

Forum:	Special Conference
Issue:	Combating the global rise of neo-nazism
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Introduction

In 2016 the US citizens elected their president, Donald Trump, from the right wing who is believed to be racist according to 57% of country's population. In 2016 the UK citizens voted to leave the European Union due to several reasons such as increasing security threats and unemployment rates caused by increasing number of immigrants and refugees immigrating to country. In January 2017 the US temporarily suspended immigration from 7 predominantly Muslim countries while giving an justification that states, their plan was to keep out "radical Islamic terrorists". In French presidential election that took place in 2017, the candidate Marine Le Pen from right wing who is known for her racist campaigns considerably increased her votes. In 2017 on average, 9 mosques have been targeted to vandalize or burned every month just in the US. Holocaust memorials have been vandalized in countries such as Greece, Sweden and the US. Neo-nazist rallies and marches continue to take place all over the world.

What all of these occurings imply is that in a world full of conflicts such as terrorist attacks and severe refugee crisis, people have lost their tolerance. Instead, polarization has given rise where hatred is in the foreground. Hatred towards different nations, different races and different religions. This has not led to a solution yet caused violence where people have lost their respect towards different opinions and preferred to blame each other for global problems. This ideology is not something new. It is a form of "nazism" that originally rose after World War II. It is adapted to 21st century and took the name "neo-nazism" becoming highly racist and discriminative.

In this year's RCIMUN under the theme "Political Polarization: Fostering accord in a world of intolerance" delegates of Special Conference will investigate solutions to overcome political polarization while the gap between right and left wing ideologies is getting bigger. They will also work on combating the rise of racism, xenophobia and try to gather member states on a common ground.

Definition of Key Terms

Neo-nazism

The term refers to any militant, political, social movement or tendency that emerged after World War II, seeking to revive Nazi ideology by restoring the Nazi order or establishing a new order based on doctrines existed in Nazi Germany. Ideologies that borrow elements from ultranationalism,

anti-communism, racism, ableism, xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Romanyism, anti semitism may also be considered as neo-nazism.

Xenophobia

“Fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign” (merriam-webster.com)

Ableism

Any kind of discrimination against people who are physically or mentally disabled is called ableism.(merriam-webster.com)

Homophobia

The term covers negative attitudes or dislike towards the people who identify themselves as homosexual or people that are part of LGBTQ(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) community.

Anti Semitism

It is a form of racism that specifically refers to discrimination and hostility towards Jewish people. The ideology rose in Nazi Germany leading to Holocaust, a historical event that can be considered as an attempt to destroy a whole race.

Holocaust

“The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators”. During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted other groups because of their perceived "racial inferiority" or political, ideological, and behavioral backgrounds: Roma (Gypsies), the disabled, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians etc.) communists, socialists, Jehovah's witnesses, and homosexuals.

Right Wing

“The conservative or reactionary section of a political party or system.” (google dictionary)

Right Wing Populism

“Political ideology which combines right-wing politics and populist rhetoric and themes.The rhetoric often consists of anti-elitist sentiments, opposition to the system and speaking for the ‘common people’.” The ideology is often associated with new nationalism, anti-globalization, nativism, protectionism and opposition to immigration. Hitler was a political figure that used this ideology and its rhetorics in order to get the support and vote of his Christian German supporters.

General Overview

The ideology of nazism first gained its foundation with the establishment of National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) or better known as Nazi Party. The party was a far-right nationalist political party and practised Nazism. The purpose behind the establishment of the party was to draw workers away from

communism and into nationalism however in 1930s the focus shifted to Anti-semitic and anti-Marxist themes due to Adolf Hitler's nationalist propaganda. When the president at the time died Hitler established a totalitarian regime also known as Third Reich where almost all aspects of life were controlled by Nazi Party, where Hitler held the absolute power. During Third Reich, government suppressed people or institutions opposing to Hitler's rule from different areas. Members of the liberal, socialist, and communist parties were killed, imprisoned, or exiled. Catholic churches were oppressed and exploited. Educational institutions were also exploited and the curriculum was based on racial biology, population policy, and fitness for military service. Leftist or Jewish writers were removed from the libraries and Hitler declared a national burning day of their books. During that time Jews were physically labelled, themselves and their properties were attacked, synagogues were destroyed and they were not allowed to own a job or attend to school. During twelve years of Third Reich more than six million of Jewish people from the places Germany occupied such as Poland and Soviet Union were exterminated, worked to death, killed in gas chambers or were shot by SS officers. The target was not only Jews but also homosexuals, disabled people, Ethnic slavs and Jehovah's witnesses. After Germany was invaded by Allied powers, persecutors and perpetrators of Holocaust were put on trials under the name of Nuremberg Trials and charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity, conspiracy to commit crimes and crimes against peace. Most of them were found guilty or executed.

The reasons neo-nazism is rising among people in the last 20 years include recent terrorist attacks followed by rising Islamophobia and refugee crisis. Following the declaration of "War on Terror" by the US government in 2001 after the terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda and affiliated groups in American or European territories, the US conducted military operations in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen. This not only labeled these Muslim nations as terrorist nations but created hatred towards Islam, giving rise to Islamophobia. Terrorist organizations founded originally in Middle Eastern countries in the last 20 years that conducted terrorist attacks worldwide, such as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and al-Shabaab also contributed to hatred towards Middle Eastern nations, giving a rise to both xenophobia and Islamophobia since most of these organizations' aims were correlated with Islamic aim of "jihad". After Syrian Civil War broke out in 2015, its biggest consequence was refugee crisis. As war's consequence more than 6 million Syrian refugees immigrated to different member states, including Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan and some European countries such as Germany. According to nationalist politicians these refugees were threats to countries economy and internal security therefore triggered hatred towards refugees and fear among countries' citizens. Following these events, political power shifted to more nationalistic parties, discriminating against people from different religions and especially from eastern countries, blaming these people impulsively for internal conflicts since they were concerned about the security and well-being of their countries. This hatred definitely brought some actions and history started to repeat itself. Just like the discrimination against Jews in Nazi Germany, people started to discriminate against people from different religions, especially Islam and with different nationalities. Hate speeches, rallies and marches such as "Unite the Right" where neo-nazists perform Hitler salute and wave flags with swastika emblems are being provoked, Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust memorials are being vandalized and rates of attempts to murder minorities such as homosexuals are increased and respect towards different religions' houses of worship is diminished. Aside from these, citizens of countries has become tend to vote for politicians from right wing that usually promise to get more nationalist and racist actions to solve external and internal conflicts of the country. For example, recently citizens of countries such as Italy, Poland and the USA voted for the candidates of rightist political parties who have very strict immigration policies for the people especially from Eastern countries. With this political shift, the number of fascist and neo-nazist groups such as "The Golden Dawn" or "Soldiers of Odin" and their neo-nazist actions have increased.



Picture 1: Neo-nazist vandalism in a Jewish cemetery



Picture 2: "Unite The Right" rally in Virginia, the USA

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Germany

Being the host country of Holocaust and having Nazism in its history, Germany has a great burden to prevent neo-nazist actions. Even though the use of Nazi symbolism such as swastikas, flags or greetings is illegal, Holocaust denial is a crime, according to the German Criminal Code and any attempt to resuscitate the Nazi Party is outlawed, these are not strong enough to stop right-wing extremist groups and hard-right nationalist political parties such as Alternative for Germany (AfD) functioning. Recently Germany is concerned about neo-nazi network that is spreading around the country considering that they experienced 27th attacks to asylum hostels in 3 years perpetrated by right-wing extremists and marches of these groups with slogans such as "Nauen Will Stay White!"

United States of America

Being an Ally power, US was one of the countries that terminated Holocaust and during or after Holocaust, it was one of the countries that Jewish people migrated to yet nowadays US is struggling with neo-nazism. Even though discrimination against black Americans used to and is prevalent, actions of neo-nazist and white supremacists are also popular. The legislation upon this issue is loose and there is even a party called "American Nazi Party". According to Alabama-based nonprofit's statistics, there are 917 hate groups within the country. Recently "Unite The Right" rally took place in Virginia and white nationalist even attacked black people. After it was declared as unlawful police powers clashed with protesters.

Poland

Ironically, Polish Jews being one of the biggest victims of Holocaust, Poland hosts lots of neo-nazist actions nowadays. Recently some neo-nazist groups celebrated Hitler's birthday while a rally took place on the Independence Day of Poland in Warsaw that thousands of people from Poland and different countries including the UK and Italy attended where banners such as "Islamic Holocaust", "White Europe" and "Pure Blood" were displayed. Since in 2015, the conservative Law and Justice Party that had anti-immigration policies took power in Poland such actions didn't have harsh consequences yet encouraged other far-right parties in Europe.

Greece

In the last 20 years refugees and the number of migrants have been migrating to Greece and especially to Greek Islands increased and the ones waiting to be granted asylum or deported came to 62,407. Following this, the number of fascist and neo-nazist groups that have anti-immigrant ideologies have increased considerably. “Golden Dawn” is one of them and even though many groups and political parties have advocated for the Greek government to dissolve Golden Dawn, it is still active in Greece. Recently the group threatened the Muslim Association of Greece and pro-migrant organisations as well as some journalists and MPs. The group actually indicates a risk for the well-being of refugees that Greece is currently hosting.

Israel

The State of Israel was founded by Jewish people who migrated from Europe after Holocaust. In March 1951, the government of Israel requested \$1.5 billion from Germany to finance the rehabilitation of 500,000 Jewish survivors. Population being predominantly Jewish, Israeli government clearly is against the ideology of neo-nazism. After “Unite The Right” rally in the US Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked of Bennett’s Jewish Home party has urged prosecution of neo-Nazi activists and Education Minister called upon US leaders to denounce the rally’s “displays of anti-Semitism.”

OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)

“To fulfil its comprehensive human rights mandate, OHCHR speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations worldwide. It provides a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to today’s human rights challenges, and acts as the principal focal point of human rights research, education, public information, and human rights advocacy activities in the United Nations system”(ohchr.org). Member states may cooperate with this UN organization considering that their aims and projects are against the main ideology of neo-nazism and they try to promote implementations against xenophobia, racism and discrimination.

Timeline of Events

August 1934	Hitler taking the title “Führer”
September 1, 1939	Start of World War II
January 30, 1933 – May 8, 1945	Holocaust
November 9, 1938 – November 10, 1938	Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)

September 2, 1945	End of Second World War II
1945-1946	Nuremberg trials
May 14, 1948	Establishment of the State of Israel
September, 2001	Declaration of "War on Terror"
2015	Breaking out of Syrian Civil War
August 11, 2017	"Unite The Right" Rally
November 11, 2017	Polish Nationalists Rally On Independence Day

UN Involvement

Even though United Nations hasn't dealt with neo-nazism with a specific solution, UN Organizations such as UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), OHCHR (the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), and UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) have been working on projects and programmes to combat global rise of xenophobia and racism. These organizations don't enforce any law or punishment but rather encourage countries to solve the problem within their borders primarily and then contribute to worldwide solutions. For example, UNHCR contributes to the solution of refugee crisis by relocating refugees, providing humanitarian aid, ensuring refugees' safety until they get a nationality and communicates with governments accepting refugees and provides guidance and technical assistance. On the other hand UNESCO takes an active part in the establishment of World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. OHCHR prepares annual reports related to topics racism, xenophobia and intolerance. These organizations overall try to emphasize the fact that xenophobia, racism and discrimination are not in accord with the goals of the United Nations and raise awareness in the international community. Their work are beneficial, but to some extent considering the fact that they don't suggest any consequence for governments' who shut their eyes to neo-nazist actions or come up with local solutions. Therefore, only the countries who want to implement solutions take actions while the problem continues to exist in unwilling member states' territories.

Relevant UN Documents

1. Measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on apartheid, racial discrimination and racism, and the systematic denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms- General Assembly (8 December 1988, A/RES/43/150)
2. **Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance- General Assembly (3 November 2015, A/C.3/70/L.59)**

This resolution is the most recent one that passed with only three votes against. Member states who voted against are the USA, Ukraine and Palau.

3. Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/HRC/35/41)

Possible Solutions

Neo-nazism, being a political ideology, shows its effect on various areas of life, therefore delegates may come up with solutions aiming to solve different aspects of the issue. These solutions may focus on raising awareness, educating the public, and especially the youth with different methods such as implementations to school curricula considering the fact that ideology of neo-nazism is rising recently in youth groups as the stigmas of Holocaust are fading away. Hate speeches against particular nations, races or refugees especially given by political figures and leaders who are opposed to immigration, are also factors that provokes polarization and evokes the ideology of neo-nazism and actions related to it since the worldview of neo-Nazis is shaped by the way leaders frame issues and use narrative stories that are usually based on scapegoating and demonization. Therefore, delegates may try to prevent them by imposing consequences for this kind of speeches. Delegates should keep in mind that there is no global treaty or ratification signed against neo-nazism specifically; therefore, they may suggest the creation of such treaties or may urge countries to tackle the issue individually by referring the issue in their legislation. They should also be aware that there is no direct reference to neo-nazism or xenophobia in the Sustainable Development Goals. Also, governments should take the responsibility of combating the rise of hate groups and their discriminatory actions within their country borders. At the end it should be ensured that all member states take the issue seriously, regulate their immigration policy and take effective precautions without their national sovereignties' being interfered.

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