



FORUM: First Committee of the General Assembly

QUESTION OF: Addressing the Controlled Influence: Social Media's Impact on Political Matters and the Growing Danger of Radicalization Among Minors

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Social media's role in shaping political discourse has become increasingly prominent in recent years. This research report delves into the controlled influence exerted by social media platforms on political matters and its alarming correlation with the radicalization of minors. This introduction sets the stage for understanding the complex dynamics involved in this phenomenon.

2. BACKGROUND AND STATISTICS

2.1 Background

The emergence of social media as a dominant communication platform has revolutionized the way

information is disseminated and consumed. Political discussions, once confined to traditional media outlets, now take place in the digital realm, where anyone can participate.

2.2 Statistics

- According to the Pew Research Center, 69% of adults in the United States use social media for news,

making it a primary source of political information.

- A study by the Oxford Internet Institute found that social media played a significant role in spreading

misinformation during political campaigns.

- Instances of minors being radicalized through online platforms have been reported worldwide, raising

concerns about the impact of digital spaces on vulnerable individuals.

3. DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

3.1 Controlled Influence

Controlled influence refers to the deliberate manipulation of content, algorithms, and user experiences by

social media platforms to shape political discourse and user behavior.

3.2 Radicalization

Radicalization involves the process by which an individual adopts extreme beliefs, often leading to

support for or participation in violent actions or ideologies.

4. MAIN COUNTRIES INVOLVED

The issue of social media's impact on political matters and the radicalization of minors is not confined to a single country. It is a global concern. Key countries involved include:

- United States: Home to major social media companies and a significant portion of global online political discourse.

- United Kingdom: Instances of radicalization among minors via social media have been documented.

- India: Rising internet penetration has led to increased social media influence on politics and potential radicalization.

5. SOURCES

To compile this research report, a variety of sources have been consulted, including academic papers, reports, and news articles from reputable organizations. Some key sources include:

- "The Digital Disinformation Crisis and Democracy" - Pew Research Center

- "Computational Propaganda Worldwide: Executive Summary" - Oxford Internet Institute

- "Youth Radicalization on Social Media: The Role of Perceived Parental Support" - Journal of Youth and

Adolescence

This research report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how controlled social media influence affects political matters and its consequences for the radicalization of minors. By examining the background, statistics, key terms, and main countries involved, we set the foundation for a deeper exploration of this critical issue.