



#DEFYHATE NOW

**Social Media
Hate Speech
Mitigation**

CAMEROON

FIELD GUIDE

PILOT EDITION 2019-2020

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Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Cameroon FIELD GUIDE

#HATEFREECAMEROON

Beginning in 2014 in South Sudan, #defyhatenow engages youth in media literacy and peacebuilding through social media-oriented hate speech and online incitement to violence mitigation training. The #defyhatenow initiative includes citizen journalism, community dialogue and meetups, cultural and artistic activities as well as policy strategy and online media campaigns. Output from these activities, along with valuable publicly available tools, technical and knowledge resources are compiled into the comprehensive Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide.

During this process and with the publication of the prototype Field Guide in late 2017, #defyhatenow acted as a base of action on media induced hate speech awareness to tackle conflict, support media literacy and address issues of migration and displacement through a multimodal and open technology-based manner aiming at youth, community leaders, journalists and other influential peacebuilding multipliers.

In Cameroon, on the initiation of UNESCO, and with the support

of the German Federal Foreign Office, #defyhatenow has been mandated to address the use of social media in the so-called “Anglophone Crisis,” civic conflict and destabilization issues including internal displacement, refugee movements and terrorism.

The #defyhatenow Field Guide Cameroon resource package is a tool to support and address community-based peacebuilding efforts in Cameroon with a bilingual edition in French and English. Published by r0g_agency with partners including UNESCO, MBOAlab, LOYOC and #defyhatenow community organisation in Juba, South Sudan.

#DEFYHATENOW SOUTH SUDAN PROJECT BACKGROUND

#defyhatenow responded to South Sudan’s ongoing civil crisis by addressing the roles played by social media users in exacerbating or helping to mitigate these issues, since the eruption of conflict in December 2013 and July 2016.

Our vision is to strengthen the voices and support the actions of youth, women’s and civil society organisations, peace activists and independent journalists in South Sudan to develop strategies as part of a global ‘dangerous speech’ mitigation community. The #defyhatenow initiative also aims to create an awareness of the impact online hate speech has in potentially fuelling conflict and offers training in how social media can be used in a constructive and peacebuilding manner.

#defyhatenow aims to raise awareness of and develop literacy for countering social media hate speech, conflict rhetoric and directed online incitement to violence. We aim to amplify ‘positive influencers’ in South Sudan, Cameroon, Ethiopia and worldwide, by occupying the social media landscape with voices of peacebuilding and counter-messaging, rather than leaving that space open to agents of conflict.

This Field Guide is your toolkit to work together for compassion & tolerance online.



#defyhatenow Street Theatre, Juba South Sudan [Left Photo]
#defyhatenow Field Guide @Hagana Festival [Right Photo]

SOCIAL MEDIA HATE SPEECH MITIGATION FIELD GUIDE

#defyhatenow Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide offers digital tools and strategies to be used in grassroots communities & online campaigns for peacebuilding around the world. The “Field Guide” offers snapshots of local contexts, overview of grassroots projects and methodologies. Designed for use ‘in the field’ with related training materials and workshop resources to raise awareness, develop counter narratives & mitigate violence related to online hate speech.

“Incitement to violence is very specific, in that it needs strategic action to counter and requires community leaders and citizens to become involved and engaged in direct actions to mitigate the threat of violence erupting. While hate speech can form a basis for incitement, one can still use personal strategies to engage with speakers, bring down the tone of rhetoric and shift attitudes. Group strategies are needed to respond as a community to dangerous speech online and mitigate the factors contributing to violence offline.”
Stephen Kovats, r0g_agency, Berlin.

Developed and compiled by the #defyhatenow initiative with selected excerpts from materials published by collaborative partner organisations & networks, 2015–2020.

#defyhatenow is an urgent community peacebuilding, training and conflict reconciliation project that aims to amplify and strengthen the voices and support the actions of civil society, youth and IDP/refugee organisations in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon, Ethiopia, neighbouring regions and the global diaspora online.

HYRACBOX A “HOTSPOT FOR CHANGE”

HyracBox is a mobile, portable, RaspberryPi powered offline mini-server for facilitators to use in remote, crisis or offline environments where access to both power and internet is challenging. With HyracBox multiple users can access key #defyhatenow materials, including the full contents of the Field Guides, along with a multitude of further open educational resources (OERs), websites and pieces of training using a standard WiFi connection from any mobile device.

As internet shutdowns, distribution and access to information are often challenging issues in conflict or remote areas where technical or formalised education infrastructure may also be lacking, HyracBox presents an opportunity to enhance IT and media literacy skills. Linking these with practical peacebuilding and education development tools, HyracBox allows local facilitators to sensitize their communities on information, resources, and opportunities. Essentially a “Hotspot for Change” that can be taken anywhere, project coordinators and partners can also load current news and videos, allowing their trainees in remote areas to download and share this content for free, bringing important media content off-grid.

HyracBox forms a key element of the ‘Social Media Hate Speech Mitigation Field Guide’ package for Cameroon, including #defyhatenow material in both English and French. The Field Guide along with HyracBox coupled with ‘Peacebuilder Makerspaces’ form a resource ‘core’ that can be seen and understood as a simple form of community knowledge base. With minimal cost these resources can then be established in numerous locations across the country to make peacebuilding, vocational and media literacy work visible and more interactive within a community.

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