



DESTROYING A THOUGHT OF HATRED

WITH A MORE POWERFUL THOUGHT OF LOVE

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There is nothing so heart-breaking and terrible as an outburst of human savagery!

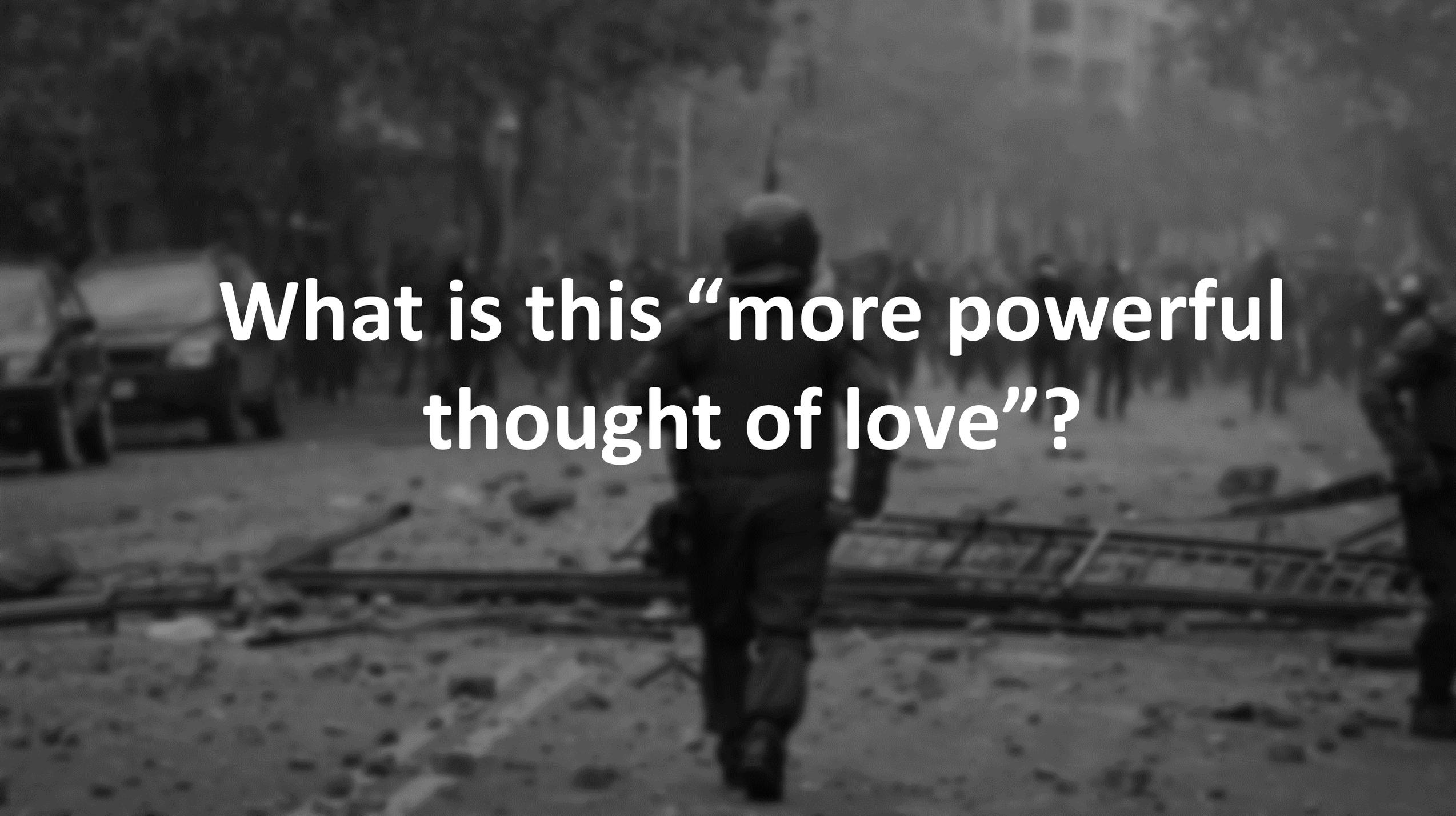
I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.

Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content.

Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship, and happiness.

- 'Abdu'l- Baha (Paris Talks)

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**What is this “more powerful
thought of love”?**

Kenya

Libya

Sri Lanka

India

Bangladesh

Indonesia

Where I have had the privilege to work and learn from. My comments are drawn from experiences in these countries and from my experience in working in the United States on Race Unity efforts through the Baha'i Community and like-minded organizations.

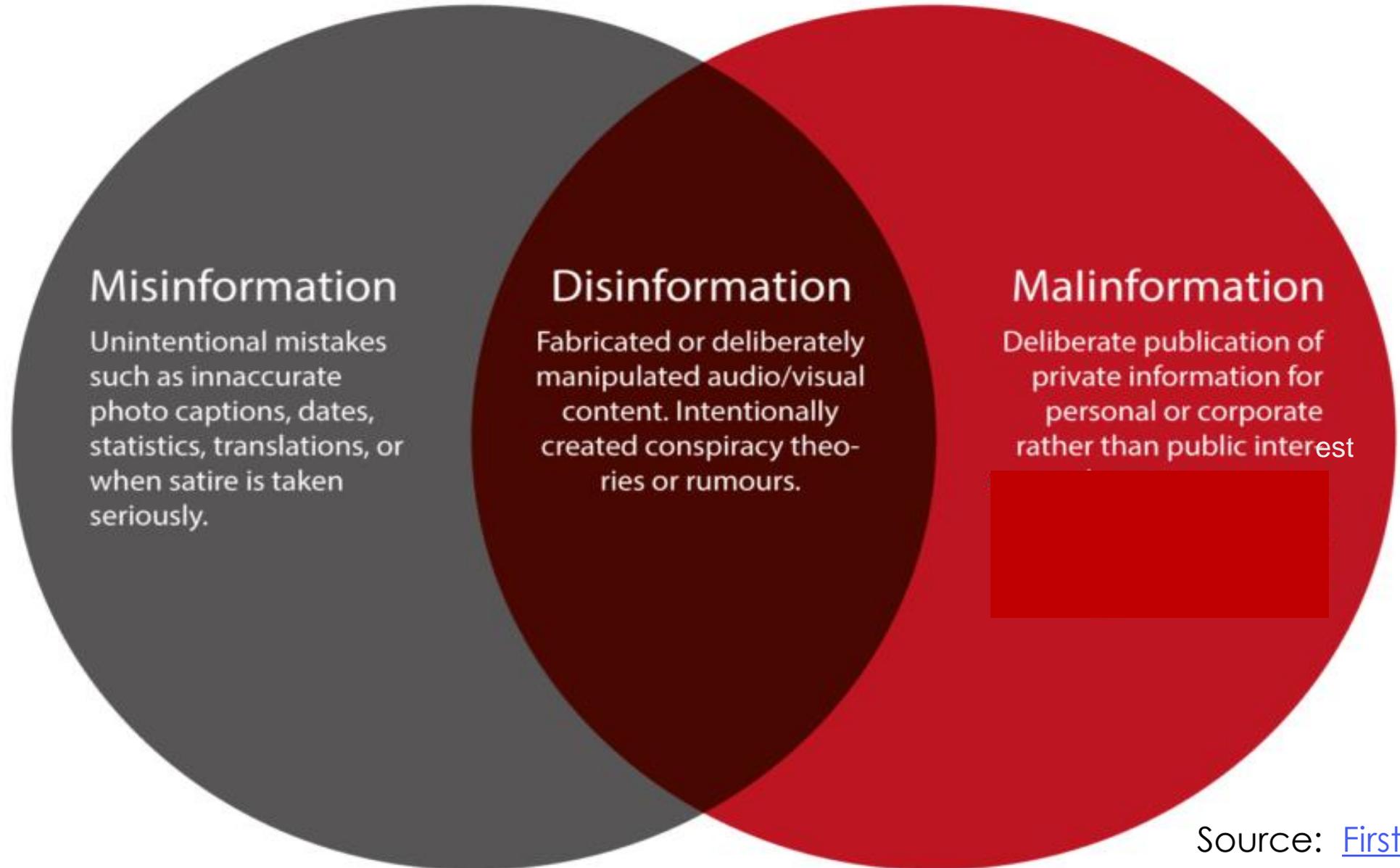
Hate Speech

“Any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor.”

- United Nations Strategy And Plan Of Action On Hate Speech

FALSENESS

INTENT TO HARM



Source: [First Draft](#)

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- **Hate Speech vs Free Speech**
 - **Statutory responses: Over Implementation vs. Under-Implementation**
 - **Using Hate Speech Laws selectively to go after political opponents**
 - **Social Media has exacerbated this challenge – attention economy & algorithmic opacity**
 - **National variations in definitions & approaches**
 - **Continuum of what is humor, satire, offensive**
 - **Dangerous speech; Incitement**

Legal Framework - UDHR

- ▶ **Article 1 - All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights**
- ▶ **Article 2 - Equal enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration “without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.**
- ▶ **Article 3 – Right to safety of Person;**
- ▶ **Article 7 - Equal protection for all against discrimination in violation of the Declaration, and also against incitement to discrimination**

International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965

First international treaty to deal directly with hate speech. Article 4 identifies four distinct hate speech obligations of the state to address:

- ▶ Dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority;**
- ▶ Dissemination of ideas based on racial hatred;**
- ▶ Incitement to racial discrimination; and,**
- ▶ Incitement to acts of racially motivated violence.**

THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), 1979

Article 2 provides that States Parties “condemn discrimination against women in all its forms” and commits them to “pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women”.

Article 2(b) requires States “to adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women”

Who is Protected ?

NATIONAL

RACIAL

RELIGIOUS

LANGUAGE

ETHNICITY

INDIGENOUS ORIGIN/IDENTITY

GENDER/SEX

GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL

ORIENTATION

POLITICAL OPINION

MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

BIRTH STATUS

SOCIAL ORIGIN /CASTE

MIGRANT OR REFUGEE STATUS

AGE

freeson

**Stop RACISM against
NORTHEAST, Please...**

**#StopCallingUsCoronaVirus
#BeingIndian**



konah

STAND UP FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T

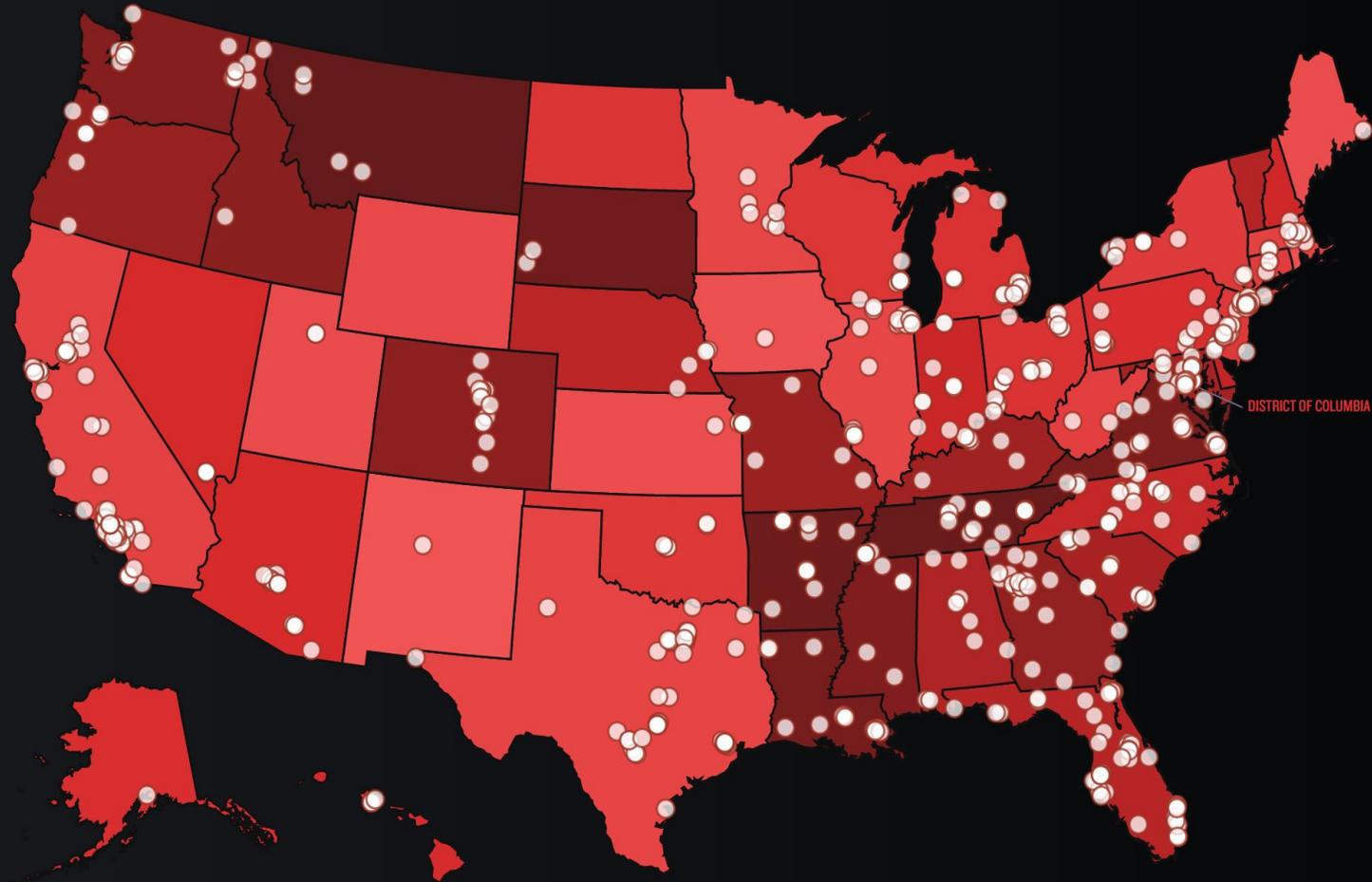
**STOP CALLING
PEOPLE FROM
NORTHEAST
'CORONAVIRUS'**

IT IS NOT OKAY

SAY NO TO RACISM



IN 2019, WE TRACKED 940 HATE GROUPS ACROSS THE U.S.



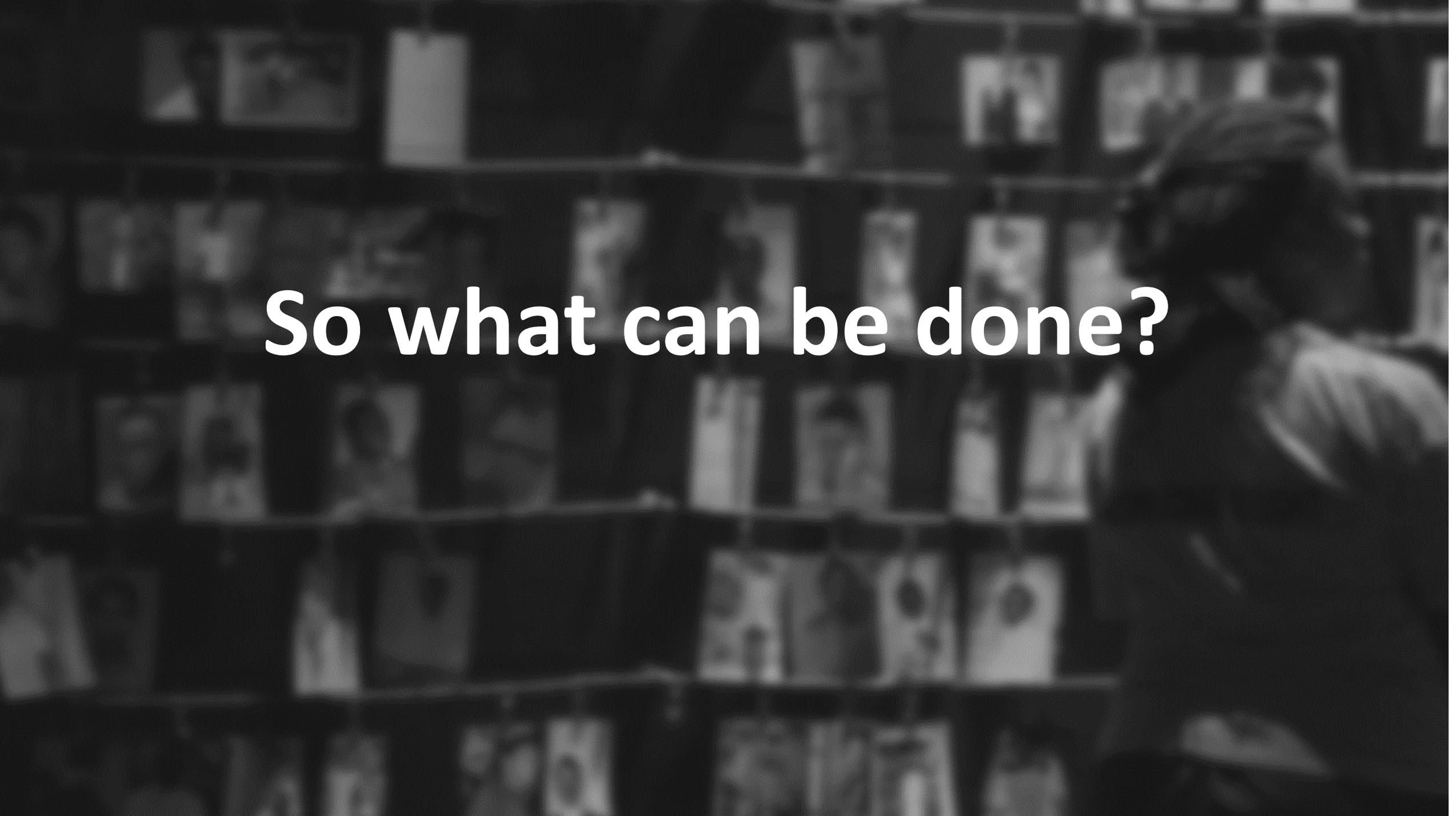
2019

HATE GROUPS PER CAPITA ?



FEWER

MORE



So what can be done?

FRAMEWORK

Knowledge:

What is hate speech?

Why do people engage in it?

What does the law say about it?

Wisdom:

How does hate speech impact individuals and societies?

Spiritual Perception:

What do the great world religions say about hate and how to counter hate?

What qualities do counterspeakers need?

Eloquent Speech:

What does counterspeech informed by the above look like?

Some Peace & Conflict Resolution Insights

**True peace is not merely the
absence of tension: it is the
presence of justice.**

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

INTERRUPTING INJUSTICE WITHOUT MIRRORING IT

“Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free. Peace is about being able to recognize in the face of the oppressed our own faces, and in the hands of the oppressors our own hands. Peace, like most beautiful things, begins small.”

from "Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals," a book by
Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love can do that.”**

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.**

**If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.**

**If you have no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain.**

- Saadi Shirazi, Persian Poet

“Buddha, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, all these great masters, what are they telling us? Be a compassionate person. If you face some sort of negative forces, you should practice tolerance. You should practice forgiveness.”

- The Dalai Lama

The body politic may be likened to the human organism. As long as the various members and parts of that organism are coordinated and cooperating in harmony, we have as a result the expression of life in its fullest degree.

When these members lack coordination and harmony, we have the reverse, which in the human organism is disease, dissolution, death.

All created beings are dependent upon peace and coordination, for every contingent and phenomenal being is a composition of distinct elements.

- Abdu'l Baha

O SON OF SPIRIT! The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee.

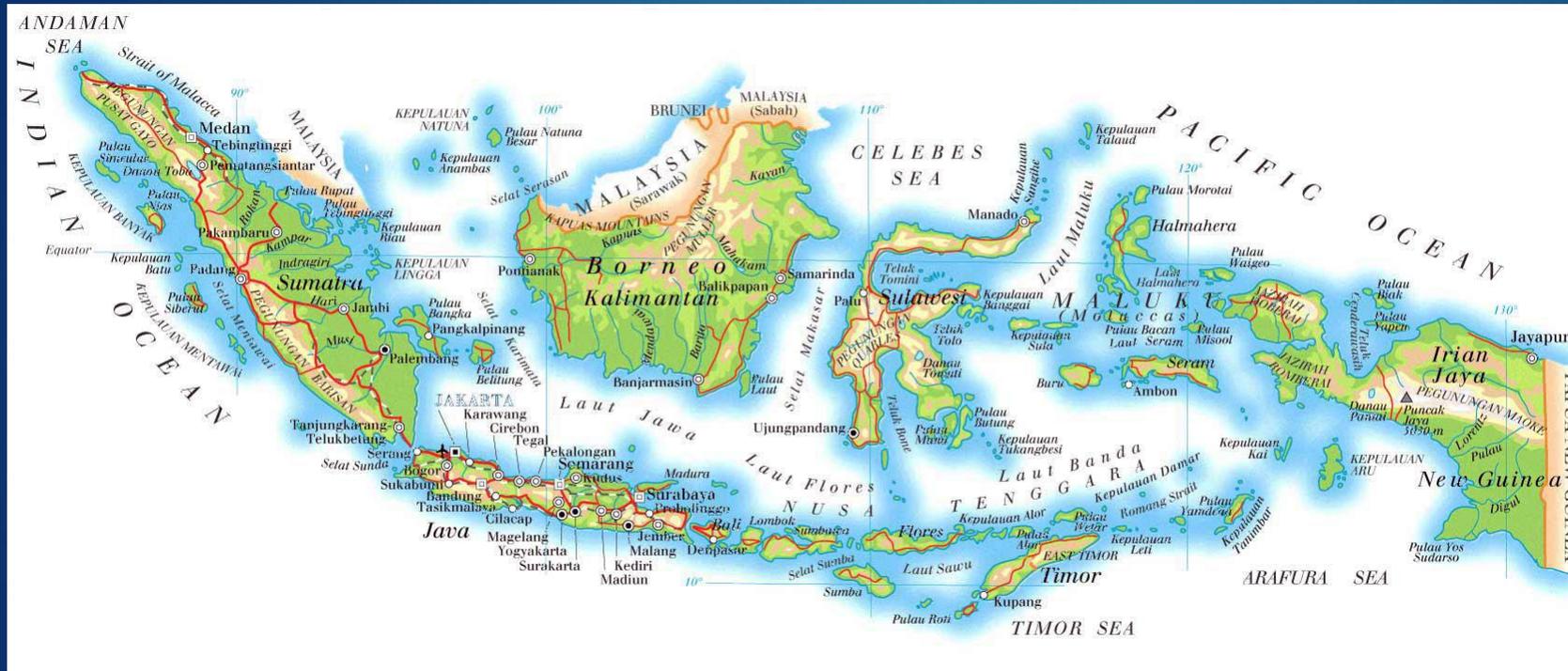
By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor. Ponder this in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be.

Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving-kindness. Set it then before thine eyes.

-Baha'u'llah



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH IN KENYA AHEAD OF ELECTIONS



INDONESIA CASE STUDY

Consort with all the peoples, kindreds and religions of the world with the utmost truthfulness, uprightness, faithfulness, kindness, good-will and friendliness, that all the world of being may be filled with the holy ecstasy of the grace of Bahá, that ignorance, enmity, hate and rancor may vanish from the world and the darkness of estrangement amidst the peoples and kindreds of the world may give way to the Light of Unity.

-Baha'u'llah

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. Suffer it not to become a source of dissension and discord, of hate and enmity.

-Baha'u'llah