

LIMITING THE SPREAD OF HATE SPEECH ONLINE

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The spread of hate speeches is rampant and it keeps increasing, virtually and physically. Presently, the internet has made the world a global village; a person in France can now communicate with a person in Nigeria without waiting for days. There are online forums for discussions where people mingle and discuss with one another. The forums are used in the passing of messages and information among people, and a lot of persons have benefitted from these messages and are still benefitting. However, in these same forums hate related speeches are also transmitted by some persons towards the presence of other persons. Hence, there is a need for the curtailing of this menace before it consumes our world and lead to more lives lost; as we have seen many losses in the past, like the casualties from Christchurch Mosque shootings, Quebec shootings, and the El Paso Texas shootings, among others.

Hate speech can be curtailed via the following means which I have provided below:

*** Via legislations:**

- For online platform owners.

Efficient laws should be made by every government of a country to penalise online forums owners who condone hate related speeches on their platforms. Online forums owners should play a role in limiting hate speeches via the banning of their "wanting" members.

- For the perpetrators.

Before signing up on a forum, users should submit their identification card to the forum. Further, those perpetrating hate online should be tamed by prosecution at the earliest possible stage.

*** Technology's role.**

- Bots.

Technology should be utilised to make online bots that will immediately detect hate speeches online, and delete such messages or send them (the messages) for examination by the moderators of the forum.

*** Promote unity and oneness online.**

- The governments have a role to play in promoting peace and unity via adverts on several media forums. The promotion of unity will encapsulate in the subconsciousness of people, thereby making them more opposing to spread hate against others, and this will help restrict hate speeches proliferation.