

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Counter Violent Extremism and Hate Speech Online: A Case Study of Sri Lanka's National Security Measures

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The spread of violent extremist ideas through online platforms poses a significant threat to Sri Lanka's national security and global security. This study examines the existing legal framework in Sri Lanka concerning hate speech and violent extremism and highlights the importance of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to counter the spread of extremist rhetoric online. The primary research question addressed how AI can be utilized to effectively monitor, identify, and counter violent extremist ideas and hate speech on online platforms in Sri Lanka. The study's objectives included evaluating the current legal framework, assessing AI's potential in combating extremist content, understanding the ethical implications of AI use, and proposing a balanced approach to safeguard national security and citizens' privacy. By a comprehensive literature review and case study on the Easter Sunday attacks in 2019, the study showed that despite international commitments to curb hate speech and violent extremism, Sri Lanka has limited strategies. AI can be used to identify, analyse and block hate speech and violent extremist narratives which help national stability. However, the implementation of AI may impact the privacy of the citizen and potentially lead to social unrest. Therefore, a balanced and ethical approach is needed. The study concludes that by combining coordinated government initiatives and collaborations with non-governmental organizations, AI, can transform conflict management. Further, cooperation between governments, technical companies and international organizations would create a safer world

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