

Taking Action Against Transnational Hate: A Teacher's Guide to Canadian and International Online Resources (March 2025)

The Ontario government has recently announced to expand its educational initiatives and investments to combat rising Antisemitism¹ and Islamophobia² and to provide new support and programs to students and educators. Hate crimes and discrimination against the Jewish and Muslim communities as well as other ethnic and religious minorities kept rising throughout 2021, both in Canada and globally. Antisemitic and anti-Muslim narratives and conspiracy theories as well as misrepresentations about history are prevailing and spreading on the internet and social media and have motivated perpetrators transnationally to commit horrific acts of violence against Jewish and Muslim people. A recent hate-motivated act of terrorism against the Muslim community is the attack that took place on June 6, 2021, in London, Ontario, during which four people were killed and a young boy wounded severely. During the terrorist attack against the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania/US) 11 people were killed and many more injured. Such acts of violence and their underlying ideologies are incompatible with human rights, democracy and human dignity. In order to counter neo-fascism, populism and racism and to prevent pathways that might lead to hate and violence, one must learn about the historical, contemporary, ideological and cultural contexts that make such harmful environments and dehumanizing acts possible. Since 2005, the international commemoration of the atrocities of the Holocaust is held on January 27 with the "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" during which Canada partakes. More recently, the federal government of Canada has declared January 29 as the "National Day of Remembrance of the Québec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia". Such forms of public remembrance pay tribute to the memory of the victims and survivors and reaffirm unwavering commitment to prevent and counter contemporary Antisemitism, Islamophobia, misrepresentation of history (such as Holocaust denial and distortion) intolerance and other forms of group-based hatred. As underscored by the Ontario government, a core pillar of remembrance is the commitment to create educational initiatives and frameworks in which students and future generations learn about historic and contemporary forms of hate, social polarization and racism, acquire civic skills to analyze and counter Antisemitism and Islamophobia including in the online space, and to become critical and responsible citizens guided by human rights and the principals of tolerance, diversity, social justice and dignity.

This guide is intended to be used by teachers teaching the Holocaust and human rights as well as Antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of hate, conspiracy theory, dis/misinformation, and racism. It presents resources to full lesson plans and thematic units to immediately integrate Holocaust education, anti-hate and digital literacy into the classroom, but also research about Canadian youth and their experience and challenges when it comes to understanding and addressing online hate. The below chart combines resources from both Canadian and international organizations; resources which can be accessed by following the links are free of charge.

Combined, the resources listed in the below chart are focused to meet one or a combination of the following learning outcomes:

- Locating the Holocaust in its historical and cultural context.
- Critically analyzing current phenomena of Antisemitism in its historical and cultural contexts.
- Critically analyzing current phenomena of Islamophobia in its historical and cultural contexts.
- Critically analyzing how hate and other forms of oppression such as LGBTQ-hate are propagated on the internet and on social media.
- Challenging and complicating own assumptions about human behavior and decisions and enhance own capacities for critical self-reflection and ethical decision-making.
- Developing skills and tools to understand online hate and dis/misinformation.
- Empowering students to take action against hate and racism and for social justice, human rights, tolerance and diversity in their daily life.

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¹ <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001493/ontario-announces-plan-to-combat-antisemitism-in-schools>

² <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001576/ontario-expands-plan-to-combat-islamophobia-in-schools>

Title	Organization	Short description	Links
Analyzing and Taking Action Against Online Hate & Dis/Misinformation			
Block Hate: Building Resilience against Online Hate Speech	YWCA Canada	This is a four-year research and knowledge development project which works with a variety of stakeholders, including youth and social media tech companies, to co-create concrete solutions for addressing online hate speech and hate crime in communities across Canada.	https://ywcacanada.ca/what-we-do/projects-initiatives/block-hate-building-resilience-against-online-hate-speech/
My Voice is Louder Than Hate: Pushing Back against Hate in Online Communities	MediaSmarts/HabitoMédias	MediaSmarts conducted a survey of 1,000 youth ages 12 to 16 years old to better understand their attitudes and experiences with casual prejudice and hate online. Study results uncover that youth experiences with online casual prejudice and hate are common yet many youth do not respond because they don't know what to do to make a difference. Based on this research, several recommendations are being made for working and empowering youth to push back against hate online.	https://mediasmar ts.ca/research-policy/young-canadians-pushing-back-against-hate-online
Digital Anti-Racism Education (D.A.R.E.) project	Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW)	This program is designed to raise awareness of online hate and Islamophobia and to empower racialized women, girls and allies with the resources needed to counter online hate and #DeleteRacism. Resources include posters, social media campaigns and workshops for teachers and school boards.	https://www.daretobeaware.ca/
Online Hate Research and Education Project	Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre	This project explores how memes and other digital practices are being used to spread hatred in Canadian contexts. OHREP will produce Hatepedia, the first Canadian hate meme and symbol database, along with workshops and publications. OHREP's work is informed by a diverse Youth Advisory Council of high school students. In January 2022 the OHREP team will be launching the project website.	https://holocausteducation.org.uk/teachers-resources/
Extreme Dialogue	Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD)	Extreme Dialogue is a free resource designed to be delivered by teachers or young people themselves, by using films and supporting curriculum materials to learn about the true stories of those affected by violent extremism. Equipping students with skills, knowledge and values against hate and social polarization.	https://extremedialogue.org/
Implementing Social Pedagogical Practices via the SOMEONE (Social Media Education Every Day) Multimedia Portal	Concordia University	The Project SOMEONE team has analyzed patterns of online hate speech and developed a total of 11 projects and associated educational materials that can be used in elementary, secondary and post-secondary classroom settings. Their objective is to build resilience against hate speech and radicalization leading to violence among students. These materials are hosted on the Project SOMEONE website and are available for use by educators. Other subject areas include the impact of racial profiling on communities.	https://www.projects someone.ca/

CTRL-F	CIVIX	Named for the keyboard shortcut for 'find,' CTRL-F is an evidence-based program that equips students with the habits and skills needed to evaluate online information to determine what to trust. Online resources for teachers available. A rigorous research study carried out with academic partners demonstrated that CTRL-F dramatically improved students' ability to reject false claims, and identify credible sources.	https://ctrl-f.ca/en/
Title	Organization	Short description	Links
The Coronavirus Quiz <i>It's Contagious</i>	Digital Public Square	This project has monitored over 120 keywords across 175,000+ public social media conversations to identify trending health and safety claims that have reached the greatest number of people. This data was used to develop a game that combats trending COVID-19 misinformation.	https://premise.ca/project/its-contagious/
No Hate Speech Youth Campaign	Council of Europe	"No Hate Speech" was a Council of Europe youth campaign to mobilize young people to combat hate speech and to promote human rights online. Even though the campaign is no longer active, the open-access materials are still available. This website is particularly interesting because of the youth perspective on this issue.	https://www.coe.int/en/web/no-hate-campaign
Lesson Plans to Create LGBTQ+ Inclusive Classrooms and Schools	Human Rights Campaign Foundation	This website provides lesson plans for different school types and ages, addressing aspects like "Ally or Bystander," LGBTQ+ history or "Understanding Transgender Children".	https://welcoming.schools.org/resources/lesson-plans-lgbtq-inclusive
Populist Publics: Memory, Populism, and Misinformation in the Canadian Social Mediascape	Carleton University / SSHRC	Populist Publics is a research project addressing populist narratives and their circulation in public discourse or on social media. Lesson plans for teaching how to recognize nationalist discourses in online media will be available soon on the website.	https://carleton.ca/populistpublics/resources/
Project ReSet and Playing with Hate, by John Howard Society Ottawa	John Howard Society of Ottawa	The John Howard Society of Ottawa (JHSO) is a non-profit organization with the goal of addressing crime and its consequences through prevention and intervention services as well as advocacy, research, public education, coalition building and cross-sector partnerships. Through its Project ReSet, the John Howard Society of Ottawa offers a multi-disciplinary service in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario to support individuals and families impacted by hate-motivated violence. <i>Project ReSet</i> can provide interventions aimed at disengagement and reintegration for cases of radicalization to violence. John Howard Society also developed a video gaming tool, called Playing with Hate, that JHSO staff use when engaging with youth, families, and other professionals or organizations (e.g., teachers, social workers).	https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/bt/cc/pip-en.aspx?wbdisabl e=true https://johnhoward.on.ca/ottawa/
Hearing Unheard Moments	The Students Commission of Canada	Through comedy, arts, and Forum Theatre, the Hearing Unheard Moments (HUM) program creates safer spaces for real dialogue on controversial, polarizing topics. HUM helps youth identify and address moments of exclusion that may lead to radicalization. At the start, we gathered	https://www.studentscommission.ca/resources/projects/hum/

		a diverse group of youth representing various identities and experiences in an initial workshop. Over a year, across Canada in various ways, these young producers working with caring adults co-created HUM's media products. Their purpose was to help others meet the challenges they face. Their work exemplifies how youth from different political spectrums can collaborate to create meaningful change. HUM is designed to be replicated in local community organizations and schools. You are invited to use these tools and resources in your work. The HUM website features several tools and educational videos ready for classroom use.	
PERIL Lab	American University	The Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab (PERIL) is an applied research lab preventing radicalization to violent extremism by strengthening community resilience.	https://www.american.edu/spa/peril/
Educate Against Hate	UK Government	This website gives parents, teachers and school leaders practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalization.	https://www.educateagainsthate.com/
University of Saskatchewan	Library Resource Guide	Residential Schools: Teacher's Resource Guide: Teacher Kits, Lesson Plans, and Other Resources	https://libguides.usask.ca/c.php?g=369189&p=4058775
Holocaust Education			
Teaching the History of the Holocaust in Ontario	Montreal Holocaust Museum	Teaching about the Holocaust and human rights in elementary, middle and high school. Pedagogical activities and teaching methods encourage students to develop critical and historical thinking by analyzing primary sources, including discovering a part of Canada's contemporary history. All of the educational resources for the grades 5 to 12 meet the school curricula of Ontario's Ministry of Education. The resources can be used in History since World War I, Social & Global Studies and Canadian & International Law courses.	https://museeholocauste.ca/en/ontario/
Resources for Educators on the Holocaust	Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship	The study of the Holocaust assists students in developing an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping in any society. It helps students develop an awareness of the value of pluralism, and encourages tolerance of diversity in a multicultural society. Other programs include students and teacher awards, teachers' workshops; and speakers bureau.	https://chesatottawa.ca/for-educators/resources/
A Teachers' Guide to Remembrance Education	RETHINK	This website delivers a handbook guide (in English and French) and best-practice examples and open-access download material for use in class: factsheets provide basic information about the activity (such as topic or length), the activity plans show the practical implementation in class	https://rethink-education.eu/teachers-guide/ https://rethink-education.eu/wp-content/uploads/rethink-teachers-guide-handbook.pdf

Hear Our Voices: Survivors Share Stories of Trauma and Hate	Deidre Butler, Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre, Carleton University	This bilingual project begins with a scholarly and ethical commitment to centre the experience of survivors and Jewish victims in studying and teaching about the Shoah, the Holocaust.	https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/hearourvoices/front-matter/introduction-2/
Other materials			Links
Educational material	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	The IHRA website provides educational materials on pedagogical principles for teaching and curriculum development. In the focus area "Education," texts are available (also in French) about why and how teach about the Holocaust in schools.	https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources
Yad Vashem Educational Materials	Yad Vashem	The World Holocaust Remembrance Center provides access to a huge variety of material for use in the classroom: historical and educational videos or survivors testimonies. The sub-section Lesson Plans gives examples for elementary schools, middle schools and high schools, including primary sources and videos.	https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-materials.html https://www.yadvashem.org/education.html https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-materials/lesson-plans.html
Teaching Materials on the Holocaust	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum	The USHMM provides lesson plans and additional teaching materials about the Holocaust and racism, anti-Semitism and teaching with survivor testimonies.	https://www.ushmm.org/teach/teaching-materials/holocaust
Policy paper "Holocaust Education"	European Parliament	This 2021 paper delivers a brief summary of the approaches to Holocaust education of the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations and delivers several links, eg. to EU programs supporting Holocaust education.	https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE%20/2021/679059/EP%20RS_BRI(2021)67%209059_EN.pdf
European Holocaust Research Portal	European Holocaust Research Infrastructure	The EHRI website offers an online course on Holocaust studies and an open access portal to Holocaust related sources and primary documents and a bibliography with open-access publications.	https://www.ehri-project.eu/

Lesson Plans on Discrimination	Human Rights Educators USA	This website provides various lesson plans for different school types, addressing different forms of discrimination in the classroom, including anti-Arab stereotypes, learning to respect each other, rights of Indigenous peoples, or weight bias.	https://hreusa.org/hre-library/topics/children/lesson-plans/
Muslims in Canada Archive	Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto	MiCA acquires, organizes, preserves, and makes accessible records of and about Canadian Muslim individuals and organizations that possess enduring value for the preservation of the history and documentary heritage of Muslims in Canada.	https://islamicstudies.artsci.utoronto.ca/projects/mica/
Combatting Hate in Canada	Government of Canada	<i>Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate</i> is the Government of Canada's first-ever action plan on confronting hate. The Plan brings together a whole-of-government approach to confronting hate by empowering communities, increasing research and data gathering, and building partnerships, to create a Canada that is free of all forms of hate.	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/combating-hate.html
Resources on Combatting Islamophobia	Department of Canadian Heritage	Many organizations and educational resources are available in Canada and around the world to help people learn about and combat Islamophobia. Visit this page often as more insightful resources will be added regularly.	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/combating-islamophobia-canada/resources.html#a1
Tool-Kit on Mis and Disinformation	UCLA Initiative to Study Hate	<p>The Initiative fosters and supports cutting-edge research to understand and mitigate hate as a destructive force in society. It supports projects that range across disciplines (including but not restricted to the social sciences, humanities, arts, law, education, information and computer sciences, and physical, cognitive, and health sciences).</p> <p>A primary goal of the Initiative is to develop a scholarly community across the UCLA campus dedicated to researching hate through a variety of lenses. Research teams who receive funding from the Initiative, therefore, participate in a monthly seminar to share their research, discuss their findings, and hear from other experts. This cross-pollination is essential to the Initiative and is intended to enrich the work of all involved.</p>	https://studyofhate.ucla.edu/resources/toolkit/