

Module 7: Incitement to Hatred Storytelling Activity

Questions to guide Storytelling:

- What types of hate speech are more likely to occur in your surroundings?
- What role does culture play in this area?
- How decisive is the role of the family in this respect?
- Can hate speech occur with good intent?
- Has there been a situation where you had to intervene to mitigate the consequences of incitement to violence in the name of religion?
- What is the role of social media in this respect?
- Can hate speech laws be abused to stifle dissent and target religious minorities?

Storytelling example: Protecting a Mosque

From the mission report on Sierra Leone by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt:

“Some interlocutors mentioned the case of a Christian woman who claimed to have had a dream in which she had seen Muammar Gaddafi suffering in hell. From this alleged vision, the woman inferred that a particular mosque in Sierra Leone, which had been sponsored by Gaddafi, should be destroyed and replaced with a church.

This strange incident, which attracted some publicity in the country, was generally recounted as a success story because the Christian churches in Sierra Leone had reacted rapidly in rejecting the woman’s antagonistic message, thereby defending their good relations with Muslims and the country’s religious harmony. The United Council of Imams explicitly praised the Christian churches for their quick and clear response.”

Storytelling example: *My Enemy, My Brother*

My Enemy, My Brother tells the story of an Iranian and an Iraqi soldier who meet as refugees in Canada after narrowly avoiding killing each other.

The filmmaker Ann Shin said: “Zahed Haftlang was only 13 when he joined Iran’s Basij force to fight in the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. The conflict was among the most brutal of the 20th century—one wrought with chemical weapons, ballistic missiles and cadres of child soldiers. After a deadly battle, Zahed found an enemy Iraqi soldier critically injured in a bunker and committed an astonishing act of mercy. It would change the path of both their lives for decades to come.”

Link: [***My Enemy, My Brother***](#)