

A ROUNDTABLE ON
HATE & DANGEROUS SPEECH ONLINE: IDENTIFICATION &
STRATEGIES

9:00 am – 10.30 am, 12th November 2015

at

Workshop Room - 10

organised by

The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University
The Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University, Delhi
The Dangerous Speech Project
The Digital Asia Hub
Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan

&

Dr. Cherian George

MODERATOR: *Professor Urs Gasser, Executive Director, Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University*

SESSION OUTLINE

Online hate speech is an ongoing and serious concern for Internet stakeholders. The complex tangle of issues include its implications for disempowered groups, Internet enabled anonymity, its cross-border nature and the effects of regulation on freedom of expression.

This roundtable will discuss comparative experiences with hate speech, especially online, from around the world with a focus on South Asia. It will use Susan Benesch's Dangerous Speech framework to see if it is possible to separate offensive speech and hate speech from speech that is likely to result in violence. Using Susan's context-driven understanding of dangerous speech, we will explore different strategies, especially non-legal ones, to deal with online hate speech.

We expect this session to help distinguish between different kinds of online speech like the Charlie Hebdo cartoons, the targeting of Shias and Ahmadis and other vulnerable communities online in Pakistan and the circulation of morphed images suggesting violence by Muslims in India. Speech targeting women and sexual minorities will be a part of this conversation.

Government regulation of online hate speech often backfires because of the tension between regulation of speech and freedom of expression. Frank La Rue in his report as the UN Special Rapporteur has recognized this tension and has advocated the limited use of legal measures along with non-legal measures to handle hate speech.

The IGF has discussed elements of online hate speech before but has never considered how to isolate and target dangerous speech (as opposed to hate speech). Contextualising this discussion in South Asia will make it particularly rich and complex, and suited to very immediate concerns.

SCHEDULE

TIMINGS	PROGRAMME
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Introductory Remarks
9:10 am - 10:20 am	Hate Speech in South Asia Brief outline of online hate speech in countries in the region, including India, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea and Sri Lanka Hate Speech Online Frank La Rue, Judith Lichtenberg and Ankhi Das will discuss the normative challenges Discussing Strategies to Deal with Online Hate Speech
10:20 am - 10:30 am	Concluding Remarks