

Forum: Social Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (GA3)

Issue: Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the Social Humanitarian & Cultural Committee,

It is an honour to welcome you to the first inter-school MUN conference ever hosted at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. My name is Ruby Woodcock and I will be your co-chair for the conference. My MUN journey began in Year 11 when I attended the online Hague conference. Ever since, I have loved partaking in (and observing) the MUN group at our school.

This topic guide should not be your only source of information and research, and it is paramount that all delegates do further research around the topic. One of the most beneficial resources available is the bibliography at the end of this guide - since a number of sources are already there. Make sure that you understand your delegation's limitations as well, your success in this conference is closely linked to how much you understand the geopolitics surrounding your state.

With that being said, I am looking forward to meeting you all! I hope that this conference will inspire the newcomers amongst us, and re-ignite the excitement for all of the old-timers.

Should you have any questions or need any help, please feel free to contact me via the following email: 3067@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk,

Yours sincerely,
Ruby Woodcock

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The glorification of Nazism, the ever-growing threat of Neo-Nazism and further hate groups dedicated to fuelling racism is an issue that concerns almost every corner of the globe. In recent years, this issue has risen drastically due to the growing rate of social media users and younger impressionable people accessing it. Not only is this an issue concerning social media, but politicians, the mainstream media and official statements around the world are littered with racist rhetoric. This needs addressing almost immediately.

Furthermore, the recent Covid-19 pandemic has heightened the number of young people online with access to these racist hate groups and propaganda. Therefore, this is not only an issue that is of concern to global geopolitics but also a concern for policing cyberspace. It is paramount that when considering amendments and possible solutions, the digital world needs to be considered too.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Nazism

A form of Fascism with disdain for liberal democracy, and the parliamentary system. It incorporates fervent antisemitism, anti-communism, scientific racism and the use of eugenics into its creed¹

Neo-Nazism

A neo-Nazi is someone who is a member of a party similar to Hitler's German Nazi Party, they will have extreme racist and nationalist views.²

Racism

Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.³

Racial discrimination

Any discrimination against any individual on the basis of their skin colour, or racial or ethnic origin. Individuals can discriminate by refusing to do business with, socialise with, or share resources with people of a certain group.⁴

¹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/neo-nazism>

² <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/neo%E2%80%93Nazi>

³ <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.2011012125231893>

⁴ <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.2011012125231893>

Xenophobia

The fear or hatred of anything which is perceived as being foreign or strange, often manifested in dislike and prejudice towards people from different countries.⁵

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Socialist German Workers' Party

Best known as the Nazi Party, the Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) was a political party created in 1919 by Anton Drexler. Although, when founded, it was called the German Workers' Party. Adolf Hitler took over the NSDAP in 1920, after attending a party meeting in 1919 he had displayed impressive oratorical skills and impressive energy that was dedicated to change. Whilst the NSDAP did not start off as a groundbreaking new political party, it appealed to the German population due to the disparity caused by the Treaty of Versailles (1919). The Treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany on a global scale, failed to solve any of the issues that caused World War One, and left the German population bitter and living in economic distress. This environment aided the NSDAP's rise to power.

Later in 1920, Hitler formulated his 25-Point Program - which served as a foundation for the party and its principles. The "National Socialist Program" (as it was also known as) called for the abandonment of the Treaty of Versailles, whilst simultaneously setting out early visions for a Nazified Germany. Namely, the notorious treatment of Jews and the blatant antisemitism that Hitler's Germany has become synonymous with. Despite this, the promise to reverse the Treaty of Versailles was enough for the NSDAP to gain even more influence throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1923 the NSDAP staged a riot against the government, 'Beer Hall Putsch', and whilst this riot was unsuccessful in its main goal - it helped to aid the Nazi party's expansion and membership. Hitler was imprisoned as a result of this riot, but after he was released the Nazi party only grew in size. Perhaps the most influential factor in the Nazi party's rise to power was The Great Depression of 1929. The Great Depression again caused immense disparity and poverty throughout the German population; which made the turn to the Nazi party's socialist ideals easier. During the next few months, the party gained millions of supporters - making it Germany's largest voting power. By 1933, Hitler had named himself the 'leader' of Germany after the NSDAP's declaration as the only political party in the country. During the following years, the party would seize control of the country and turn it into a totalitarian state by taking over not only the government but all military power, police services and security. It was at this stage that Nazi Germany sought to expand its territories and in doing so, spread the damaging ideologies that were core to the NSDAP.

By 1939, WW2 had broken out in Europe. During this war, Nazi Germany would end up murdering 6 million of the European Jewish population⁶. Through the set up of forced labour camps, ghettos, death

⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/xenophobia>

⁶ <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/holocaust-misconceptions/>

camps and ‘The Death March’ the NSDAP sought to make the Jewish population extinct. By the end of WW2, there were 11 million victims of the holocaust, victims being anyone who didn’t fit Hitler’s ‘master race’ ideals.⁷

The Neo-Nazi Movement

The Neo-Nazi movement seeks to revive and reinstate the damaging Nazi party ideologies. Fascism, totalitarianism and organised attacks on ethnic minorities are the three most notable traits of Nazi Germany that Neo-Nazis seek to engage with and in most cases - admire. Neo-Nazism’s starting point is considered to be Artur Axmann’s attempt to reestablish the Nazi party in Germany in 1945, only two months post-war. Despite the efforts of denazification by the allied forces, the outbreak of the Cold War led to them losing interest in prosecution etc and rather focusing on more pressing global issues. During the 1960s, the American Nazi Party played a major role in the globalisation of the Neo-Nazi movement — often leading to racially provoked attacks on Black individuals and holding racist demonstrations.

In the UK alone, there are sixteen groups and organisations that follow Neo-Nazi beliefs and ideologies. At face value, this may not be seen as such a large number — however, to even have one Neo-Nazi group operating in this society is worrying.

Contemporary Racism

Due to ever-changing contexts, racism has, unfortunately, had to extend to more contemporary forms in order to still spread damaging and hurtful ideologies. Despite milestones in human rights (Human Rights Act 1964) and societal values improving, ‘modern’ racism still manifests itself in multiple ways; it’s just arguably more difficult to detect. Examples of modern racism include (but are not limited to): Deliberately limiting meaningful interaction and contact with minority groups; when the circumstances allow, practising racial discrimination; rather than attacking minority groups directly, modern racists may attack policies and actions defending minority groups to justify their prejudices.

Indeed, these are only three examples of how contemporary racism is shown. These forms of racism are a result of Neo-Nazi hate groups still projecting Nazi beliefs and such. White supremacy beliefs and attacks on minority groups can be related to the Nazi beliefs of a superior Aryan race; which connotes that the Nazi problem has never been solved in its entirety.

Social Media and the Glorification of Nazism

The most obvious draw of social media is the fact that it is the world’s most important preserver of free speech; platforms give their users the right to freely express all of their thoughts and feelings. However, the drawback of this is that insufficient monitoring of these sites is a key reason for the continued perpetuation of assertive and systematic racism against every minority group. Most recently, lockdowns due to covid have played an important role in shifting Neo-Nazi ideas of right-wing extremism to online sites. Two far-right groups known as The British Hand and the National Partisan Movement have been recorded using Instagram to recruit new members. The Counter Extremism Project found 39 related Instagram profiles, 16 Twitter profiles and 34 YouTube channels, which have gotten over 9.5 million

⁷ <https://www.socialstudies.org/sites/default/files/publications/se/5906/590606.html>

views, that have been flagged as extremist by the German government⁸. Groups on Facebook have been recorded as posting hate speech, swastikas and even selling t-shirts as merchandise which read ‘My Favourite Colour is White’.

Further to this, COVID has played a massive role in expanding xenophobic beliefs - particularly toward those in the Asian community. On May 8, 2020, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that “the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering” and urged governments to “act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate.” Hateful speech towards the Asian community manifests itself in the media we consume, the speeches of our governments and, of course, social media. Donald Trump’s Secretary of States’ remarks have all helped to fuel anti-Asian propaganda and speech in the lives of everyday Americans. This does not only happen in the USA though; the governor for the Veneto region in Italy claimed that the West would be better at dealing with the virus, then stated some xenophobic beliefs.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Germany

Under Hitler’s rule, during the years 1933-1945, Germany became a totalitarian state that limited freedom of speech and basic human rights. Theories surrounding the idea of an ‘Aryan Race’ were globalised due to WW2 — and, in today’s society, we see remnants of this. Neo-Nazism also was a result of Hitler’s Germany and therefore Germany plays an undoubtedly important role in combating more contemporary forms of racism today; due to the fact that many roots of the racism stem from Nazi ideology.

USA

Without the role of the USA, the globalisation and glorification of Nazism would not be what it is today. Several Neo-Nazi groups were set up by Americans, and this has contributed to the incredibly racist climate of present-day America. These groups were a constant issue throughout the Civil Rights Movement, and in fact, right-wing fascist groups in the USA reached an alarmingly high amount during Donald Trump’s presidency. The Black Lives Matter movement also originated from the USA after the murder of George Floyd, making the USA a hot pot for contemporary racism and groups and movements that oppose this.

Italy

Fascist ideologies prevailed in Italy throughout the years 1922-1943, throughout this rule, the population of Italy saw their human rights breached on several occasions. These extremist views, and a similar desire to expand their country (like Nazi Germany had done), lead to the formation of the Tripartite Pact. This was a pact of alliance formed by Germany, Italy and Japan since all of these countries shared similar ideals. By 1943, Italy had surrendered to the allies and then the population of Italy faced both economic and sociopolitical corruption. Italy’s fascist history has contributed to its culture and underlying ideologies. As a nation, Italy is littered with racially motivated arrests and prosecutions, with numerous

⁸ <https://www.axios.com/2021/09/25/neo-nazi-facebook-social-media-thrive-online>

innocent black men and women losing their lives. Unfortunately, this is an issue for many Western countries - it just so happens Italy's history has played a role in these attacks.

Greece

The 'Golden Dawn' was formed during the economic instability that Greece faced throughout 2009 - this far-right political party gained vast support very, very fast; even at one point becoming the third most popular party in the country. By 2020, the party had been recognised as a criminal organisation by a Nazi-Trial since leaders and members of the party all openly supported the perpetuation of Neo-Nazism and had been accused of multiple hate crimes and assaults on a vast amount of minority groups. Despite the group being recognised as criminal, there are still many active speakers of this party who partake in racism and other forms of xenophobia.

Human Rights Watch

The Human Rights watch is an NGO that focuses on the exposure and investigation of human rights violations and abuses across the globe. For the most part, the Human Rights Watch deals with injustice within governments, but it also communicates and aids victims of racial injustice and abuse. The Human Rights Watch was founded in 1978, by Robert L. Bernstein, Jeri Laber, and Aryeh Neier - initially to monitor the then Soviet Union's intentions and compliance with the Helsinki accords. Some of the most notable achievements of the Human Rights Watch include: The 1997 Landmine Ban, which bans the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of antipersonnel mines, and requires states to destroy their stockpiles and clear all mined areas as well as assist landmine survivors; Acting on and providing a path for justice for the Rohingya Muslims; The Trial of Hissène Habré: ensuring a dictator got a lifelong prison sentence for crimes against humanity, war crimes and violence against women.⁹

ENAR (European Network Against Racism)

The European Network Against Racism is the only network that involves most of the nations of Europe that combines racial advocacy and attempts to create strong anti-racist networks across the continent of Europe. The network was set up by grassroots activists in 1998, who were on a mission to create legal equality for all races and make progress towards a fully equal Europe. They aim to rebuild institutions and attitudes based on racial equality and equal distribution of power. The ENAR works to educate the masses on antisemitism, debunking holocaust myths and helping those affected by hate crimes. Their website details the damage that Neo-Nazi groups do to hinder the progress of racial equality, and how Neo-Nazi beliefs filter into myths about the Holocaust.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
30th January 1933	The Nazi party takes power in Germany with Adolf Hitler as leader.
10th March 1933	The first concentration camp, 'Dachau', was established. Essentially a forced labour camp for those who weren't part of the Aryan race.
April 1940	The largest concentration camp, "Auschwitz", was established.

⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/impact>

3rd March 1941	The “Krakow Ghetto” was established - 20,000 Jews were forced to live here.
2nd September 1945	The end of WW2 and Nazi Germany. Concentration camps and ghettos begin to be liberated.
10th September 1948	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights makes equality a recognised human right.
1950s-1960s	The American Civil Rights Movement is recognised.
1974	The National Socialist Movement was founded (arguably the largest Neo-Nazi group in the USA)
2013	The Black Lives Matter group was formed
2020	The murder of George Floyd and subsequent global BLM protests.
2020	Rise of xenophobia due to the Covid-19 virus

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The European Parliament's Resolution on racism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism (1995)

This resolution of the European Government aims for: the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination by supporting multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies, adopting an overall political strategy against racism, promoting equal opportunities, increasing minority groups' protection, and training public servants.¹⁰

The European Parliament's Resolution on the ban on neo-Fascist and neo-Nazi groups (2018)

Concerned by the rise in contemporary racism and Neo-Nazism, the European Parliament voted upon a resolution that passed with 355 votes in favour. The resolution in question focused on inadequate actions taken to prevent xenophobia in multiple countries. The resolution also included racially motivated attacks that had been completely overlooked by governments. The resolution aims to ban all organisations glorifying fascism, end collusion with neo-Fascists, stop racism in sports and help members of fascist groups who want to leave.¹¹

Germany's General Act on Equal Treatment (Law to implement the European Directive on the realisation of the principle of equal treatment, 2006)

The AGG aims to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of sex, religion, handicap, age, or sexual identity. It implements EU Anti-Discrimination laws such as Czechia's 'Equality of opportunity and treatment law' and all EU 'No discrimination' Laws, in the German constitution.¹²

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A51995IP1239&from=IT>.

¹¹ https://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vkswib2rh5ve/nieuws/parliament_demands_ban_on_neo_fascist

¹² https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=77201.

H.Res .992 - Declaring unconditional war on racism and invidious discrimination and providing for the establishment of a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation charged with eliminating racism and invidious discrimination

¹³The US House of Representatives condemned racism and invidious discrimination and declared it unconstitutional, whilst providing the resources and funding for their defeat and proposed legislation establishing a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation. Further, it ensured that this department would have a budget of not less than 10% of the Department of Defence's budget.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The Establishment of a Relevant United Nations Body

The establishment of a relevant UN body would perhaps be most feasible if it became a subsidiary body of an already established council - such as the Human Rights Council. The focus of this body would be on the condemnation and targeting of organisations that discriminate, violate and marginalise vulnerable peoples and minorities. Furthermore, this body would have to monitor governments and how they deal with racial discrimination and make sure that any actions taken by governments are fair, just and suitable for the situation. There would be an emphasis on making sure that these governments execute punishments of and support for the respective offenders and victims. This body would also have to monitor online spaces in order to collect data necessary for understanding the sheer issue of racial discrimination in the cyberspace.

The Monitoring of Community-Based Online Platforms

The monitoring of social media is essential to combating the formation of Neo-Nazi groups, and other organisations formed for the purpose of racial abuse towards minorities. There would need to be close and constant monitoring of these sites, with any dangerous information being shared with the necessary government or state officials. However, this monitoring would need to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and not breach any privacy acts respective to individual sites. Social media platforms not only need to be monitored to stop the formation of hate groups but to also combat the glorification of Nazism and other harmful ideologies. Information can be spread far and wide in the digital age, and social media sites need to take action to protect their most vulnerable users from seeing these posts and to stop the formation of these posts in the first place.

Condemnation of individuals belonging to organizations who aim to perpetuate discriminatory ideologies

Under no circumstances should any state tolerate any extremist groups who aim to hurt minorities, spread racist beliefs or display any prejudice towards minorities. It is the duty of the state to protect all of its

¹³ <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/BILLS-116hres992ih/summary>

citizens and their human rights. We should aim to encourage countries to act on racism and persecute any individual or organisation perpetuating racism. The state should be urged to ban racist propaganda - and ensure that any and all forms of glorification of Nazism, contemporary racism and other forms of xenophobia are unlawful.

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