woman who later died in the hospital. All 3 attackers were then shot and killed by other Israeli authorities. The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant claimed responsibility for the attacks.¹⁸

➤ **Mar. 15, 2019: Christchurch Shooting**

A racial and religious discriminator who had been very vocal in his anti-muslim sentiments attacked the Noor Mosque and the Linwood Mosque on the same day. These mass shootings were said to be carefully planned and resulted in 51 casualties and 49 wounded. CNN stated that New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described the attack as one of the country's "darkest days". Ardern further expresses that "extremist views" have no place in her country nor anywhere else in the world.¹⁹⁺²⁰

Analysis of The Issue

It is important to evaluate the underlying root causes behind the rising trend in hate crimes in order to effectively avoid similar tragedies. The one conclusion that can be drawn regardless of whether the attacks happened due to the hate of race or religion, is that they all fall under the same category: Hate crime. According to the Metropolitan Police, "hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference." These mass shootings are happening because these shooters want to raise fear and oppression against the race or religion they are rebelling against. The UN states that these shootings and attacks are rooted in racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, and what is referred to in some circles as "white supremacy."²¹ FBI special agent Steve Gomez states in ABC News that, "What makes them similar is that you have a suspect that has a certain ideology — in this case he's a (racial and religious discriminator) with anti-immigrant beliefs — and he views the Muslim community and mosques as a way to strike against the people that he hates in his heart, and that's why he selected those two mosques". Looking into countries such as Croatia, Cyprus and shockingly Finland shows that hate crimes have been increasing in recent years. According to the European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights, Croatia's religious hate crime acts have increased from 1 in 2016 to 3 in 2017, even though this number seems small, accounting for a similar increase across other countries worldwide amounts to a huge increase in violence and terror in people's livelihoods. According to the same European Union Agency, in Cyprus, the amount of incidents or cases of racial nature and or with radical motive have gone from 3 in 2007 to 17 in 2016. Most shockingly, in Finland, the amount of suspected hate crimes reported to the police motivated by prejudice or hostility in religiously motivated crimes went from 133 in 2015 to 149 in 2016.

¹⁸ June 2017 Jerusalem Attack: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_2017_Jerusalem_attack#cite_note-15

¹⁹ Timeline of Worldwide School and Mass Shootings: <https://www.infoplease.com/history/world/timeline-of-worldwide-school-and-mass-shootings>

²⁰ What We Know: How The New Zealand Terror Attack Unfolded: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/15/asia/new-zealand-christchurch-attack-what-we-know-intl/index.html>

²¹ UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>



victim, partly due to limited understanding of the specific character of such crimes and their consequences for vulnerable groups.”²⁷ Looking into this last statement the problem is not the lack of law enforcement to fight hate crime but the lack actual protection to the victim which is also an intolerable action.

Far right leaders of certain countries across Europe have grown the anti-immigration sentiment in their nations in order to “gain traction and fueling political sea change,” according to PBS NewsHour. For example, the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party is now the 2nd most popular party in Germany and many other European countries support anti-immigration and have taken action, physically or legally to prevent immigrants from coming into their country.²⁸

Missing Government Action

Apart from the already explained reason of anti-immigration sentiments supported by governments fueling hate groups to make these massive shootings happen, the governments don't think that it's a big issue and only targets a small population, which is clearly inaccurate.

Importance of the Topic: Prerequisite to the Success of the 2030 Agenda

Inside point 14 of the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, it states that terrorism, violent, extremism and conflict, all words related to mass shootings in places of worship, are global health threats that adds on to the world today of being a time of big challenges to sustainable development.²⁹ It cannot be clearer to see that this issue is holding back the actual implementation and success of the 2030 agenda. Out of the 17 goals, mass shootings in places of worship interferes with 3 of them:

- 1) Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- 2) Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- 3) Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The 5 key elements of the 2030 Agenda are; People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.³⁰ But, mass shootings in places of worship damages 3 of those key elements which build the base of the 2030 Agenda further urging the gravity of this issue needing to be solved.

²⁷ Support System for Victims of Hate Crime in Croatia: http://www.vstart.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Support-System-for-Victims-of-Hate-Crime_Croatia_launch2.doc.pdf

²⁸ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

²⁹ Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

³⁰ How to Remember the SDG's: The 5 P's: <https://www.coursera.org/lecture/sustainable-development-ban-ki-moon/how-to-remember-the-sdgs-the-5-ps-IH3Xc>



3. Committee Introduction

According to the UN, “The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.”³¹ In effect of the change in Article 23 of the UN Charter, the membership of the Security Council was enlarged from 11 to 15 members.³² Each member has one vote and according to the Charter, all Member states need to comply with Council decisions.³³ 9/15 votes passes any plan suggested and any of the 5 permanent members can veto their vote, meaning they can cancel the whole plan when most want to pass it or vice versa³⁴. The Security Council first determines the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression or violence.³⁵

The SC then calls parties to debate and dispute to eventually settle and solve the conflict by peaceful means(section VI of the UN Charter³⁶) and even recommends methods of adjustment, compromise or terms of settlement. The SC does have the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force(section VII of the UN Charter³⁷) to maintain or restore their goal which is, international peace and security.³⁸ Certain sanctions that have been known to be put by the SC and can be put again are: a sanctions program, like the previously established Oil-for-Food Program, there’s also sanctions that can be put that Secretary General Kofi Annan called, “blunt instrument” that target discrete political and economic matters and specific people that impose threats to international security and this is apart from the basic economic and political sanctions that can be put in place as well by the SC.³⁹

4. Past International Action

Past Action by the United Nations

The UN itself has many committee’s such as the Counter Terrorism Committee that was created in 2001⁴⁰ or the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime⁴¹⁺⁴², but none of them directly tackle the issue of mass shootings in places of worship. When looking into the official United Nations website, there have been results from mass shootings on places of worship where;in 2017 UN warns that attacks against places of worship in Afghanistan are rising quickly ⁴³and in 2016, the UN’s “mission in Afghanistan has condemned two separate attacks on mosques in the country that together killed about 30 worshippers congregated to mark

³¹ United Nations Security Council: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

³² Introductory Note: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/introductory-note/index.html>

³³ United Nations Security Council: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

³⁴ UN Security Council: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council.html>

³⁵ United Nations Security Council: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

³⁶ The UN Security Council: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

³⁷ The UN Security Council: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

³⁸ United Nations Security Council: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

³⁹ The UN Security Council: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

⁴⁰ Counter-Terrorism: Quick Guide: <https://research.un.org/en/counter-terrorism>

⁴¹ E4J University Module Series: Counterterrorism: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-4/key-issues/defining-terrorism.html>

⁴² Stories From the UNODC: <https://www.unodc.org>

⁴³ Afghanistan: UN Mission Condemns Killings of Worshippers in Two Mosque Attacks: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/10/542512-afghanistan-un-mission-condemns-killings-worshippers-two-mosque-attacks>



Ashura, the Muslim day of remembrance”.⁴⁴The UN has a mission put in Afghanistan called the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan where they have recorded civilian casualties in attacks targeting places of worship, religious leaders and worshippers. They recorded since January of 2016, there has been 275 casualties and 577 injured civilians in 51 attacks of the kind described previously.⁴⁵ In June 14 2016, UNHR chief, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein urged the US to consider gun control.⁴⁶ Later in March 20 of 2017, the day before the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the UNHR chief, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, reminded that the governments around the world have a legal obligation to stop hate speech and hate crimes and called upon everyone to “stand up for someone’s rights”.⁴⁷ The UN High Commissioner, continued saying, “Politics of division and the rhetoric of intolerance are targeting racial, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, and migrants and refugees. Words of fear and loathing can, and do, have real consequences.”⁴⁸ The United Nations created a “Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech” in May of 2019 where they point out that if you take on the atrocities of hate speech itself, it will help prevent such violence that is inflicted from hate.⁴⁹

In November 6 of 2017, Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres is deeply saddened and extends his condolences the families mourning of the shooting in a Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas and extended his condolences to the US and its Government and hopes for a quick recovery of those wounded in the shooting.⁵⁰ The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution named “International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief” on May 28 of this year, 2019⁵¹. It was official put on August 22 and the day was observed and the Secretary General has set up 2 initiatives to overcome threat of violence on religion and belief which are: a UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and a Plan of Action to safeguard religious sites⁵². He then emphasized on the need for dialogue and that the best way to overcome hate, is diversity.⁵³ In March 6 2019, the current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet condemned 2 mass

⁴⁴ UN Search:

<https://search.un.org/results.php?query=mass%20shootings%20in%20places%20of%20worship&ie=utf8&outp ut=utf8&oe=utf8&Submit=Search&gali=searchfrm&ga=GA1.2.1570253348.1566917709&gat=1&gid=GA1.2.1357331552.1567523442&utma=114554307.1570253348.1566917709.1567527871.1567527871.1&utmb=114554307.1.10.1567527871&utmc=114554307&utmt=1&utmz=114554307.1567527871.1.1.utmcsr%3Dgoogle%7Cutmccn%3D%28organic%29%7Cutmcmd%3Dorganic%7Cutmctr%3D%28not+provided%29&lang=en&rows=10&tpl=un>

⁴⁵ UNAMA Issues Special Report on Attacks Against Places of Worship, Religious Leaders, and Worshippers: <https://unama.unmissions.org/unama-issues-special-report-attacks-against-places-worship-religious-leaders-and-worshippers>

⁴⁶ In Wake of Mass Shooting, UN Rights Chief Urges US to Consider Robust Gun control: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/06/532022-wake-mass-shooting-un-rights-chief-urges-us-consider-robust-gun-control>

⁴⁷ Ahead of International Day, UN Right Chief Urges Governments to Target Hate Speech Crimes: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/fr/node/100043084>

⁴⁸ Ahead of International Day, UN Right Chief Urges Governments to Target Hate Speech Crimes: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/fr/node/100043084>

⁴⁹ United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech: <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>

⁵⁰ Ahead of International Day, UN Right Chief Urges Governments to Target Hate Speech Crimes: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/fr/node/100043084>

⁵¹ Adoption of the UN Resolution Concerning Religion-Based Violence: <https://www.thedailystar.net/law-our-rights/law-news/news/adoption-un-resolution-concerning-religion-based-violence-1790923>

⁵² Adoption of the UN Resolution Concerning Religion-Based Violence: <https://www.thedailystar.net/law-our-rights/law-news/news/adoption-un-resolution-concerning-religion-based-violence-1790923>

⁵³ UNDOC Document 419: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/Go8/419/31/pdf/Go841931.pdf?OpenElement>



shootings that took the lives of at least 31 people in the US that week.⁵⁴ She also suggested strong gun control measures and warns that hate crimes appear to be on the rise in the US with an increase in violent attacks against synagogues mosques, churches, etc...⁵⁵ There have been 2 documents made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination where there was a combination of “Reports Submitted by State Parties Under Article 9 of the Convention”⁵⁶, which according to the European Court of Human Rights is, “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes...to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.” This article, combined with various others are reports of the state of racial discrimination of that state up until 2008 and what parts of the convention has it affected. In this specific document is the country of Azerbaijan. The second document is one made in March 2 of 2015 which concludes “Observations on the combined nineteenth to twenty-first periodic reports of Sweden”⁵⁷ and even suggests solutions to the problem of racial discrimination in Sweden which includes mass shootings.⁵⁸

Past International Action by Member States

As stated previously several governments don’t see it these mass shootings in places of worship as a very big issue to be concerned about, but others do. After the previously explained 2017 mosque shooting in Quebec, Canada has placed a “National Center for Community Engagement” to prevent such acts and prevent radicalization.⁵⁹ Australia has funded the “Intervention Support Hub”⁶⁰, which is a website⁶¹ that has the goal of countering violent extremism.⁶² The United States has programs to stop violent extremism, even though the current Presidency has recently shut down some⁶³ there are still some put in place such as the Brennan Center⁶⁴ but these programs focus on violent extremism from other races and religions except for far-right ideology and white extremism.⁶⁵ The previous US administration

⁵⁴ UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>

⁵⁵ UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>

⁵⁶ UNDOC 419: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/Go8/419/31/pdf/Go841931.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵⁷ UNDOC 039: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/039/96/pdf/G1503996.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵⁸ UNDOC 039: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/039/96/pdf/G1503996.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵⁹ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

⁶⁰ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

⁶¹ Australian Intervention Support Hub(AISH): <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/research/research-projects/details/6301/australian-intervention-support-hub-AISH>

⁶² What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

⁶³ Trump Shut Programs to Counter Violent Extremism: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/10/trump-shut-countering-violent-extremism-program/574237/>

⁶⁴ Countering Violent Extremism Programs in the Trump Era: <https://www.brennancenter.org/countering-violent-extremism-programs-trump-era>

⁶⁵ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>



of Barack Obama has implemented a “Countering Violent Extremism Grant Program” in 2017 that provides grants for groups that aim to combat all forms of violent extremism, but the current United States administration has pulled out some of the funding specifically from the 1 and only group that fought white supremacist ideology.⁶⁶ The European Union has put a “Radicalisation Awareness Network”, that seeks to prevent many kinds of extremism which includes the far -right and jihadists.⁶⁷

Action by the Media, Civil Society, Human Rights Activists, Non-Profit Organizations, etc.

Over the years, the Islamic extremists have publicized their views as a global ideology that has made it easier for national security organizations and politicians to take notice. This remark was noticed by Shahed Amanullah, a former senior advisor for technology at the State Department.⁶⁸ Social media in a way has helped promote these extremist ideologies and promotes hate and violence and groups recruit people to follow these ideologies through social media. But, ironically, social media helped spread positivity and acceptance in order to lessen the violence and radicalized hate. There are also non profit organizations like “Southern Poverty Law Center” that monitors over 1,600 extremist groups operating across the US and expose their activities to law enforcement agencies and the media and train law enforcement officers.⁶⁹ Social media has helped unite people for a cause like marches. After the terrible shooting mentioned previously in Quebec on January 30 of 2017, people took part in a march through a neighborhood that mostly consisted of immigrants following the support of the muslim community.⁷⁰

Security Council Not Addressing the Issue

Humera Khan, the president of a non profit organization called Muflehun that works to combat extremism, hate and violence, said, “The trend lines have been building for years but people and governments have been ignoring it”.⁷¹ Media, governments and the UN have addressed terrorism and minorly addressed hate crime but not specifically mass shootings in places of worship because they didn't see it to be the main concerning issue. Apart from it being such a sensitive subject, the security council saw other problems that should be the main priority. But after looking at several analytics and data previously mentioned and after having these tragic actions taken place more often, the media, governments, the UN, NGO's and non-profit organizations are starting to work more focused on fixing the issue of these mass shootings in places of worship. Non-profit organizations have been trying to bring up the attention and urgency of this issue apart from it's goal in trying to eradicate these acts of hate as well.

⁶⁶ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

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⁶⁹ Southern Poverty Law Center: <https://www.splcenter.org>

⁷⁰ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>

⁷¹ What the New Zealand Shootings Tell Us About the Rise in Hate Crimes:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/what-the-new-zealand-shootings-tell-us-about-the-rise-in-hate-crimes>



5. Possible Solutions

Solutions Addressed in the Past

- 1) There has been the repetitive solution of gun control measures stated by many authorities such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet.⁷²
- 2) There are several centers and organizations, mentioned previously that promote safety and the eradication of these specific hate crimes, and prevent radicalized violence.
- 3) Just like Southern Poverty Law Center is doing, which is training law enforcement⁷³, it has been said to implement this on other governments and under stricter measurements in order to control this specific form of hate crime.
- 4) Condemning mass shootings just like Michele Bachlet did.⁷⁴
- 5) Rupert Colville, the spokesman for the UN high commissioner has states that, “authorities are responsible for ensuring their actions do not promote negative stereotypes that lead to violent outbursts”.⁷⁵
- 6) The implementation in Sweden of authorities that are tasked with monitoring to ensure that the government agencies follow the laws and do not do any sort of discrimnatin including racial profiling and to ensure the effectiveness of teh criminal justice system.⁷⁶
- 7) The Committee on The Elimination of Racial Descripnation,”recommends that Sweden effectively investigate, prosecute and punish all hate crimes and take effective measures to combat hate speech in the media and on the internet.”⁷⁷

⁷² UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>

⁷³ Southern Poverty Law Center: <https://www.splcenter.org>

⁷⁴ UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>

⁷⁵ UN Rights Chief Condemns Mass Shootings in US: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/un-rights-chief-condemns-mass-shootings-us>

⁷⁶ UNDOC 039:<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/039/96/pdf/G1503996.pdf?OpenElement>

⁷⁷ UNDOC 039:<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/039/96/pdf/G1503996.pdf?OpenElement>



Solutions That Have Not Been Addressed In the Past

- 1) Have an institution where there are individuals that censor the media that can only censored and send this data to authorities that has any connection to the groups, hate speech to any radicalized commentary and profile as well.
- 2) Implement gun controlling centers where one can get their license for a gun, get a mental health check up every 6 months and background profile check and where they can buy their licensed and legal gun.
- 3) Have weapon monitors at the entrance of churches, mosques, synagogues and any sacred place.

What can we hope to achieve while discussing this topic?

- 1) Reach consensus on any solution.
- 2) Provide a solution that eradicates hate crime, radicalization and extremism.
- 3) Provide a solution that pushes authorities and justice systems to be as effective as possible.
- 4) Figure out how to stop an ideology that is the root of these hate crimes.
- 5) Provide short-term and long-term solutions.

6. Current Status: What Remains Unresolved

The New York Times emphasizes that, “Mass shootings have become a recurring part of American life, and religious institutions a recurring setting. In each case, the shock is compounded by the violence at what is supposed to be a safe space for peace and healing.”⁷⁸This issue is barely starting to grab notice around the world and authorities are starting to resolve these issues. But what still is a struggle is to find the root of these radicalized groups or ideologies and shut them down. The media can be used as a great advantage, but the media is also a tremendous place where it is so profound that it is very complicated to shut down all hate groups and speeches on it. This issue still remains very complex due to the rot of the problem being an ideology, something hard to eradicate.

Key Questions To Consider

- 1) What is your country’s opinion on this issue? Does it think the issue is important or not really?
- 2) What has your country done to solve this issue?
- 3) What has your country done in the UN in regards to mass shootings in a place of worship?
- 4) Has your country taken part in any resolutions?
- 5) Can we eradicate an ideology? If so, how?
- 6) Which groups are being targeted in mass shootings in your country and have there been any tragic events of mass shootings in your country?

⁷⁸ Mass Shootings at Houses of Worship: Pittsburgh Attack Was Among the Deadliest:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/27/us/mass-shootings-church-synagogue-temple.html>



- 7) Has your country worked with any NGO's or other nations?
- 8) What is the history of this topic in your country?
- 9) In what ways does this topic affect your country?

Additional Resources:

- 1) <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/procedures-and-working-methods>
- 2) <https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/xpSearchResultsE.xsp?sort=PubDate&dir=descending>
- 3) <https://www.un.org/en/databases/>
- 4) <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/resolutions-o>
- 5) <http://research.un.org/en/docs/resolutions>
- 6) <https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism>

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