



The Committee for Defending Religions and Ethnic groups in Iraq

Regulation of online hate speech: Role and responsibility of intergovernmental organizations, states, internet companies and social media platforms

Mrs. President, greetings

I am Nihad Al-Qadi, Secretary General of the Committee for Defending Religions and Ethnic groups in Iraq

It is time to stop the transcontinental hate speech spread on social media and its negative effects on society and minorities in particular. It is the responsibility of governments, in cooperation with the international community and social media companies, to curb hate speech through:

1. Inculcating human rights principles and spreading the concepts of tolerance and equality.
2. Putting in place strict controls to reduce hate speech and racism in social media platforms; we advise placing the emoticons symbol on pages the incite hatred as an initial warning, and in case of repetition, the page is closed permanently and its owner is punished with a fine or legal prosecution.
3. Blocking pages registered with fake names that promote violence and distort the facts; we suggest asking for identification papers when registering on social media platforms.
4. The United Nations and the international community to pursue and hold accountable countries that sponsor terrorism and promote hate speech, discrimination and racism against minorities.
5. Requiring that media and cinema institutions curb programs, games and films of a violent nature and spread the concepts of humanity, equality and love.
6. Requiring governments to spread thoughts of love, tolerance and peaceful coexistence and to achieve social justice and equality by issuing legislation laws that punish or shut down platforms that promote hatred.

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- 7. Calling on governmental organizations and civil society to launch educational courses on love and tolerance while rejecting the discourse on prejudice, intolerance, and hatred and its harmful repercussions.**
- 8. Establishing an electronic police force to keep an eye on and take legal action against abusive social media sites that promote terrorism and violence and disseminate false information.**
- 9. Holding educational courses and workshops for press and media personnel to avoid hate articles.**

Best regards

**The Committee for Defending Religions and Ethnic groups in Iraq
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