

THE ROLE OF NEW MEDIA IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined the role of new media in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. New media technologies encompassing social media platforms, blogs, and mobile communication has fundamentally transformed the landscape of information dissemination and interpersonal communication. In the context of peace building and conflict transformation, these digital tools offer unprecedented opportunities for promoting dialogue, fostering understanding and facilitating reconciliation among conflicting parties. The role of new media in peace building and conflict transformation is a global concern to peace and conflict scholars and policy makers. qualitative method was adopted, the broad objective of this paper is to examine the role of media in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The kind of information the new media disseminate is critical to sustaining peace and harmony in society. However, new media also disseminate hate speech, and misinformation. This paper examined the impact of new media on peace building efforts in conflict affected regions. The study found that, new media platforms have helped to quickly spread peace messages, public perception during conflict is shaped by what goes viral online, the study also found out that misinformation loses its influence when individuals use new media such as twitter, facebook, and instagram to counter misinformation. Public sphere theory forms the framework for this paper, the paper recommended that proactive moderation to be made by service provider companies in order to detect and remove hate speech; government should support local peace networks with digital tools to expand outreach and engagement during and after conflict.

Key words: *conflict, conflict transformation, new media, peace building.*

Introduction

In today's digital age, the emergence of new media platforms, have transformed the way information is disseminated and consumed, particularly in the context of peace building and conflict transformation. This has led to a significant shift in the dynamics between conflicting parties, as they utilize new media tools to disseminate their messages and influence public opinion. The power of new media encompassing social media and various communication technologies have become crucial in conflict transformation, influencing causes and outcome of conflict worldwide.

New media is a group of online communication channels that are devoted to community-based inputs, micro blogging, social networking, wikis, content sharing, social bookmarking and social curation. New media is a broad category of interactive websites and applications that let users generate and share ideas and material with other members of an online community. New media has made everyone a potential online content creator, user and target, it has significantly altered the function of traditional media. New media platforms like facebook, and twitter and

others, can be utilized to maintain peace if properly used. New media has grown as a mobilizing tool in recent years because it fosters political change, social movement and discussion. New media has spread and grown in popularity throughout the majority of industrialized nations.

Yar'Adua, et al (2023), have shown that new media use, is widespread in developed world due to people's growing engagement and creation of online content. Due to the convergence of social change and technological advancement. New media has grown in popularity, which has made many users to generate content, forge groups, settle disputes and bring about peace in their communities by enlightening the people on some false information. However, new media use, is increasing in developing nations like Nigeria among others, many individuals use it incorrectly to spread information that might empower people and cause violence conflict, (Aondover 2024). The potential of new media is accompanied by challenges, including the spread of misinformation, cyberbullying, and the exacerbation of tensions through polarizing content. Therefore, understanding the dual nature of new media as both a tool for peace and vector of conflict is critical in the Nigerian context. This paper explore various dimensions of new media's impact on peace building and conflict transformation, analyzing successful initiatives, identifying the best practices and addressing the inherent challenges in leveraging digital platforms for fostering sustainable peace in Nigeria,

Statement of the Problem

Despite the growing recognition of the potential of new media in facilitating peace building and conflict transformation, its role in Nigeria remains inadequately understood and underexplored. Nigeria's complex socio-political landscape, marked by history of ethnic tensions, religious divides, and socioeconomic disparities, presents a unique context in which new media could either contribute to conflict escalation or serve as a catalyst for peace,(Hassan, et al (2024).

Most studies on new media such as the new media in Nigeria evolution, impacts and challenges. New media and the proliferation of fake news in Nigeria. Negative impacts of new media. Fake news and political misinformation implications for democratic process in Nigeria, have primarily focused on the disruptive aspects of new media, such as the spread of misinformation and hate speech, which can exacerbate existing tensions. However, there is a significant gap in understanding how new media can be effectively utilized to foster dialogue, promote understanding among diverse groups and facilitate conflict transformation.

The lack of comprehensive studies on successful new media strategies for peace building underscores the need for a systematic investigation into the mechanisms through which new media can influence conflict dynamics in Nigeria. This paper addresses these gaps by exploring the multifaceted role of new media in promoting peace and identifying practices that can be scaled across Nigeria's diverse communities.

Objectives of the study

The general objective is to examine the role of new media in promoting peacebuilding and transforming conflict in contemporary societies. The specific objectives are:

- i. To assess how digital platforms (social media, blogs, online news) influence conflict narratives and public perceptions.
- ii. To explore the role of new media in countering hate speech, misinformation and propaganda during conflict.

- iii. To analyze the impact of new media on peace building efforts in conflict affected area.

Conceptual Review

New Media

Mcquai in Umaru and Wilson (2023) are of the view that, the key characteristic that set new media apart from traditional media is their interconnectedness, accessibility to individual users as senders or recipients, interactively, open-ended nature and multiplicity use of ubiquity. He argued that new media is everywhere and are accessible to everyone, wherever they are.

According to Musher (2017), new media include the newest types of digital, mass communication that compete with radio, television, and newspapers. Examples of these include text-blogs, wikis and podcast. The new media is avenue for mass communication that allows specific audiences to interact directly with message senders. New media is the application of microelectronics, computers, and telecommunications that enables new services or enhances traditional media (Agboola, 2014). New media technologies cover a wide range of changes in media production, distribution, and consumption. The changes also reflect textual and cultural transformations. New media captures both development of unique forms of digital media and the remaking of traditional forms to adapt to the new technologies owing to the ravaging effect of new media (Elson, 2011)

New media like skype, linkedin, facebook, instagram, whatsapp, youtube, blogs, google and other internet-based media are becoming more popular for information dissemination especially in conflict situations around the world (Aminu, 2024). Newspapers, magazines, television, radio and other media have all received recognition for their role in disseminating information. New media is defined as online resources and tools that facilitate participation, cooperation and online information exchange (Uzuegbunam & Omenugha, 2018). Furthermore, new media is being used to bridge adversarial differences and promote interethnic conversation.

Peace Building

Peace building is the development of interpersonal, social, and political ties across racial, national, religious, and ethnic divides. Peace building seeks to change the structural factors that lead to deadly conflict and find peaceful solutions to justice (Angelin, 2024). Peace building is the comprehensive process of preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts, addressing the underlying causes and reconstructing societies impacted by conflict via a mix of political, social, economic, and cultural interventions. It establishes long-lasting peace and stability and entails promoting communication rapprochement and sustainable development (Angelin2024) Peace building is comprehensive and multidimensional process aimed at preventing, mitigating and resolving conflicts which also address their underlying root causes (United Nation, 2020). It encompasses a wide range of activities and strategies designed to foster sustainable peace, reconciliation and societal transformation. The importance of peace building cannot be overstated as it directly contributes to the pursuit of human security and social cohesion (Lederach, 2015). Peace building efforts seek to address the structural and systematic factors that perpetuate violence, such as poverty, injustice and marginalization, by promoting inclusive governance, reconciliation processes, economic development and peacebuilding initiatives aim to create an enabling environment for sustainable peace (Galtung 2011).

Conflict Transformation

Abbas (2018) opined that conflict is a hindrance to advancement, economic prosperity and political stability as well as the general socioeconomic development of any society. Therefore, it is important to manage conflict well to prevent it from turning into religious, ethnic, economic, and political conflicts. According to Galtung (2011), a number of deeply ingrained structural dysfunctions including those related to chronic corruption, inflation, unemployment, poverty, and overpopulation, contribute to the phenomena of conflict in human communities. Galtung contends that conflict inevitably arise in human relationships when prejudice both political, economic and intolerance are ingrained.

Conflict transformation is a process of constructively changing relationships, attitudes, behaviours, interest and discourses in violence prone conflict setting. Most importantly, it also addresses underlying structures, cultures and institutions that encourage and conditioned violent, political and social conflict (Adeshina et al, 2022).

Review of Literature

This section reviews relevant literature to assess how new media contribute to peacebuilding in Nigeria

New Media Influences Conflict Narratives and Public Perceptions

New media platforms facilitate the instantaneous sharing of information, images and video related to conflicts. This instantaneous sharing of information, images and videos related to conflict allows narratives to spread quickly reaching the audiences.

New media platforms support several multimedia contents, including text messages, videos and live stream. The ability of new media platforms to support various forms of new media content including text, images, videos and live streams add a new dimension to conflict narratives. The multimedia nature facilitates the creation and propaganda of compelling narratives that resonate with audiences on emotional and visual level.

New media empowers individuals, organizations, and government to create and share content directly within the audiences, by-passing traditional media gatekeepers. This democratization of information flow allows diverse narratives to emerge and compete for public attention.

The interconnected nature of new media platforms amplifies the reach and impact of narratives content can rapidly spread through retweeting and reposting potential influencing public opinion and sharing perceptions.

The Role of New Media in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation in Nigeria

With ownership pressures and neoliberal inclinations weighing the mainstream media, it may not be able to make much of an impact on settling disputes and fostering peace in Nigeria. On this note, people are undoubtedly drawn to new media and the internet as emerging forms of media. The internet removed the most revolutionary development in the field of communication, altering not only how they communicate but also how they acquire and disseminate information and how traditional media interact with their views (Onyejela 2018). Nigerian social space is becoming more open through new media. The government and private owned mass media's monopoly on the creation, distribution, and consumptions of information are now being disrupted by the new media. As a result we are seeing a rise in the number of bloggers, digital activists and social critics, all of these are uncovering underlying journalistic

abilities. The new media users belong to a new generation of social activities who have taken advantage of new media technologies and using them to spread the word, mobilize people, build networks, exchange idea, critique and let out their frustrations in order to discursively establish a new agenda for peace and conflict transformation in Nigeria (Eric, 2024).

New media is a powerful tool of communication in peace and conflict transformation, it can be used positively to promote peace and transform conflict at appropriate times. New media can transform conflict and promote peace by facilitating communication, amplifying diverse voices and fostering dialogue and understanding across cultures and groups, while also enabling the rapid dissemination of information and promoting peace building (Eric, 2024).

New media platforms can connect people from different backgrounds, allowing for cross-cultural communication and sharing of perspectives. This can help breakdown stereotypes and foster empathy which are essential for building trust and resolving conflicts peacefully, new media can also be used to document and share the experiences of conflict-affected communities raising awareness and promoting solidarity (George & Ekoh, 2021).

With the invention of internet, a lot of people have easy access to express themselves through various new media platforms regardless of their locations. The ample opportunities provided by social networking sites also provide an avenue for spreading hateful content (Netsafe, 2018; Mondal, Silva & Benevenuto, 2017). However, the free access they avail people has become an avenue for the spread of hate speeches, misinformation, and propaganda (Hanzeika & Schmidt, 2017), Weiss, 2017). It becomes more worrisome when misinformation is being spread more than real news on the new media. Silverman (2016) opines that new media users contribute immensely in making misinformation gain stronghold. According to Barthel, Michtel and Holcomb (2016) 23 percent of new media users confirmed that they have engaged in spreading propaganda.

In conflict situations, misinformation can fuel tensions and violence, new media can be used to debunk false narratives and provide accurate information, helping to level the playing field and promote responsible reporting, and fact-checking initiative, new media literacy campaigns can also help to combat the spread of harmful content (Ekoh, 2021).

New media can provide a platform for voices that are often unheard in traditional media giving marginalized communities a chance to share their stories and perspectives, this can help to ensure that the needs and concerns of all parties are taken into account in conflict resolution (Ekoh, 2021).

New media can be used to promote peace building initiatives and organizations raising awareness and mobilizing support for peace which includes, sharing success stories, highlighting the work of peace builders and encouraging participation in peace building activities (Ekoh & George 2021).

New Media in Peace Building

Organizations use new media to campaign for awareness about conflict and mobilize support for peace building activities. Online platforms can be used to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between conflicting parties.

New media platforms facilitate collaboration, interaction, and sharing of content among users, hence allowing the audience to shape their pre-expectation based on the information they receive regardless of the creator who share the information. The various new media such as

facebook, twitter, instagram, and digital technology has made it possible for people to get information in real time and many cases with digital video evidence (Ekoh&George, 2021).

New media tools can contribute to peace building via warning, collaboration, and policy change. It can improve the knowledge for conflict prevention, increase contact and understanding between opposing groups.

New media also helps source information for conflict prevention measures and enables people to engage their own initiatives for peace and allows for interactive dialogue. New media can be used to document the experiences of conflict-affected communities and promote understanding and empathy (Denskus, 2019).

New media plays a significant role in peace building and conflict transformation, but it also comes with several challenges. Online communities are rapidly losing the etiquette that once restraint expression, leading to increased liberty and more outspoken culture which is synonymous to offend and denigrate, as demonstrated by a recent new media incident in Nigeria, where top official of National Security and Civil Defense corps was relieved of his duties due to an interview clip that channel TV released online and garnered a lot of backlash, demonization and abuse from users, (Eric 2024). Rapid spread of false information can lead to panic, violence or misinformation during critical times. In recent times Nigerian new media was flooded with false information regarding the results of the 2023 general elections, which led to public unrest and protests in various locations.

One of the new media activities that encourage mockery, character assassination, and aggressive language is the growing blog cultures. Additionally, the writing style suggests a preference for sensationalism and provocation, which seems to be well-received by internet users.

Theoretical framework

Public sphere theory forms the framework for this study, created by Jurgen Habermas (1962). The public sphere is a discursive space where people could interchange their opinions so as to create a common, mutual judgment. In his seminal work, the German theorist. Jurgen Harbermas viewed public sphere as various avenues where citizens can freely express, participate, communicate, and share their understanding, ideas, and information that involve political, social issues and other diverse things that affect their social coexistence, peace and conflicts inclusive (Onyejelam, 2018).

The platforms are not limited to clubs, coffee joints and salon joints, assemblies and hangouts. In Nigeria motor parks, viewing centers, tea joints and market places could be instances of possible public share. Such platforms open, inclusive dialogue arena of rational critical discourse untrimmed by either the states or the private sector and acts as a check on state power. Nevertheless with the advancement in information and communication technology, the character of Habemas' public sphere theory has been advanced and transformed from an easy physical, locational stage to a more sophisticated cyber-based but complicated communication space. (Jegbefume and Ibrahim, 2022).

This is a space where concerned members of social organizations gather to exchange opinions regarding public affairs and deliberate sometimes in a critical and analytical manner. In addition, technology has created an alternative media for the expansion of public sphere which is endangered by the power of traditional mainstream media that transform most of the society in a passive public serve the objectives of a consumer culture.

Methodology

The paper adopts qualitative approach (interview) to provide a comprehensive understanding of how new media contributes to peace building and conflict transformation. The study locations are Adamawa and Taraba states, new media users are the target population, the study also employs thematic analysis.

Data presentation

Data collected from key Informant Interview was thematically analyzed.

The Impact of New Media on Peace Building.

Key Informant Interview on the impact of new media on peace building efforts.

“from my experience new media has played both positive and negative roles in peace building in our community, on the positive, platforms like whatsapp and facebook have helped to quickly spread peace messages, especially during election violence or inter-communal disputes. Young people now receive information about peace campaigns faster than before. However, I have also observed that these same platforms are used to spread hate speech, misinformation, and rumours which sometimes ignite conflict rather than resolve it.”(whatsapp & facebook, user in Avyi ward Wukari LGA).

It is reported from the new media users that new media plays positive and negative roles, it's confirms that peace messages are spread through new media, and also hate speech are spread through new media as well.

The finding is consistent with existing literature that emphasize, new media plays positive and negative roles (Eze 2022).

Another respondent said,

“Our NGO uses twitter and instagram to promote peace campaign and counter violent extremist's narratives. We have found that young people are more responsive to messages delivered through short videos and infographics on social media than through traditional town hall meetings. The interactive nature of new media also allows us to engage with conflict-affected youths directly and correct falsehoods in real time.”(NGO, Worker, new media user in Mubi South).

This aligns with findings of Olurunnisola (2015), who assert that new media such as twitter and instagram promote peace through short videos and visual messages.

A respondent observes that:

“Government has recognized the power of new media in peace building, we now use official twitter handles and verified facebook account to communicate government peace initiatives. During crises, these platforms help us to issue clarifications quickly, thereby reducing the spread of rumours. However, regulation is a challenge as some people deliberately use these platforms to spread inciting message (government official, new media user, Yola).

Government officials and non-governmental organizations use new media to communicate peace initiatives and to reduce the spread of inciting messages.

The finding is in line with the study of Adebayo (2020), who observes that, government uses new media campaign for peaceful coexistence among the citizens.

Another respondent have it that;

“Most of the young people in my community rely on face book and whatsapp for information, because of this peace messages shared by influencers or youth groups go viral quickly. I have

seen situations where a rumour about a religious crisis was countered on WhatsApp by youth leaders which within minutes, preventing escalation. The challenge is that some youths also fall for fake news which worsens tensions” (Youth Leader in Wukari, new media user).

The above response confirms that most of the young people rely on new media for information, peace messages get to them quickly. The finding is consistent with literature that emphasize, young people in Nigeria use new media such as Facebook and WhatsApp to share peace building messages (Ibrahim 2018).

A media practitioner said that:

“New media has changed how we report conflicts, unlike before, we now compete with citizen journalists who post raw information online. This has forced us to verify and report quickly to prevent misinformation dominating the peace. Social media platforms have also given journalists a tool to push peace narratives, though the challenge remains that conflict-driven news tend to attract more attention online than peace building”(journalist in Jalingo, new media user).

The finding is in line with the study of Taye (2021) who observes that, journalists use new media to promote peace building in the country by reporting verified news.

Another respondent said that:

“We use WhatsApp groups to share sermons of peace messages among our congregation. I can say that this has reduced tensions, especially when people receive clarifications directly from their religious leaders rather than relying on rumours” (religious Leader, new media user, Jalingo).

The finding aligns with the study of Olurunisola(2015) who observes that some religious leaders use new media to preach peace to their congregation.

Digital Platforms (Social Media, Blogs, and Online News) Influence Conflict Narratives and Public Perceptions

Key Informant Interview Responses new media, conflict and public perceptions

A community Leader in Sondi said,

“In the past when conflicts arise, people relied on community meetings or local radio for updates. Now with social media, information spread is not always true. A single false narrative about one ethnic group attacking another can be created within minutes, and before leaders intervene people already believe it. This has deepened mistrust among communities”.

It is reported that public perception on new media can ignite tension, and information spread on new media sometimes are falsehood. The finding is in line with the study of Eze, (2022) who observes that new media influences public perception and may escalate tension if not properly handled.

Another respondent said,

“From our experience, conflict narratives online often amplify divisions. During communal clashes, hashtags and viral videos create an ‘Us vs them’ perception. Even when the content is exaggerated or fabricated, it travels widely and influences how people frame the conflict. This makes reconciliation harder because people internalize these narratives as reality” (Civil Society Organization, Yola,).

The conflict narratives online cause divisions often, even when content of the message is exaggerated and fabricated. The finding is consistent with the existing literature that emphasize, digital platforms influence conflict narratives and public perception (Wolfsfield et al (2013)

Another respondent said:

“Public perception during conflicts is now shaped by what goes viral online. Even when the government releases official statements, many people don’t believe them because social media has already framed the conflict in another way, for example, when violence erupts, pictures from other countries are sometimes shared as if they happened here, and people accept them without questioning.”(Government Official, Yola,).

Public perception is shaped during armed conflict because of what goes viral on new media. This aligns with the findings of Adebayo (2020) who asserts that most people believe what is being posted on public domain whether is true or false

Another respondent said that:

“New media platforms have become spaces where narratives compete. Traditional media is losing ground because citizens create their own versions of events online. In conflict situations, the most sensational story wins even if it is false, this distorts public perception because people are more likely to trust a viral whatsapp messages than a fact- checked news report.”(Journalist, yola,).This finding is in line with study of Taye (2021) who observes that journalists use new media platforms to promote peace building, since the traditional media is losing ground.

Another respondent, Youth leader said;

“Young people consume most of their news from face book and twitter. When conflict breaks out the first stories they see online shape their opinion whether true or false. If the first narrative blames one ethnic group or religion that becomes the dominant perception, even if later corrections are issued. This has fueled stereotypes and worsened divisions among youths.”(Youth Leader, sondi).

The finding is consistent with existing literature that emphasize digital platforms influence conflict narratives and public perceptions (Ibrahim, 2018).

On the Role of New Media in Countering Hate Speech, Misinformation and Propaganda.

A response from another respondent:

“During periods of electoral violence, we use social media campaigns with hashtags like #NoToHate and #PeaceFirst to counter hate messages. Once misinformation is detected, we immediately create graphics and short videos to debunk the lies. New media gives us speed and reach that traditional awareness campaigns cannot achieve.”(CSO, Yola, new media user).

This finding is consistent with existing literature that emphasize, countering hate speech in Nigeria through new media promote peace building and transform conflict (Ihonvbere 2021).

Another respondent said that:

“We have set up verified twitter and facebook pages where official updates are posted during crises. This allows to quickly debunk fake news before it escalates, by releasing fact-based information on time, we reduce the space for propaganda to thrive. The challenge is that not everyone follows official accounts so misinformation still spread among those outside our reach.”(Government official yola, new media user).

A respondent said that:

“As journalists, we now use social media to fact-check in real time. Whenever false images or propaganda videos circulate, newsrooms respond by posting verified reports context online. New media has become not only a source of misinformation but also a tool for correcting it quickly. However, false stories tend to spread faster than corrections.”

The findings align with studies of Adebayo and Allcott (2020, 2017) who assert that new media promote peace building and transform conflict because it is a platform where hate speeches are being countered.

A Youth Leader response:

“Among young people, WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages are the first spaces where misinformation spreads. But we also use those same groups to share clarifications and peace messages. For example, during communal clashes last year, we shared live videos evidence that debunked propaganda about one ethnic group attacking another that calmed tensions before violence spread further. (Youth leader, Yola new media user).

The finding is in line with study of Ibrahim (2018) who observes that the role of new media is to promote peace and transform conflict.

Another respondent said that:

“What I have seen is that misinformation loses power when young people use Facebook live or Twitter to show the truth directly. In the past, propaganda could last for weeks, but now it can be countered within hours if someone posts evidence. New media has given ordinary citizens the ability to correct lies and promote peace.” (Youth leader, Wukari, new media user).

Discussion

The study revealed several significant findings regarding the role of new media in peace building and conflict transformation, data were gathered through KII.

For the impacts of new media in peace building, it was found that, new media, platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook have helped to quickly spread peace messages. Young people now receive information about peace campaigns faster than before. It also found out that government has recognized the power of new media in peace building, it now use official Twitter handles and verified Facebook account to communicate government peace initiative. The study also found that most young people rely on Facebook and WhatsApp for information, because of this, peace messages shared by influencers or youth groups go viral quickly.

The study found out that digital platforms (social media, blogs, online news) influence conflict narratives and public perceptions in different ways, it was reported that public perception on information on new media can ignite tension and information in the new media can reduce the tension. It was reported that public perception during conflicts is shaped by what goes viral online. Even when the government releases official statements, many people do not believe them because social media has already framed the conflict in another way.

The study found out that, new media plays a significant role in countering hate speech, misinformation and propaganda during conflict, people, use new media to counter hate speech and misinformation during periods of electoral violence, government officials use new media to campaign with hashtags like #NoToHate and #PeaceFirst to counter hate messages. Once misinformation is detected, graphics and short videos are created to debunk the lies. New media gives us speed and reach that traditional awareness campaigns cannot achieve. Furthermore the study found out that misinformation loses its power when individuals use new media such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp to show the truth directly.

However, new media has produced several negative impacts for individuals and society. One major concern is the rapid spread of misinformation and fake news, which can mislead the public and intensify social and political tensions.

Conclusion

New media has capacity to have a positive impact in conflict areas. Hence, it is vital to invest in these people and organizations who are most affected by conflict, empowering communities through the use of social media and enabling them to bring positive change. It is the ordinary citizens, the change makers at grass root level that are keys to effective action. Engaging them and making them aware of the power of communities and preventing conflict through the instrument of new media is fundamental.

New media's ability to pull people and resource together is a dynamic feature that has been utilized by diverse kinds of groups especially during conflict situations. The framing of information through new media influences how a conflict could be intensified or de-escalated. New media is an integral part of our world and cannot be easily pushed aside leveraging on social media, the moves by which new media serve as a platform for conflict transformation.

Recommendations

The research discovered that the negative impacts of new media are enormous, base on the findings the following recommendations are made.

- i. Government should establish real time monitoring systems that can track trending conflict narratives on new media and identify potential drivers of misconceptions.
- ii. Proactive moderation policies should be made by service provider companies in collaboration with government to detect and removal of hate speech, misinformation and propaganda especially contents targeting vulnerable groups.
- iii. Government and well spirited individuals should strengthen and support local peace networks such as peacebuilding organizations with digital tools and training to expand outreach and engagement during and after conflicts.

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