

FORUM: General Assembly 1

QUESTION OF: Evaluating the Social and Structural Implications of Cancel Culture

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: China

CO-SUBMITTED BY: United Kingdom, Canada

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Applauding the previous initiatives of the United Nations to create a safer internet environment by means of public access to fundamental digital safety tips,

Considering Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers,”

Desiring the limitation of potentially dangerous practices, including the loss of freedom of speech due to fear of being personally attacked or harmed,

Fully aware that certain nations may have more limited freedom of speech than others, and would therefore, be less likely to participate in cancel culture,

Alerting that such a practice must be in some way reduced, and/or eradicated, in order to have a healthier, and more connected society,

1. Requests for the implementation of self-regulatory procedures as set by individual nations to prohibit further damage on an individual’s well-being, including an individual’s mental health stability, economic endeavors, reputation, and public and personal relations;
2. Encourages the creation and enforcement of regulatory measures within social media platforms to ensure the accountability of the information being publicly shared on such platforms by:
 - a. implementing stricter regulations under social media platforms that discourage the use of anonymous posting,
 - b. regulating hate speech, and/or words/comments that would serve to in any way prohibit a person from expressing his or her own opinion, given that their opinion is following appropriate platform guidelines,
 - i. urging social media corporation to implement the clean robot software,
 - ii. giving the ability for the individual to delete the hate comments in their posts,
 - c. encouraging social media users to maintain a civil composure while discussing controversial issues online, so as not to cause too much infringement on another's opinion;

3. Calls upon the initiation of awareness and education programs to inform social media users of the implications that accompany their social media presence by including measures such as, but not limited to:
 - a. establishing educational program in secondary schools in order to assist secondary students with developing a correct mindset towards the utilization of social media,
 - b. holding online campaigns using photos, videos, and posters to inform the social media users of the negative implications created by cancel culture,
 - c. including the following aspects in the corresponding educational programs and campaigns:
 - i. what cancel culture refers to,
 - ii. the psychological implications that the usage of malicious words could generate to the victims of cyber abuse,
 - iii. the correct social media etiquette,
 - iv. ways to recognize the reliability of an accusation posted online,
 - v. means to appropriately respond to media trends in order to prevent the situation from escalating into one that threatens the community,
 - vi. the legislative punishments for defamation and slander;
4. Also recommends the distribution of information resources by means of public organizations (library's, schools, etc.), including:
 - a. basic procedures on how to best represent oneself on social media,
 - b. information on the differentiation between accurate sources to limit false assumptions and accusations,
 - c. examples of how to react to certain media trends so that users know how to handle certain situations so as not to escalate the situation into one that damages community guidelines;
5. Draws the attention of member nations to the effects of cancel culture on both the individual and the nation by:
 - a. encouraging international and national corporations to keep business social media accounts separate from public opinion to avoid the interference of this movement with the economic communities,
 - b. seeking to nourish the mental health stability of every member of the social media community,
 - c. discouraging the use of demeaning speech that could potentially harm the reputation of an individual, therefore harming their quality of life.