



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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#defyhatenow: Mobilizing Civic Action against Hate Speech and Directed Social Media Incitement to Violence in South Sudan.

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### **#DEFYHATENOW WIKIPEDIA WORKSHOP**

#defyhatenow initiative will be training students from the University of Juba on writing and feeding /editing information about South Sudan on Wikipedia, the online global encyclopedia from 6- 9 November 2017.

Objectives;

1. Empowering South Sudanese to have a global voice in national narratives and knowledge in the quest for lasting peace.
2. Generating more knowledge about other people-to-people peace-building issues.
3. Initiate a sustainable movement of South Sudanese Wikipedia writers/editors.

### **Why Wikipedia?**

South Sudan is underrepresented at Wikipedia, the world's largest online encyclopedia. There are hardly 1.500 articles about South Sudanese subjects and most of them are just stubs, since even entries about many major towns and states only feature a couple of lines.

While Wikipedia is one of the most used and visited websites, next to no content about South Sudan has been generated inside the country itself. Instead, most information about South Sudan has been created by outsiders.

With regard to internal peace-making, #defyhatenow will be working with the student run #kefkum initiative to collaboratively edit, starting with a critical review of Wunlit conference and then create a comprehensive article on Wikipedia.

As a pilot example, #defyhatenow has already edited the Wikipedia article about [Deim Zubeir](#) from a one-line stub to a multi-faceted overview. Deim Zubeir has recently been included on South Sudan's first tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage sites.

<http://defyhatenow.net/>  
facebook: defyhatenow  
twitter: @defyhatenow

Notes to the editor

### **#defyhatenow**

#defyhatenow is an urgent community peacebuilding, training and conflict reconciliation project aiming to support grassroots efforts to avoid media induced violence in South Sudan, through the vehicle of

Social media. We seek to enable those affected by the conflict to bring down the tone of online rhetoric, help the reconciliation process between communities and develop a vocabulary with which to Support ongoing national dialogue, peace and stability.

#defyhatenow responds to South Sudan's ongoing civil crisis by addressing the roles played by online so media users in helping to mitigate these issues, since the eruption of conflict in December 2013 and July 2016. Our vision is to strengthen the voices and support the actions of youth, women's and civil society organizations, peace activists and independent journalists in South Sudan to develop strategies to mitigate such scenarios, as part of a wider global 'dangerous speech' mitigation community. Also to create an awareness on the impact hate speech has in potentially fuelling conflict and how social media can be used in a constructive and peacebuilding manner.

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