Australian National University

SYMPOSIUM

AFTER CHRISTCHURCH: VIOLENT EXTREMISM ONLINE

Thursday 29 August 2019

Moot Court Teaching Spaces 1 and 2
ANU College of Law

ANU
Australian Studies Institute

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history

Painting by Danie Mellor, distinguished Indigenous artist and ANU Alumnus, courtesy Tjabal Centre.

AUSTRALIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

The Australian Studies Institute (AuSI) was established in July 2018 as a university-wide institute to drive the 'Australia and the World' strategy.

Our mission is simple: promote the study of Australia, share our research and bring an Australian perspective to comparative, transnational and international projects. In short, we hope to join and facilitate national and global conversations.

The institute programs include:

- Faculty and student exchanges
- Joint conferences and workshops
- Public lectures
- Visiting fellowships
- Collaborative research projects.

Find out more at ausi.anu.edu.au and join us on Facebook and Twitter @ANUausi

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST

Time	Event
9.45am	**Coffee on arrival** Moot Court Foyer, ANU College of Law
10 – 10.30 am	**Welcome, introductions and setting the scene** **Professor Shirley Leitch – Australian Studies Institute**
10.30 – 11 am	**Free speech and hate speech in the Australian context** **Professor Sally Wheeler OBE MRIA FAcSS FAAL – ANU College of Law** Questions and research issues
11 – 11.30 am	**Platforms and moral responsibility** **Associate Professor Seth Lazar – School of Philosophy, College of Arts & Social Sciences** Questions and research issues
11.30 am – 12 pm	**Comparative analysis of hate speech provisions** **Professor Alison Dundes Renteln – Vice-Chancellor's 'Australia and the World' Visiting Fellow, Professor of Political Science, Anthropology, Public Policy and Law, University of Southern California** Questions and research issues
12 – 12.30 pm	**Lunch** Moot Court Foyer, ANU College of Law
12.30 – 1.15 pm	**Joint Session** **Competing perspectives on violent extremism online: Technological determinism and social constructivism** **Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller – Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences** **#AfterChristchurch: Social Media Mourning regarding the Christchurch Mosque Shootings** **Xinyuan (Cynthia) Xu – Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences** **Video games, gaming culture and violent extremism online** **Robert Fleet – Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences** Questions and research issues

Time	Event
1.15 – 2 pm	**Joint Session** **How do legislators and policy makers publicly discuss the challenge of addressing violent extremism online?** **Dr Dominique Dalla-Pozza – ANU College of Law** **Current status and gaps in Australian Law** **Professor Mark Nolan – ANU College of Law** Questions and research issues
2 – 2:30 pm	**Coffee break** Moot Court Foyer, ANU College of Law
2.30 – 3 pm	**Hyper-democracy and the role of social media in the civic sphere** **Mark Kenny – Australian Studies Institute** Questions and research issues
3 – 3.30 pm	**Technology and Tragedy** **Dr Lesley Seebeck – Cyber Institute, College of Engineering & Computer Science** Questions and research issues
3.30 – 4 pm	**'Crisis? What Crisis?': technology and political change** **Professor Paul Pickering – Australian Studies Institute** Questions and research issues
4 – 4.15 pm	**Closing remarks** **Professor Shirley Leitch – Australian Studies Institute**
4.15pm	**Drinks** Fellows Bar, University House

ABSTRACTS & BIOS

After Christchurch: Setting the scene

By Professor Shirley Leitch (Australian Studies Institute)

About

Professor Shirley Leitch is a Professorial Fellow at the Australian Studies Institute, having joined the Institute after serving ANU first as Dean on the College of Business and Economics and then as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement).

Her research is focused on public discourse and change, including science-society engagement in relation to controversial science and technology. Recent publications include the co-authored book, *Social Media and Public Relations: Fake Friends and Powerful Publics*, which received an NCA PRIDE Award for best book or monograph.

For an overview of publications, see https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/leitch-sr. Shirley is also currently an international researcher on the New Zealand Government's National Science Challenge 'Science for Technological Innovation' see: https://www.sftichallenge.govt.nz/

Free speech and hate speech in the Australian context

By Professor Sally Wheeler OBE (ANU College of Law)

About

Professor Sally Wheeler, OBE MRIA FAcSS FAAL is the Pro-Vice Chancellor for International Strategy and Dean of ANU College of Law. Prior to taking up these positions at ANU, Sally was a Professor and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen's University Belfast.

Sally was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences and the Royal Irish Academy in 2011 and 2013, respectively. She became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in 2018. Sally was the Head of the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast for several years where she also served as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS), Dean of Internationalisation (AHSS) and, in 2017, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise.

In the 2017 New Years' Honours list, Sally was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in Northern Ireland.

Ethics of controlling social media content and distribution

By Associate Professor Seth Lazar (School of Philosophy, College of Arts & Social Sciences)

Abstract

Are the owners of platforms morally responsible for the consequences of people's use of their platforms? This presentation discusses how theories of moral responsibility apply to cases like Christchurch, and try to determine whether platforms raise new questions of moral responsibility, or can be adequately understood using existing theories.

About

Associate Professor Seth Lazar is Head of the School of Philosophy, lead Chief Investigator on the ARC grant 'Ethics and Risk', and project lead of the Humanising Machine Intelligence Grand Challenge Program. He writes on topics in political philosophy, and normative and applied ethics.

He has two current research projects. The first focuses on how those who care about rights and duties can make decisions under risk and uncertainty. He is working on a book, to come out with Oxford University Press, called Duty Under Doubt: Deontological Decision-Making with Imperfect Information. The second project is on Humanising Machine Intelligence. He is project leader of a major $8m investment by ANU in developing a more ethical future for machine intelligence, and is collaborating with some of the University's leading computer scientists, philosophers, and social scientists on one of the most important problems of our age.

Comparative analysis of hate speech provisions

By Professor Alison Dundes Renteln (Vice-Chancellor's 'Australia and the World' Visiting Fellow/University of Southern California)

Abstract

To design appropriate public policies, government officials would benefit from a consideration of best practices across the globe. This presentation will consider various formulations of hate speech provisions in domestic and international law. The presentation will consider to what extent, if at all, they can work for online hate speech.

About

Alison Dundes Renteln is a Professor of Political Science with appointments in Anthropology, Law, and Public Policy. She teaches Law and Public Policy with an emphasis on comparative and international law. A graduate of Harvard (History and Literature: Modern Europe), she has a Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from the University of California, Berkeley and a J.D. from USC Gould School. She served as Director of the Unruh Institute of Politic and Vice-Chair and Chair of Political Science. In 2005 she received the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching (campus-wide) and two Mellon Excellence in Mentoring Awards for graduate and undergraduate students (2005, 2011).

Renteln is the author of nine single-authored or co-edited books and over sixty articles on topics such as cultural rights, bioethics, health and human rights, disability policy, equality and non-discrimination issues, children's rights, international law, reparations, women's human rights, and the ICC.

For decades she has taught judges, lawyers, court interpreters, jury consultants, and police officers at meetings of the American Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, North American South Asian Bar Association, and the American Society of Trial Consultants. Renteln collaborated with the UN on drafting and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, lectured on comparative legal ethics in Bangkok and Manila at ABA-sponsored conferences, and served on civil rights commissions and a California committee of Human Rights Watch. Currently she is the Vice Chancellor Australia and the World Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University.

Competing perspectives on violent extremism online: Technological determinism and social constructivism

By Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller (Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences)

Abstract

This presentation will set the scene for the discussion on highlighting the way the Web, and all human behaviours on it, are affected by two equal considerations: technological affordances, limitations, and possibilities; and social considerations, norms, and activities. It proposes that neither the technological determinist nor the social constructivist perspective are wholly accurate alone, and in both the creation of the problem, and its solution, both sides of the discussion are necessary.

About

Terhi is a lecturer in Digital Humanities at the Centre for Digital Humanities Research at the Australian National University. Her research to date has covered Linked Data projects for Humanities Data, 3D modelling, and the role digital technologies and the online world affect education and learning.

#AfterChristchurch: Social Media Mourning regarding the Christchurch Mosque Shootings

By Xinyuan (Cynthia) Xu (Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences)

Abstract

This short presentation introduces a new line of investigation into Social Media Mourning (SMM), the act of individual and collective grieving on social media. Previous research has analysed this behaviour as a response to a death within a family, a group of friends or celebrities. We report on SMM regarding a large scale human tragedy caused by deliberate acts of violence. We present a tentative analysis of social media grieving posts regarding Christchurch shootings event that published on two social media platforms from the different cultural context, Twitter and Sina Weibo (henceforth 'Weibo'). We found that the focus of Weibo users is mainly about the gun, while Twitter users pay more attention to religion and left-right political spectrum.

About

Xinyuan is an alumna of the ANU Centre for Digital Humanities Research. She will start her PhD in the Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Research Program in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University in 2020. Xinyuan has worked with Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller on the Social Media Mourning research for the last two years. Her first publication in this field was published in 2018. Xinyuan's expertise is in the collection and analysis of cross-cultural and multilingual digital content from various different online platforms and digital environments.

Video games, gaming culture and violent extremism online

By Robert Fleet (Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences)

Abstract

One of the more persistent public discussions in the wake of active shooter events is the role that video games play in the precipitation of these events. These discussions operate on the false premise that the typical "gamer" fits within a demographic shared with lone-wolf style attackers. However repeated measures of the average "gamer" demographic paints a very different picture. Gaming remains one of the biggest entertainment markets in the world with revenues eclipsing movies and television many times over. So why do the myths persist about video games and the causal links between virtual world violence and physical world violence? Research does suggest that people in virtual scenarios will tend to behave in similar ways to which they would behave in the physical world. However, most people carry over their experiential knowledge, skills and other pre-dispositions into the game. Therefore games tend to uncover and complement underlying issues rather than be a contributing factor. To blame games is to look for a rational explanation to a somewhat irrational act. Perhaps of more concern is the alternative "gamer" culture that has arisen on the darker parts of the internet that are tangential related to video gaming. Also, more recently there has been a shift in how people engage with video games, with the streaming of live video gameplay becoming more and more popular with "gamer" audiences. The Christchurch shooter played to some of these audiences in his manifesto and live-stream.

About

Robert is a PhD candidate in the ANU Centre for Digital Humanities Research. His primary research interests look at patterns of behaviour in virtual worlds and what they tell us about patterns observed in the physical world as it applies to organised criminal groups. Robert was previously an e-Research analyst and works as a consultant Data Scientist at UC.

How do legislators and policy makers publicly discuss the challenge of addressing violent extremism online?

By Dr Dominique Dalla-Pozza (ANU College of Law)

Abstract

This short presentation will look at the ways in which members of parliament discussed the challenge of dealing with the threat posed by violent extremism online. It will be particularly focused of the parliamentary debates that accompanies the swift passage of the *Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Act 2019 (Cth)* and the questions posed to public servants and heads of intelligence and other agencies in the Senate Estimates hearings that took place April 2019. The aim of this analysis is to try and discern which aspects of the threat posed by violent extremism online are given particular prominence. In turn, this may help to better understand the contours of any future arguments about further law reform proposals to help deal with this threat in the future.

About

Dr Dominique Dalla-Pozza is a senior lecturer at the ANU College of Law working in the field of Australian Public Law and Australian National Security Law. Her primary research deals with the Australian Parliament and the legislative process, especially the process by which Australian National Security Law is made. She is particularly interested in the work done by parliamentary committees. Her PhD (completed at the Gilbert+Tobin Centre of Public Law at UNSW) focused on the process by which the Australian Parliament enacted counter-terrorism between 2001 and 2006.

A distinctive feature of the approach Dom takes to legislative process is her use of ideas drawn from deliberative democratic theory as a core theme in her work. One of her main aims as a researcher is to continue to bring together ideas from the disciplines of political science and law to provide a richer understanding of the law-making process.

Current legal status and gaps in Australian Law

By Professor Mark Nolan (ANU College of Law)

Abstract

This presentation aims to provoke discussion about the potential over-reach, or not, of the *Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Act 2019 (Cth)*, drafted in haste over 48 or so hours post the Christchurch attacks and aimed at regulating the sharing of "abhorrent violent material". There are some remarkable and intriguing aspects to fault element definition contained in the new offences defined in that legislation: in particular, the use of presumptions about the existence of subjective mental states in the minds of the perpetrators, rather than the requirement to prove that those mental states existed at the time of the commission of the physical elements of the new criminal offences. Interestingly, the use of such presumptions is also found in legislation creating offences to regulate the hosting and circulation of child exploitation material online and provided a drafting model for the post-Christchurch bill. The benefits and disadvantages of allowing such presumptions about fault elements existing in offences aimed at regulating shared online content will be discussed as will be related matters such as the definition of "abhorrent violent material" and defences to these newly-created offences, including defences facilitating research of politically-motivated violent extremism which utilises cyberspace to circulate manifestos and imagery.

About

Professor Mark Nolan works at the ANU College of Law as an interdisciplinary law and psychology scholar. His research and teaching interests are in criminal law and procedure, federal criminal law (such as counter-terrorism and cybercrime), military discipline law, criminal investigation, policing, penology, legal psychology, social psychology, social cohesion, identity psychology, citizenship, and intergroup relations. Prior to his joining the ANU College of Law in 2002, Mark studied a PhD on the social psychology of human rights law at the ANU Research School of Psychology, and also has an LLB, Honours in Psychology, and a Masters of Asia-Pacific Studies specialising in Thai language and Thai studies. Mark teaches clinical programs in prison, supervising law students teaching law to incarcerated inmates.

Hyper-democracy and the role of social media in the civic sphere

By Mark Kenny (Australian Studies Institute)

Abstract

When thinking about media, politics, and the increasingly untidy nature of democratic engagement in the digital age, the critical question arises: *Has the internet changed everything, or has it merely revealed everything?*

Yet even these two propositions are not mutually exclusive.

Even if some behaviours are simply amplified rather than novel, their loudness can impart new pressure on systemic stability and social cohesion, and open new threats to civic exchange.

Despite nostalgic views of a kinder gentler polity, rudeness, bullying, the vilification of minorities, and other hateful discourses have long been levers of political power – in Australia and indeed in all countries and all systems.

Nonetheless, there are also observable dysfunctions of contemporary politics and civic discourse which feel more prominent in the era of self-publishing.

There's an irony in the fact that digital age has effectively publicised the private realm just at the historical moment that the regulation of public exchange has shifted largely to the private realm – to the incalculable benefit of supra-national internet companies.

About

Mark Kenny came to the Australian National University after a high-profile journalistic career culminating in 6 years as chief political correspondent and national affairs editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, and *The Canberra Times*.

He is a fixture on the ABC's *Insiders* program, Sky News *Agenda*, and is a sought after commentator on radio programs across the country. Before Fairfax, Kenny was political editor at *The Advertiser* having moved across from the ABC.

Based in Canberra for nearly two decades, he has reported from locations as diverse as Kandahar and Copenhagen, Bucharest, and Brunei. He has covered bilateral talks inside the White House, 10 Downing Street, Beijing's Great Hall of the People, the German Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt), the Japanese Prime Minister's Residence (The Kantei), The Vatican, and many others. He has also covered crucial summits including annual APEC and G20 meetings, G8, ASEAN and East Asia Summit, NATO, and the infamous Copenhagen climate talks in 2009.

A long-time member of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery committee, he is a director of the National Press Club. His research interests include national politics, comparative studies, democracy, and the rise of populism.

Technology and Tragedy

By Dr Lesley Seebeck (Cyber Institute, College of Engineering & Computer Science)

Abstract

Stories, gossip, innuendo are nothing new: they are part of the human condition and serve a necessary social function. Technology, whether papyrus, the printing press or the internet, has always generated concerns about its transformation of human communication, especially when that deviates from the generally accepted norms of the times. Attempts at suppression brings its own dangers. Are there alternatives?

About

Dr Lesley Seebeck started as the CEO of the Cyber Institute, Australian National University, on 30 July 2018. Most recently, she was Chief Investment and Advisory Officer at the Digital Transformation Agency, arriving there from the Bureau of Meteorology where she served as Chief Information Officer from mid 2014 to late 2017. In March 2017, she was recognised as Federal Government CIO of the Year. Dr Seebeck has extensive experience in strategy, policy, management, budget, information technology and research roles in the Australian Public Service, industry and academia. She has worked in the Departments of Finance, Defence, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Office of National Assessments, and as an IT and management consultant in private industry, and at two universities. Dr Seebeck has a PhD in information technology, an MBA, a Masters in Defence Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science (Physics).

‘Crisis? What Crisis?’: technology and political change

By Professor Paul Pickering (Australian Studies Institute)

Abstract

Since the 18th century at least, widespread access to successive new technologies in the Anglophone world often fundamentally changed the repertoire of politics. Fears that new ways performing politics would lead to what Thomas Carlyle famously called ‘shooting Niagara’, provoked successive attempts by State to buttress the old order. But if these intermittent ‘crises’ continued to transform the political landscape for how long did the perception that a new technology was responsible for change endure? Not long. The struggles for political change continued but the successive new technologies that enabled them soon became the new normal.

About

Professor Paul Pickering is Director of both the Research School of Humanities and the Arts (2013-) and the new Australian Studies Institute (2017-). Prior to taking up his current posts Paul has undertaken numerous roles at ANU, including a term as Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (2014-16) inaugural Director of the ANU Centre for European Studies (2010-12); Director of Graduate Studies (2004-9) and a Queen Elizabeth II Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre (2000-4). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2012 he was the recipient of the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision.

His books include *Chartism and the Chartists in Manchester and Salford* (1995); *The People’s Bread: A History of the Anti-Corn Law League* (2000) (with Alex Tyrrell); *Friends of the People: Uneasy Radicals in the Age of the Chartists* (London, 2003); *Contested Sites: Commemoration, Memorial and Popular Politics in Nineteenth Century Britain* (2004); *Unrespectable Radicals? Popular Politics in the Age of Reform* (2007); *Feargus O’Connor: A Political Life* (2008) and *Historical Reenactment: From Realism to the Affective Turn* (2010). His latest book (with Kate Bowan), *Sounds of Liberty: Music, Radicalism and Reform in the Anglophone World, 1790-1914*, was published in August 2017.

Dr Katrina Grant (Centre for Digital Humanities Research, College of Arts & Social Sciences)

About

Dr Katrina Grant is an art historian with a background in the study of Early Modern Italy. Her research focuses on gardens and the history of landscapes, as well as the visual culture of theatre and festivals, and the connections between these two areas.

Her PhD thesis focused on the relationship between garden design and theatre in Early Modern Italy. She has published on the gardens of Lucca, history of emotions and set design, and artistic relationships between Britain and Italy in the eighteenth century. She has run the popular Melbourne Art Network website as editor and webmaster since 2010 and she is a founding editor of the online open-access art history journal emaj (emajartjournal.com). She is currently in charge of Marketing and Communications for the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ).

She also has a background in educational research, including the use of new technologies for learning and assessment and worked as a Research Fellow at the Australian Council for Educational Research for several years. Her current research focuses on GIS and visualisation technologies and their potential for extending art historical research into new areas.

Dr Andrew Hughes (College of Business and Economics)

About

Andrew Hughes is a lecturer in marketing in the Research School of Management, where he teaches marketing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He is considered to be one of the leading researchers in political marketing in Australia and has given numerous interviews on politics and political marketing to international and national television, print and internet outlets.

His past research has examined the role of stakeholders in political marketing, personal brands in political marketing, and the role of negative advertising. His thesis, “The relationship between advertisement content and pacing on emotional responses and memory for televised political advertisements” was nominated for the University’s prestigious thesis prize, the J.G. Crawford Award.

His main areas of research include emotions in television advertising, emotional responses in marketing and strategy generally, communications, personal branding, and political and non-profit marketing. Connect with him at @marketingandrew.

G20 OSAKA LEADERS' STATEMENT ON PREVENTING EXPLOITATION OF THE INTERNET FOR TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCIVE TO TERRORISM (VECT)

As leaders, one of our greatest responsibilties is to ensure the security of our citizens. It is the state's role, first and foremost, to prevent and combat terrorism. Here in Osaka, we reaffirm our commitment to act to protect our people from terrorist and VECT exploitation of the internet. We issue this statement to raise the bar of expectation for online platforms to do their part.

We, the leaders of the G20**,** reaffirm our strongest condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The livestreamed Christchurch terrorist attacks, and other recent atrocities, demonstrate the urgency with which we must fully implement relevant UN resolutions, the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and other instruments, including the 2017 Hamburg G20 Leaders' Statement on Countering Terrorism.

For us all to reap the rewards of digitalisation, we are committed to realising an open, free and secure internet. The internet must not be a safe haven for terrorists to recruit, incite or prepare terrorist acts.To this end, we urge online platforms to adhere to the core principle, as affirmed in Hamburg, that the rule of law applies online as it does offline. This must be achieved in a way that is consistent with national and international law, including human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression and access to information — we hold these in high regard. We commit to collaborate with states, international organisations, industry, and civil society in this endeavour.

We urge online platforms to meet our citizens' expectations that they must not allow use of their platforms to facilitate terrorism and VECT. Platforms have an important responsibility to protect their users. The complexity of the challenge — and increasing sophistication of the criminals who would misuse the internet — does not lessen the importance of platforms mitigating the proliferation of terrorist and VECT content, which harms society, via their platforms.

We urge online platforms to step up the ambition and pace of their efforts to prevent terrorist and VECT content from being streamed, uploaded, or re-uploaded. We strongly encourage a concerted effort to set out, implement and enforce terms of service to detect and prevent terrorist and VECT content from appearing on their platforms. Amongst other measures, this may be achieved by developing technologies. Where terrorist content is uploaded or livestreamed, we underline the importance of online platforms addressing it, in a timely manner, to prevent proliferation, while ensuring that documentary evidence is preserved. We welcome online platforms' commitment to provide regular and transparent public reporting, as set out in their policies and procedures.

We note the ongoing work of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) to drive this important cross-industry agenda, including to respond to crises. However, further urgent action is needed. We encourage collaboration with industry, media outlets, researchers and civil society to strengthen GIFCT and expand its membership to be more inclusive. A strengthened GIFCT would enhance crossindustry understanding, collaboration and the capability of big and small companies to prevent terrorist and VECT exploitation of their platforms.

We commit to continue working together to tackle this challenge — including by sharing our domestic experiences — in our countries and through international fora and initiatives. Positive narratives to counter terrorist propaganda will continue to be an important element of this effort. We will remain engaged with industry progress and urge civil society, consumers and investors to do the same.

CHRISTCHURCH CALL

The Christchurch Call to Action

To Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online

A free, open and secure internet is a powerful tool to promote connectivity, enhance social inclusiveness and foster economic growth.

The internet is, however, not immune from abuse by terrorist and violent extremist actors. This was tragically highlighted by the terrorist attacks of 15 March 2019 on the Muslim community of Christchurch – terrorist attacks that were designed to go viral.

The dissemination of such content online has adverse impacts on the human rights of the victims, on our collective security and on people all over the world.

Significant steps have already been taken to address this issue by, among others: the European Commission with initiatives such as the EU Internet Forum; the G20, and the G7, including work underway during France's G7 Presidency on combating the use of the internet for terrorist and violent extremist purposes; along with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT); the Global Counterterrorism Forum; Tech Against Terrorism; and the Aqaba Process established by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The events of Christchurch highlighted once again the urgent need for action and enhanced cooperation among the wide range of actors with influence over this issue, including governments, civil society, and online service providers, such as social media companies, to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

The Call outlines collective, voluntary commitments from Governments and online service providers intended to address the issue of terrorist and violent extremist content online and to prevent the abuse of the internet as occurred in and after the Christchurch attacks.

All action on this issue must be consistent with principles of a free, open and secure internet, without compromising human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression. It must also recognise the internet's ability to act as a force for good, including by promoting innovation and economic development and fostering inclusive societies.

To that end, we, the Governments, commit to:

Counter the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism by strengthening the resilience and inclusiveness of our societies to enable them to resist terrorist and violent extremist ideologies, including through education, building media literacy to help counter distorted terrorist and violent extremist narratives, and the fight against inequality.

Ensure effective enforcement of applicable laws that prohibit the production or dissemination of terrorist and violent extremist content, in a manner consistent with the rule of law and international human rights law, including freedom of expression.

Encourage media outlets to apply ethical standards when depicting terrorist events online, to avoid amplifying terrorist and violent extremist content.

Support frameworks, such as industry standards, to ensure that reporting on terrorist attacks does not amplify terrorist and violent extremist content, without prejudice to responsible coverage of terrorism and violent extremism.

Consider appropriate action to prevent the use of online services to disseminate terrorist and violent extremist content, including through collaborative actions, such as:

- Awareness-raising and capacity-building activities aimed at smaller online service providers;
- Development of industry standards or voluntary frameworks;
- Regulatory or policy measures consistent with a free, open and secure internet and international human rights law.

TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST & VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT ONLINE

CHRISTCHURCH CALL

TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST & VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT ONLINE

To that end, we, the online service providers, commit to:

Take transparent, specific measures seeking to prevent the upload of terrorist and violent extremist content and to prevent its dissemination on social media and similar content-sharing services, including its immediate and permanent removal, without prejudice to law enforcement and user appeals requirements, in a manner consistent with human rights and fundamental freedoms. Cooperative measures to achieve these outcomes may include technology development, the expansion and use of shared databases of hashes and URLs, and effective notice and takedown procedures.

Provide greater transparency in the setting of community standards or terms of service, including by:

- Outlining and publishing the consequences of sharing terrorist and violent extremist content;
- Describing policies and putting in place procedures for detecting and removing terrorist and violent extremist content.

Enforce those community standards or terms of service in a manner consistent with human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by:

- Prioritising moderation of terrorist and violent extremist content, however identified;
- Closing accounts where appropriate;
- Providing an efficient complaints and appeals process for those wishing to contest the removal of their content or a decision to decline the upload of their content.

Implement immediate, effective measures to mitigate the specific risk that terrorist and violent extremist content is disseminated through livestreaming, including identification of content for real-time review.

Implement regular and transparent public reporting, in a way that is measurable and supported by clear methodology, on the quantity and nature of terrorist and violent extremist content being detected and removed.

Review the operation of algorithms and other processes that may drive users towards and/or amplify terrorist and violent extremist content to better understand possible intervention points and to implement changes where this occurs. This may include using algorithms and other processes to redirect users from such content or the promotion of credible, positive alternatives or counter-narratives. This may include building appropriate mechanisms for reporting, designed in a multi-stakeholder process and without compromising trade secrets or the effectiveness of service providers' practices through unnecessary disclosure.

Work together to ensure cross-industry efforts are coordinated and robust, for instance by investing in and expanding the GIFCT, and by sharing knowledge and expertise.

To that end, we, Governments and online service providers, commit to work collectively to:

Work with civil society to promote community-led efforts to counter violent extremism in all its forms, including through the development and promotion of positive alternatives and counter-messaging.

Develop effective interventions, based on trusted information sharing about the effects of algorithmic and other processes, to redirect users from terrorist and violent extremist content.

Accelerate research into and development of technical solutions to prevent the upload of and to detect and immediately remove terrorist and violent extremist content online, and share these solutions through open channels, drawing on expertise from academia, researchers, and civil society.

Support research and academic efforts to better understand, prevent and counter terrorist and violent extremist content online, including both the offline and online impacts of this activity.

Ensure appropriate cooperation with and among law enforcement agencies for the purposes of investigating

CHRISTCHURCH CALL

TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST & VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT ONLINE

and prosecuting illegal online activity in regard to detected and/or removed terrorist and violent extremist content, in a manner consistent with rule of law and human rights protections.

Support smaller platforms as they build capacity to remove terrorist and violent extremist content, including through sharing technical solutions and relevant databases of hashes or other relevant material, such as the GIFCT shared database.

Collaborate, and support partner countries, in the development and implementation of best practice in preventing the dissemination of terrorist and violent extremist content online, including through operational coordination and trusted information exchanges in accordance with relevant data protection and privacy rules.

Develop processes allowing governments and online service providers to respond rapidly, effectively and in a coordinated manner to the dissemination of terrorist or violent extremist content following a terrorist event. This may require the development of a shared crisis protocol and information-sharing processes, in a manner consistent with human rights protections.

Respect, and for Governments protect, human rights, including by avoiding directly or indirectly contributing to adverse human rights impacts through business activities and addressing such impacts where they occur.

Recognise the important role of civil society in supporting work on the issues and commitments in the Call, including through:

- Offering expert advice on implementing the commitments in this Call in a manner consistent with a free, open and secure internet and with international human rights law;
- Working, including with governments and online service providers, to increase transparency;
- Where necessary, working to support users through company appeals and complaints processes.

Affirm our willingness to continue to work together, in existing fora and relevant organisations, institutions, mechanisms and processes to assist one another and to build momentum and widen support for the Call.

Develop and support a range of practical, non-duplicative initiatives to ensure that this pledge is delivered.

Acknowledge that governments, online service providers, and civil society may wish to take further cooperative action to address a broader range of harmful online content, such as the actions that will be discussed further during the G7 Biarritz Summit, in the G20, the Aqaba Process, the Five Country Ministerial, and a range of other fora.

TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST & VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT ONLINE

NOTES

CONTACT US

ANU Australian Studies Institute

Sir Roland Wilson Building (120)
McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601

T +61 02 6125 0051
E admin.ausi@anu.edu.au
W ausi.anu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider #00120C

Australian National University