

**EMPOWERING YOUNG CITIZEN JOURNALISTS IN BAMENDA TO  
COUNTER HATE SPEECH AND ONLINE VIOLENCE.**

**SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE REPORT**

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## **Abstract**

In the town of Bamenda, Mezam Division within Cameroon Northwest Region, an impactful and transformative project took root, aimed at harnessing the power of youth to foster a more harmonious online community. This initiative appears as a beacon of hope against the backdrop of escalating hate speech online violence manifesting through cyberbullying, the spread misinformation and the proliferation of hate speech on social media platforms.

The project's cornerstone was the empowerment of young citizen journalists, equipping them with a robust set of skills and tools essential for navigating the digital landscape. These individuals were meticulously selected for their passion and potential to drive change within their virtual and local communities. The training provided was multifaceted, encompassing the ethical dimensions of journalism, the technical aspects of digital reporting and identification of sources of information.

Participants were immersed in training workshops that stimulate real world scenarios, challenging them to find instances of hate speech and online violence and devise strategies to counteract them effectively. They were taught to recognize subtle nuances of language that could incite online violence and to use their voices to promote positive and inclusive messages, dialogue and understanding.

The initiative was also out to create a ripple effect, encouraging these young citizen journalists to pass on their knowledge to peers, thus amplifying the impact of the project. They became ambassadors of digital literacy, advocating responsible social media usage and fostering a culture of accountability among them. As the project unfolded, tangible outcomes began to materialize. The project not only addressed the immediate concerns of hate speech and online violence but also

laid the groundwork for a sustained movement towards a more informed and respectable online discourse.

The issue of Bamenda stands as a testament to the potential Youth-led Initiatives in shaping the digital world. It provides the significance of equipping the next generation with the skills to navigate the complexities of the internet and the importance of fostering a safe and inclusive online environment for all. Through the collective efforts of these young citizen journalists, the project aspired to create a lasting legacy of peace and understanding in the digital realm, reflecting the vibrant spirit of Bamenda and its people.

## **CHAPTER ONE:**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE**

#### **MOTIVATION FOR THE SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE**

Scholars have long discussed the legal and political dynamics of speech online, much of that discussion preceded the dramatic move of much speech onto social media platforms N. Hamdy (2017). Twenty years ago, questions appeared about the implications of the internet both positive and negative for public expression. Vibrant media: if freedom of speech is truly implemented in a country, it can lead to the creation of powerful media capable of formulating public opinion. Current trends indicate that the threat of expression is the criminalization of online speech. Legislation relating to cybercrime, social media and disinformation has become an increasingly popular tool through which to do so. Some young citizen journalists still lack professional ethics when using the internet for social interaction. Medium is a free and open platform for everyone to write their views and opinions. Disinformation continues to poison the digital sphere creating serious risks for freedom of expression as states tighten controls. The trend over the last five years suggests that these issues have gained increasing importance in public discourse. Youths are predominantly the users of the internet for social interaction. Young Citizen Journalism has invariably changed the traditional way of news reporting Writing and delivery. The last few years have seen a worrying rise in hate speech in Cameroon against a backdrop of racial discrimination and violence fanned by the ongoing sociopolitical crisis rocking the two English regions of Cameroon, there has been an increase in fake news, hate speech. Cameroon saw an increase in the use of android phones. Studies reveal that there were 4.30 million social media users in Cameroon in January 2021. The increasing use of the internet by young citizen journalists for social interaction have increase fake news and hate speech and online violence in Cameroon. Citizens have the opportunity to provide photos and reports where there are still journalists on the ground. The project recognizes the need to counter hate speech and online violence and calls on some relevant young citizen journalists to increase their knowledge, skills, attitudes on digital literacy and effort to address this phenomenon in line with legislative framework in Cameroon: section 77 law no.2010/12 relating to cyber security and cyber criminality, The UN security council resolution 2250 focusing on youth, peace and security (expressing concerns that among civilians, youth account for many of those adversely affected by armed conflict and that the disruption of

youth's access to education and economic opportunities has a dramatic impact on durable peace and reconciliation) and the 2686 of 2023 security council urges international community to prevent incitement, condemn hate speech, racism, xenophobia and resolution 68/276 of 2014 and resolution 16/18 of 2011.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The use of android phone for social interaction among young citizen journalists in Bamenda has significantly increased during the ongoing anglophone crisis in the two English regions of Cameroon. Thus, we saw an increase in hate speech and fake speech. For example, during the COVID-19 outbreak, citizen's dissatisfaction was revealed through blogs, open letters, videos and pictures through citizen journalism. Especially the social media tool Facebook is being used as the main source of information. Citizen journalism gives access to individuals and groups with no journalistic experience to report events as they happen and sometime share misinformation, disinformation and malformation that often cause violence through social media platforms like Facebook, twitter, WhatsApp. The consequences of hate speech and online violence today have caused a lot of disorder, distrust, hatred, division and conflict among people and communities. Salome A.N (2018) the author discusses the issue of safety and security for young citizen journalists, as well as the need for training and support to ensure that they can report conflict responsibly and ethically. Ngange, K.I and M.S Mokondo (2019), the author argues that social media has become the major source of information sharing, but it can also use to spread misinformation and disinformation. In conflict situations, this can lead to the spread of propaganda and hate speech and can worsen existing tensions. There is a need to improve the skills, knowledge, attitude and behavior of young citizen journalists in Bamenda to counter hate speech and online violence.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goals of this project will contribute to more informed and responsible use of the different digital or social media platforms by young social media users and will promote more peaceful and inclusive messages.

**The Goals of the project are as follows:**

- Empowering young citizen journalists with digital and information skills and knowledge to find reliable and unreliable sources of information and to counter hate speech and online violence
- Create a sustainable network of Cameroon Young citizen Journalists in Bamenda I, II and III to share experiences and harness best practices for addressing hate speech and online violence.
- Create and raise awareness about the continued increase of hate speech and online violence on the different digital platforms and promote media and information literacy among young people.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The objectives of the project include:

- To train 30 young citizen journalists in Bamenda on digital and information literacy, with a specific focus on countering hate speech and online violence
- To create an online platform where young citizen journalists can share experiences and ideas on countering hate speech and online violence. Thus, reaching about 500 users in 3 months
- To create a sustainable network of young citizen journalists aimed at fostering a community of young people who are committed to promoting peace and development through responsible journalism and initiative-taking engagement in societal issues.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE EXECUTION****Challenges and mitigation strategies**

The project aimed to empower youth with journalism skills to address and mitigate the spread of online violence. However, the initiative met several obstacles. Internet connectivity posed a significant challenge, as inconsistent and unreliable access hindered the participant's ability to effectively take part in the online launch campaign against hate speech and online violence access online leading to delays and frustration. In order to mitigate this challenge, Participants were assigned therefore to do a pass it on to their various organizations and communities.

The project faced constraints due to limited funding and resources. To address this, efforts were made to seek financial support from organizations interested in digital and information literacy



initiatives, such as the Reconciliation and Development Association and the Society for the Promotion of initiative and Sustainable Development and Welfare.

Another significant challenge is keeping engagement following the initial training workshop. The nature of the workshop means that without sustained support and engagement, the skills and imparted enthusiasm may diminish over time. Therefore, setting up ongoing mentorship programs, follow up sessions, and active online communities is essential to reinforce the training's impact.

The project faced Resistance from some young citizen journalists to change their attitude and behavior towards hate speech and online violence. To address these constraints an incentive was provided for young citizen journalists who can take part in the project such as recognition of their active participation in their communities and online platforms. This approach aimed at motivating and reinforced positive behavior changes among participants.

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The literature review section includes some leading scholars that cover issues of youth and their access to social media platforms, theoretical underpinning, change theory that was applied to the social change initiative, and method and design to the social change initiative.

There is a wide range of literature that covers issues of youth and their access to social media platforms and among these are leading scholars or authors such as Ajoh and Wielenga, Latour et al, D. hangartner, G. Gennaro, S.Alasiri, A. Bornhoft, J. Boucher et al, Ngange K.L and M.s Mokondo and M.N Ndlela

Ajoh and Wielenga (2017). “Citizen journalism and conflict transformation. The Ushahidi’s response to Kenya’s 2008 post -election violence. In this article Ajoh and Wielenga review the role of non-state actors in armed conflict using the new media technology. They used the qualitative approach through unstructured in-depth interview revealing the role of the Ushahidi platforms played during the Kenya electoral violence. The authors examine the role of the non- state armed actors in the Kenya’s elections violence using technological involvement. The article fit in my research topic as they show how the new media was used to incite violence and how these same new digital tools is contributing to transforming the conflict in Kenya.

Latour’s comprehensive review of best practices for preventing online violence among youth has argued that multi- faceted approach that combines individuals, community and institutional efforts is needed to effectively prevent online violence among youths are the best processes to follow is to engage young people in the development and implementation of prevention programs Latour, et al (2017).” . The authors examine different strategies, including digital literacy programs, education on responsible online behavior, parental monitoring and supervision, and support for victims of online violence. They reiterate on the importance of engaging young people in the development and implementation of prevention programs. They also highlight the role of social media companies and policymakers in creating a safer online environment for the youth. They argue that a multi-faceted approach that combines individual, community, and institutional efforts is needed to effectively prevent online violence among youth. The article will form the basis of my research due to this fact because it aims to show how policymakers can invest in digital literacy programs to protect the creation of a safer online community for young people.

In their observation that of the role of the giver and social media companies. Hangartner, G. Gennaro, S. Alasiri, N. Bahrich, A. Bornhoft, J. Boucher, et al. (2021) have highlighted the hate speech on social media platforms on affected communities and affected public discourse. They examine the role of the government and the social media companies to curb online hostility through policies. They argued that with the increasing number of international Non- Governmental Organizations, there is experimental evidence on the effectiveness and design of counter speech strategies (In the public domain). The article is extremely useful to my research since the writers recommend policymakers to invest and counter hate speech and online in the community by developing stronger policies to address the situation.

In their observations of the impact social media can have on the youth, Ngange, K.L and M.S Mokondo (2019) have highlighted the falsehoods that are traded in social media. They for example focus on how journalists can use the new media to play a positive role in conflict situations for peace building in the society. In this article, review the role of young citizen journalists in promoting fake news or false information on two social media platforms (WhatsApp and Facebook) during the ongoing Anglophone crisis. They use the qualitative approach to analyze the content of false information posted on Facebook and WhatsApp during the Anglophone crisis in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon. The article aims to evaluate how young citizen journalists did not verify sources of information before sharing public consumption. The article is useful to my research since the writers recommend that users of social media fact-check information before sharing on social media. This will in turn promote online peace. The authors suggest that to mitigate fake news for social interaction, users of social media should verify information before disseminating. The article will form the basis of my research due to the fact because it aims at showing how journalists can promote online peace and non -violence by sharing fact checked information.

M. N. Ndlela (2020) *“Young people, social media, and political participation. The limits of discursive (in) civility in the Kenyan context”* “The author in this article aims to explores the role of youth in countering online violence in Kenya. They conducted a case study of youth-led interventions to combat cyberbullying. Hate speech and fake news. They found that youth-led initiatives can be effective in raising awareness about online violence, engaging communities, in dialogue and promoting responsible behavior online. The authors highlight the importance of providing young people with the skills and resources they need to effectively counter online violence. They also argue that youth led interventions should be supported by policy makers to ensure long term sustainability. The article aims to examine the role of youth to counter hate speech online violence. The article is extremely useful in my research because the writers draw the importance of adapting positive behavior online, which will in turn promote responsible behavior and positive messages.

This article fits in my research as it is to show how youths are countering hate speech and online violence through awareness creation, dialogue and responsible online behavior.

## **THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS**

### **Social Media Theory**

This theory was developed by Danah boyd, James W. Pennebaker and S. Craig Watkins. The authors of this theory suggest that social media platforms shape the way people communicate, relate and form their identities in several ways: according to this theory, the social media platform has changed the nature of communication. However, with the advent of social media, communication has become more immediate, more public, and more text based. People now have online “friends” and “followers” who they may never meet in person. The theory explains that one social media platform provides a platform for self-expression where people can portray their identities on social media, presenting themselves in way they want to be seen. Social media theory suggests that young people may form their identities differently when they are exposed to social media, which could help explain why some people engage in online violence. This theory explains peer pressure as a contributing factor to influence people on certain norms and value of their online communities, which could explain why some people engage in online violence in order to fit in. The authors emphasize that group polarization influence people’s attitude and behaviors. The theory explains group polarization can expose people to extreme viewpoint on social media, which can lead to engage in online violence or other harmful behavior.

### **Media effect theory**

The Media effect theory was first proposed by Henry Lasswell and was later developed and expanded by many other scholars over the years, including S.S Wilbur Schramm, George Gerbner, and Elihu Katz and Paul Learfield. This theory suggests that media messages can influence people’s behavior, attitudes and beliefs. According to the authors, media effect theory suggests that in the case of online violence, young people may be influenced by the messages they are exposed to on social media. However, if a young person is exposed to messages that promote violence and hate speech on social media, they may be more likely to engage in similar behavior.

### **Social Learning theory**

This theory was developed by Albert Bandura and published in a book entitled “Principles of Behavior Modification” (1961) emphasizing the role of observational learning in shaping people’s

behavior. According to the author using this theory in interventions that promote positive online behavior is of crucial importance because it helps to reinforce prosocial behavior. This could be through educational materials that show how to respond to online violence and promote positive online interactions. This theory therefore suggests that online violence can be reduced by modeling and reinforcing positive online behavior, such as respectful dialogue and empathy for others in the social media space.

### **Cultivation theory**

The Cultivation theory was written by George Gebner. The theory has a lot to contribute to social Sciences since its publication in the 1970s. The author suggests that the theory has a heavy exposure to media and can shape people's beliefs about the world around. For example, according to the author if young people are exposed to a lot of online violence, they may come to believe that online violence is common and acceptable. Therefore, understanding this theory, someone can design interventions that counter these beliefs.

Cultivation theory, social learning theory, media effect theory and social media theory have similarities focusing on how young people are exposed to a lot of online violence. The authors of these theories suggest that online violence can be reduced by modeling educational materials, dialogue showing how to respond to online violence and promote positive messages. The social learning theory is related to the change theory in that it aims at shaping people's behavior and promoting responsible behavior online. The theory was chosen because it forms the basis of my project due to the fact that it aims to show how young citizen journalists' behavior and attitudes can promote online peace and positive messages on social media platforms and it draws more attention on critical thinking by young people towards digital platforms.

### **Change Theory and how it was applied to the social change initiative.**

The project was aimed at changing the behavior and attitudes of young citizen journalists towards hate speech and online violence. Therefore, the project draws on the theory of social learning in shaping people's behavior and promoting change and positive online behavior. Through educational materials that show how to respond to online violence and promote positive online interactions. This theory therefore suggests that online violence can be reduced by modeling and reinforcing positive online behavior, such as respectful dialogue and empathy for others in the social media space. The project aims at improving social learning among young citizen journalists

by providing digital and information literacy training, creating an online platform for sharing experiences and ideas, and organizing workshops. These activities are designed to promote positive social interactions and behavioral change and personal thinking and reflection among young citizen journalists towards media and social media. The social media platforms also provided a space for young citizen journalists to share experiences and ideas on how to counter hate speech and online violence. These ideas are therefore used to promote discussion and reflection among young citizen journalists.

## **METHODS OF THE SOCIAL INITIATIVE:**

### **Design**

Before the implementation phase of the project, a need assessment phase of the project was conducted to figure out the specific needs and challenges of young citizen journalists in countering hate speech and online violence. From the data-based survey, it was seen and discovered that majority of young social media behavior and attitude towards social media needs to be improved. Training Materials were developed to address the needs found in the assessment of needs. The training materials undergone some testing with some few experts and a small group of young citizen journalists aims at evaluating their effectiveness. The project was implemented on a scale, with young citizen journalists from different sub division in Bamenda in the media and information training, with specific focus on identifying and countering hate speech and online violence, create an online platform where young citizen journalists can share stories, experience and ideas on countering hate speech and online violence, organize training workshops and meetings for young citizen journalists to discuss strategies and harness best practices for addressing hate speech and online violence. The online platform and training materials can be changed to suit the specific needs and contexts of the different Subdivisions of Mezam, Bamenda. During the design of the project, it was made flexible and can be adapted to meet the changing needs of young citizen journalists. For example, the training materials can be change to suit context and the type of hate speech and online violence that are prevalent.

## **CHAPTER THREE:**

### **INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

Interventions and activities during the implementation of the project was a training workshop empowering young citizen journalists (online media users), with the focus to counter hate speech and online violence. And how to identify, counteract, and prevent hate speech and online violence and how to use the social media platforms responsibly. During the training workshop, participants were engaged and participated in an interactive session in areas like identifying hate speech and online violence languages. This was done as an evaluation of their understanding of the topic at hand. Consultation from youth led organizations and the training workshop culminated in the creation of the Cameroon young Citizen journalism Network. This network serves as a platform for young journalists to learn, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that drive positive change. The network aimed at fostering a new generation of informed and responsible citizen journalists who are now actively contributing to a safer and more inclusive online environment and committed young leaders in promoting peace and development through responsible journalism and proactive engagement in societal issues. An online platform has been created known as Cameroon Young citizen journalism network where this young journalist shares their stories, experiences, ideas and as well engage in advocacy campaign on countering hate speech and online violence. A pass it on session has been conducted by some beneficiaries of the training workshop to reiterate the danger of hate speech and online violence among their peers and colleagues and the diverse ways to counteract the ills and make the online environment safer.

### **KEY FINDINGS AND IMPACT OF THE PROJECT**

#### **Key findings of the project:**

- The training workshop aimed at improving the skills, attitude and behavior of young citizen journalists can be effective in promoting positive and inclusive messages among young citizen journalists.
- The online platform that was created successfully provided a space for young citizen journalists to share their stories, experiences, ideas and engage in meaningful advocacy and collaboration on countering hate speech and online violence.

- The pass on workshop by some of the beneficiaries of the training workshop provided a space for young citizen journalists to develop and harness best practices for countering hate speech and online violence.
- The project increased awareness about the issue of hate speech and online violence at workplaces, community and promoted media and information literacy among peers and young citizen journalists.

### **Key impact of the Project:**

The project empowering young citizen journalists to counter hate speech and online violence had several impacts on the young citizen journalists, the community and the social media platforms. This impact several, including:

- It created increased awareness and understanding of hate speech and online violence among the young citizen journalists and the social media community. More people become aware of these ills and are advocating the issues by speaking out through testimonials and combating them.
- The project has improved media and literacy skills and knowledge among young citizen journalists. The beneficiaries of the project's skills to identify, counteract and prevent hate speech and online violence is appreciated.
- Increase self-confidence and ability to empowerment among young citizen journalists through empowering others and are effective and influence changes about the issues in their workplace and community against hate speech and online violence.
- The training workshop promoted positive changes in attitude and behavior towards online violence and social media among young social media users, leading to more responsible and ethical use of this platform.
- Increased engagement and collaboration among young citizen journalists in countering hate speech and online violence.



## **CHAPTER FOUR:**

### **GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **CONCLUSION**

The project has culminated in rich and diverse narratives that underscore the transformative power of responsible and ethical journalism. The end of project report simulation report is a testament to the initiative's impact, particularly in empowering young citizen journalists to become catalyst for positive change within their communities. Citizen journalism gives access to individuals and groups with no journalistic experience to report events as they happen and sometime share misinformation, disinformation and malformation that often cause violence through social media platforms like Facebook, twitter, WhatsApp. One standing out story is that one of the young journalists proactively speaks out about an incident about hate speech. The report further details how the training provided to these young journalists equipped them with the tools to identify, counter, prevent and address hate speech and online violence. Moreover, the report serves as a feedback mechanism, highlighting the successes and challenges faced during the project's implementation. It provides insights into how the training modules influenced the participants' approach to journalism and their understanding of the power dynamics at play within social media platforms. The stories and experiences shared within the report are a beacon for other young individuals, inspiring them to take up the covering of citizen journalism and use their voices as instrument of societal change.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS /IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY**

The project will not have ended without citing some recommendations for policy design and implementation. The recommendations and implications for policy are based on the project findings. The United Nations Peace and Security Resolution 2250 assigned responsibility and holds states, institutions and Civil society organizations accountable for enabling youths with tools to contribute effectively to sustainable development efforts. This requires integration. young people in their societies, improving the levels of education and offering employment opportunities that meet their needs regarding this, the following recommendations and policy implications are outlined for the project.

- Government and civil society organizations should invest in media and information literacy programs, to equip young people with skills to identify and counter hate speech and online

violence. This therefore urged these stakeholders to incorporate media and information literacy in their intervening activities in sustainable development and advocacy processes in peace, security and liberation. And as well develop stronger policies in addressing hate speech and online violence

- They should be a joint network of civil society organizations in Bamenda where all will be collaborating with the same mission and vision to counter hate speech and online violence. They should be collaboration for work between social media platforms and this network of civil society organizations and media professionals to develop stronger policies and best practices to identify, prevent, report and accurate sanctions for perpetrators against hate speech and online violence.
- Educational institutions should include media and information literacy at every level and discipline of education, thus preparing young people's attitudes and behavior for responsible use of social media.

## **SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

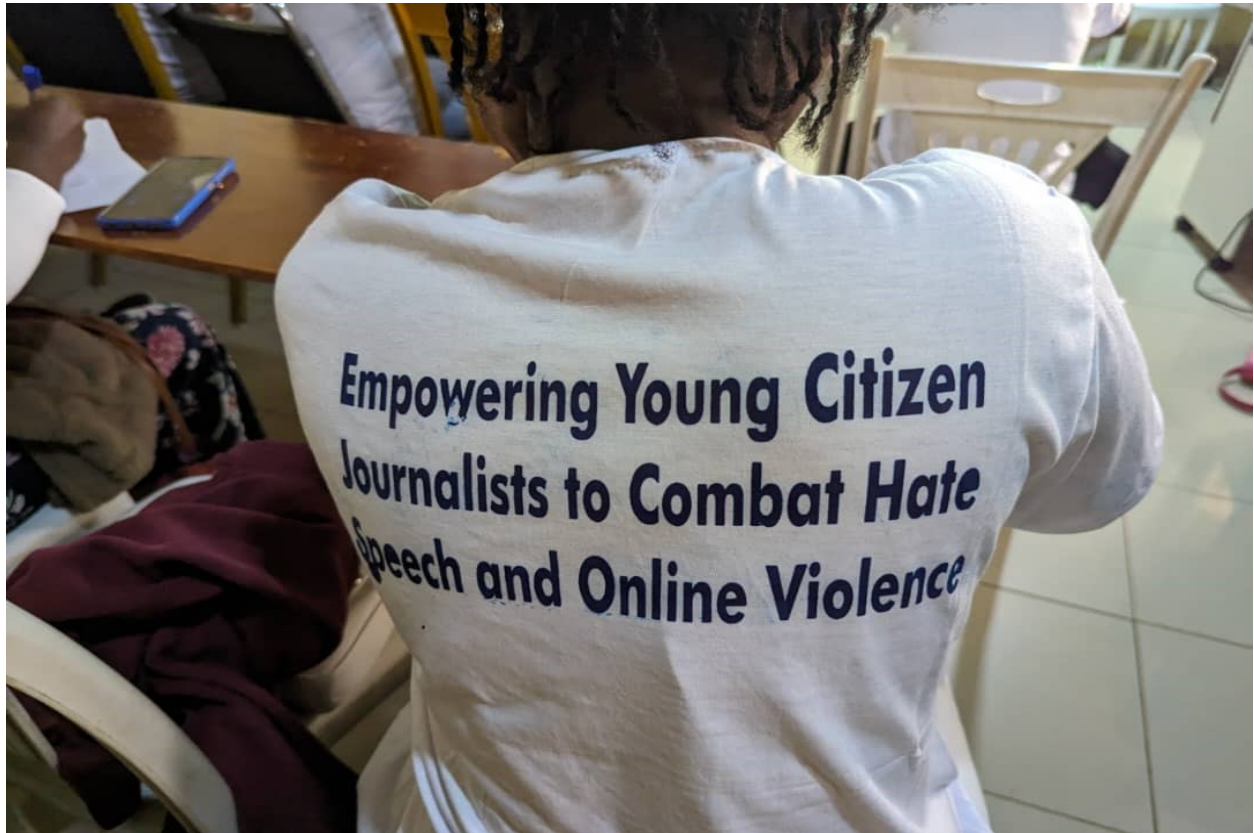
The project empowering young citizen journalism to counter hate speech and online violence is a long-term project aimed to promote positive and inclusive media practice in the communication landscape in Cameroon. To ensure the sustainability of the project, a sustainable network of Cameroon young citizen journalists was created to create a positive lasting change and it's not just about mitigating the immediate effects of hate speech but also about building a lasting peace and a safe online environment. The vision for this network is to foster a community of young people or leaders who are committed to promoting peace and development through responsible journalism and initiative-taking engagement in societal issues. This network will be supported by a dedicated website, which will provide resources and tools for countering hate speech and online violence. The network will also be supported by mentorship from some key professional experts in the media field providing these young people with guidance, advice and support.

The project can seek funding from key stakeholders like some non- governmental organizations, well-wishers, governmental agencies that are working in similar initiatives and are interested in supporting the imitative promoting media and information literacy.

Community participation through the involvement of community leaders in the project will also create a sense of ownership of the project. This could include a social media campaign and continuous education of the masses about the ill on countering hate speech and online violence.

## APPENDIX

**Pic 1: Training workshop for young citizen journalists**



**source: Author (2024), at RADA conference Hall Bamenda**

*The workshop was designed to equip young citizen journalists with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively counter hate speech and online violence. Through hands-on training, participants are empowered to become advocates for responsible media and positive social change in the digital space.*

**Pic 2: Expert Facilitator leads the charge against Online Hate**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

*Nchinda Nelvis Yuh, a peace weaver in Cameroon shares knowledge on countering hate speech and online violence during an engaging training workshop*

**Pic 3: Focus Group Discussion on Harnessing Skills to Combat hate Speech and Online Violence**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA conference Hall Bamenda**

*Participants engaging in a focus group discussion led by the facilitator on how to identify and combat hate speech. Through questions and discussions, they are equipped with knowledge and skills to make a positive impact online.*



**Pic 4: Focus Group Findings; Presentation on the impact of racially Targeted Hate speech.**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

*Group one presents their identify results on identifying offensive languages targeting individuals based on race or ethnicity. Through their results, they shed light on the harm caused by such speech and how to effectively combat it.*

**Pic 5: Focus Group findings; understanding and addressing Religious-based hate Speech.**

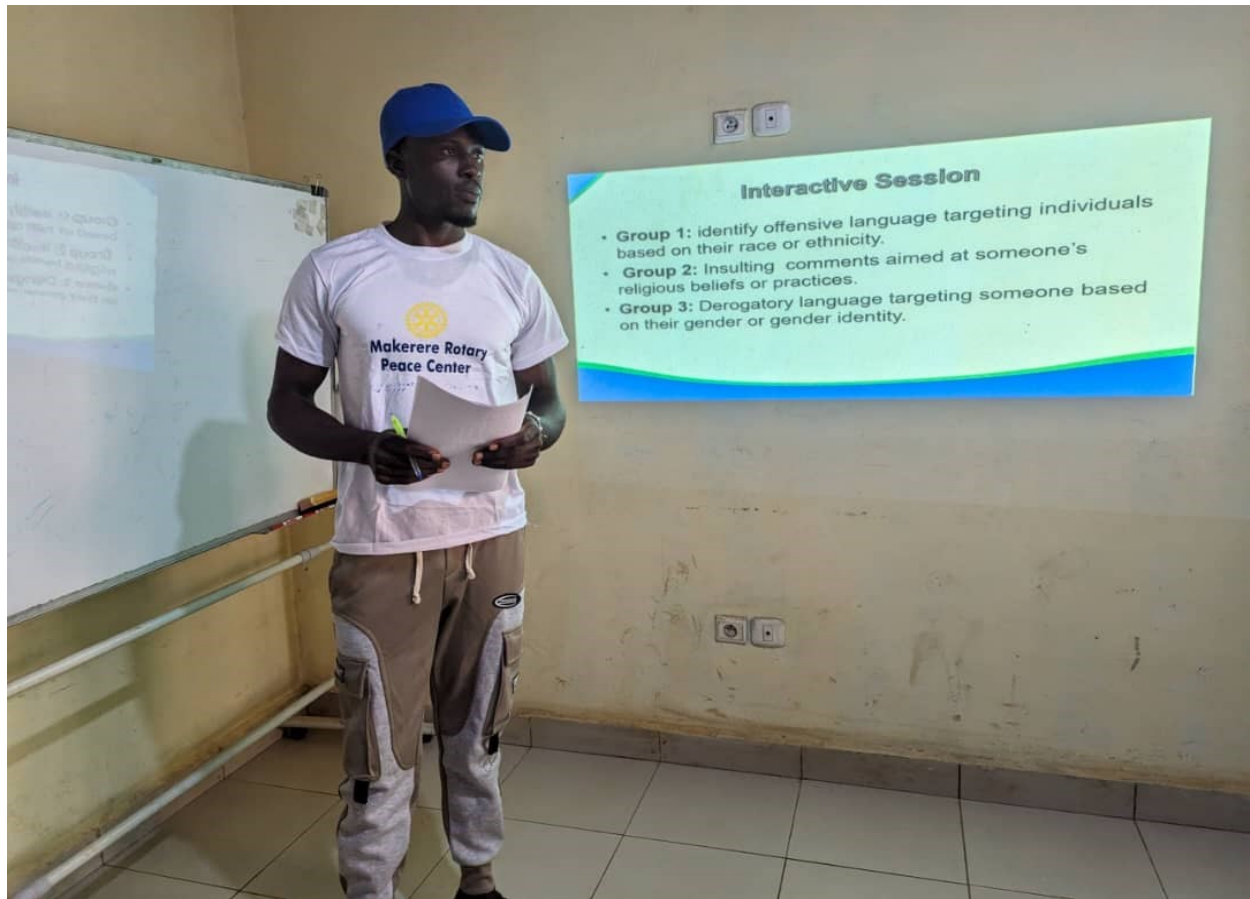


**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

*Team leaders of group two shed light on the impact of insulting comments targeting religious beliefs and practices as outlined by the team.*



**Pic 6: Challenging Gender stereotype**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

*Group Three presentation highlights harmful gender stereotype like” All boys are dogs” and “women are money-minded”. Such language fuel gender-based discrimination and reinforces damaging narratives*

**Pic 7: Leading the Fight Against Hate Speech: Legal Tools for the Digital Age**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

Kengah Geraldine Yayah, the convener of the workshop, takes the lead on addressing hate speech and intolerance, *sharing knowledge on the legal framework for action in a digital age* Her session empowers participants with the knowledge to combat online hate speech effectively and create a more inclusive, respectful digital space.

**Pic 8: Workshop participants and Family Photo**



**Source: Author (2024), at RADA Conference Hall Bamenda**

*The workshop ends on a high note as participants gather for a group photo. Each one takes pride in registering as a founding member of the Cameroon Young Citizen Journalism Network, committed to fighting hate speech and fostering responsible journalism across the country.*



**Pic 9: Pass It On workshop at United Youth Organization**



**Source: United Youth Organization (2024), at the Office of United Youth Organization  
Bamenda**

*Tata carol and Domi Fabrice, both beneficiaries of the training, lead the “Pass it on” workshop at United Youth Organization. Their dedication to sharing knowledge ensures that the lessons learned continue to inspire and empower others, fostering a growing community of changemakers.*

**Pic 10: Pass it on workshop at SOPISDEW Cameroon**



**Source: SOPISDEW Cameroon (2024), at SOPISDEW Cameroon Office, Bamenda**

*SOPISDEW Cameroon Volunteers Etherline Kusham, Quinta Tayea and Tah Faith, all past beneficiaries of the training, lead the “Pass it On “workshop at SOPISDEW Cameroon. Their commitment to sharing their knowledge empowers others to continue the cycle of learning and growth, building a stronger and more informed community.*

### **Participants Testimonies.**

Find attached the link for Testimonies:

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kengah-geraldine-42b857208\\_find-makerere-rotary-activity-7246827651091369984-rGRP?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kengah-geraldine-42b857208_find-makerere-rotary-activity-7246827651091369984-rGRP?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios).

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