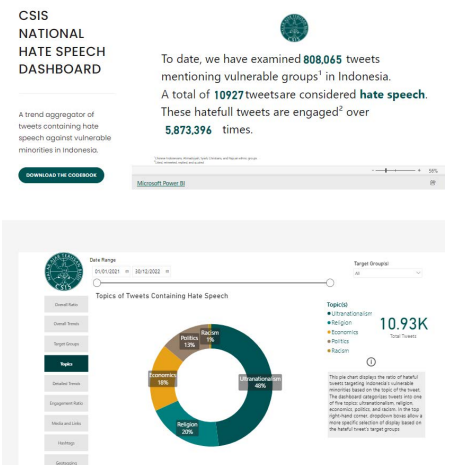# SPOTLIGHT ON R2P

Spotlight on the 2023 APPAP Working Group on the Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement 2023

On the 15th of September 2023, the APPAP Working Group on the Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement met via Zoom to discuss the group's work across late-2022 and 2023, and to propose next steps and initiatives for 2024. The meeting was chaired by the APR2P Centre, and various Working Group members spoke to Working Group initiatives.

Background

The Working Group, established in 2019, has met every year since its formation, in person in Thailand and Indonesia in 2019 and 2020, and ever since (initially due to COVID-19 restrictions), via Zoom. While the group meets annually to discuss initiatives and ideas, members of the Working Group gather in smaller numbers regularly to work on projects, participate in training initiatives, present at regional conferences, and to take part in report writing. Core members of the group derive from the APPAP partnership and include the APR2P Centre, CSIS Indonesia, ALTSEAN-Burma in Thailand, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Beyond Borders in Malaysia, Human Rights Working Group Indonesia, Initiatives for International Dialogue in The Philippines, the Malaysian Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (MCCHR), Belun from Timor-Leste, and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University in The Philippines.

The aim of the Working Group is to reduce the prevalence of hate speech, disinformation, and its risk of incitement to violence, using education, advocacy, research, and a variety of on-the-ground project work.

Project summaries

Across late-2022 and into 2032, the Working Group initiated and helped with several projects:

1. At the request of APPAP members in 2020, in 2023 APPAP and the APR2P Centre released "Hate Speech Legislation in the Asia Pacific: A Compendium," a document that serves as a navigational guide for regional CSOs and NGOs who wish to understand how international and regional legislation might work to curb hate speech.

2. In June of 2023, APPAP partner CSIS Indonesia, along with the APR2P Centre, developed the third iteration of the Hate Speech and Disinformation Training, which APPAP members have been a component of since the course was first delivered in 2021. The 2023 training was held in Bandung, Indonesia, and was attended by the UN Special Advisor on R2P Mr George Okoth Obo.

3. Across the year, two APPAP applications with a focus on the prevention of hate speech have been updated and refined. This has led to the launch of the "SOS" Hate Speech Reporting App, and an upgrade for the CSIS Hate Speech Dashboard. In late 2022 the CSIS Hate Speech Dashboard was funded as an APPAP initiative for a second data input and software update, and in 2023 was funded for a third inclusion of input and further updates. The dashboard is also being extended to The Philippines with Freedom Media Alternatives (FMA) and is currently in development/replication, with a launch date of early 2024.

4. APPAP's "Speak Out / Stop Hate" hate speech reporting mechanism was soft-launched in late 2023 and APPAP members Beyond Borders and ALT-SEAN-Burma are currently publicising the platform. It was refined across early 2023 and it now offers a chance for those reporting incidents of hate speech to also reveal the impacts hate speech has had on their physical and mental wellbeing.

5. Other APPAP initiatives across 2023 have been the inclusion of APPAP members in a series of prevention of hate speech videos, yet to be released, and members' participation in APR2P projects, including youth training for the prevention of hate speech organised and run by the Malaysian Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights, and workshops and reports associated with the applications.
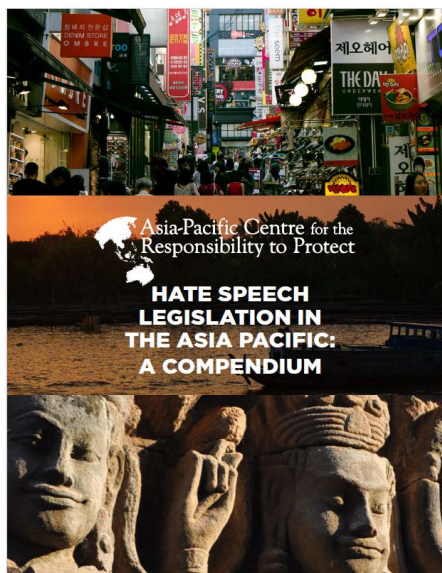
Looking forward

Members of the Working Group have signalled several key agenda items across 2024-2025. First is to expand APPAP membership with the inclusion of organisations with a prevention of hate speech and disinformation agenda. Second is to translate key documents relevant to the prevention of hate speech into Bahasa Malay and Tagalog, complimenting the documents that have already been translated into Bahasa Indonesian, Thai, and Burmese. It is also requested that a further UN document join the cache of those already available, the 2023 "Countering and Addressing Online Hate Speech: A Guide for Policy Makers and Practitioners." Third, members also expressed hope in an in-person meeting in 2024 that might coincide with a fourth iteration of the Prevention of Hate Speech and Disinformation training in which Working Group members are available to teach into the course.

HATE SPEECH
Video Series

HATE SPEECH
Video Series
Covid-19 and hate speech in Malaysia and Indonesia

What is hate speech?

How does hate speech spread?

Prevent hate speech.

social media promoting hate speech

Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

HATE SPEECH LEGISLATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC: A COMPENDIUM