

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH and R2P



#ShareItRight - Online Bootcamp for Preventing Hate Speech in Social Media

Background

In 2021, the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect was proud to support a youth-led and youth-focused project in Indonesia, #BagikanDenganBenar (#ShareItRight). The 'Virtual Academy' involved a series of online workshops for 20 Indonesian youth from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds to learn how to define, and advocate against various forms of hate speech. Led by members of the Youth Core Group for Atrocity Prevention, Vierna Wensatama and Wike Devi, the project was well received and impactful.

The Importance of #ShareIt-Right

Although hate speech is not a new phenomenon, the accessibility of social media and the internet has meant that it has become much more visible and widespread. Across online platforms, and in the context of Covid-19, there has been an increase in hurtful and damaging comments targeted at marginalised communities (such as LGBTIQ, and religious racial minorities). Therefore, it is necessary for social media users to be equipped with tools that can help them identify, address and rectify such behaviour. #ShareIt-

Right aimed to provide the 20 young people with mechanisms to advocate against hate speech across social media platforms.

What did #ShareItRight participants do?

Across four days the virtual academy had two key focuses: general capacity building and a group mini project. Capacity building was targeted during daily workshops, each of which presented a different keynote speaker. These guest presenters (including Yuyun Wahyuningrum and Zain Maulana) offered expert insight on a variety of relevant topics,

such as; hate speech and freedom of expression on social media; the psychology behind hate speech; how Indonesian laws regulate safe discourses in social media; and how we can benefit from social media features for positive campaigns. These workshops successfully empowered participants with the resources to not only identify hate speech, but to ultimately advocate for its prevention.

At the end of each day, participants applied their new knowledge from the workshops to their group mini project. The mini project required participants to create an engaging and positive social media campaign for the chosen topic of 'Socialisation of Vaccination (against) COVID-19'. Each group acted as different stakeholders, namely the government, NGO, mass media and social issue activists. Together they used a variety of digital media to present engaging campaigns, advocating for the prevention of hate speech in Indonesia.

The Impact of #ShareItRight Report from Secretariat

To measure the success and influence of #ShareItRight, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) assessments were conducted at the beginning of the week and again at the end of each day. These assessments demonstrated how the participants' perspectives towards hate speech deepened in a little over a week. The results demonstrated that the workshops successfully promoted tolerance and equality among the participants. #ShareItRight has positively impacted those involved, and with a broader audience, this influence could become much larger.

Conclusion

The purpose of #ShareItRight was to empower agents of change, and with the tools provided over the four days, this was largely achieved. The workshops gave participants a widespread understanding of tolerance and equality, offering different perspectives which will be incorporated into their future advocacy. In Indonesia's current geopolitical climate, empowerment to advocate against hate speech on social me-

dia and the internet is of great importance. Therefore, #ShareItRight has had a clear influence on its participants, and is valuable in a future where social media and the internet will be at the forefront.

Acknowledgements

The APR2P Centre would like to thank:

Youth Core Group for Atrocity Prevention members: Vierna Wensatama and Wike Devi for facilitating the Share It Right Program.

Mr Daniel Awigra from APPAP partner organisation, Human Rights Working Group for its institutional support.

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