



Online Hate
Prevention Institute
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HATE AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM FROM AN ONLINE SUBCULTURE

The Yom Kippur Terrorist
Attack in Halle, Germany



Foreword

On 9 October 2019 in Halle, Germany, a heavily armed far-right extremist attacked the Jewish community. Only a door that did not give way saved the Jewish community from possibly the biggest massacre after the Shoah. Two people were killed and Germany added to the list of terror attacks against Jewish Europeans – on Yom Kippur. Antisemitism has many expressions but online it finds the most fertile ground. Radicalisation has built up in recent years and connects antisemites worldwide to share and reinforce their conspiracies.

Halle showed us that radicalisation online leads to murder in the real world. Be it Pittsburgh or Poway, El Paso or Christchurch or a medium-sized town in the centre of Germany. The way to radicalisation is paved with antisemitic conspiracies labelling Jewish communities as the sources of evil, oppression and domination. Sometimes subtle, sometimes humorous and sometimes overt. Antisemitism has become the engine that drives far right racism, anti-Muslim hatred, xenophobia, homophobia and anti-gender movements. Only when we are able to decode this language and raise awareness about the intersectionality between antisemitism and other forms of hatred, will societies understand the need to react more forcefully.

The European Commission has proposed a regulation on countering terrorist content online within one-hour of detection. Our cooperation with internet companies in the EU Internet Forum is yielding concrete results. After Halle, all the 200 variants of the video and the manifesto, including the soundtrack used to glorify the attack, were removed within a couple of hours. Thanks to the Code of Conduct on Online Hate Speech, a collaborative process between IT companies, civil society and Member States, 89% of notifications are now reviewed within 24 hours and 72% of the content deemed to be illegal hate speech is removed.

I thank the Online Hate Prevention Institute (OHPI) for bringing together this valuable study and the useful recommendations. Only by better studying the phenomenon we are able to fight back. As President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said: “Antisemitism is a poison for our community. And it is up to all to fight it, to prevent it and to eradicate it. The fight against antisemitism is as much for every other part of our community as it is for Jewish people. (...) We must all do our part. The Jewish community is not alone.

Katherina Von Schnurbein

European Commission Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism