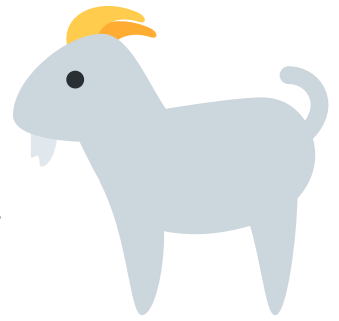# SCAPEGOATING AND ONLINE HARMS

WHAT IS "SCAPEGOATING"

Scapegoating is the act of blaming a group or person for something bad that has happened, or that someone else has done. It can range from being very minor to having horrific consequences.

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/scapegoating

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

In the world of politics, scapegoating tends to happen when politicians want to shift the public's attention away from their failings. In society at large, scapegoating happens regularly - people's prejudices and hatreds cause them to blame any negative experiences on the group they dislike

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

1) it **fuels hatred** - scapegoats are targeted because of pre-existing prejudices and these are solidified and strengthened by scapegoating
2) it **doesn't solve the problem** - scapegoating places blame in the wrong place, meaning it is harder actually solve the problem!

HOW CAN WE AVOID IT?
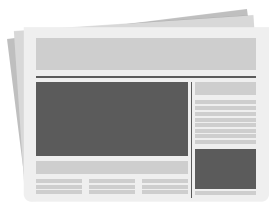
It is easy to fall into the trap of scapegoating because it is an easy way to make sense of bad things that happen. We must always be aware of our own biases and make sure to read news sources across the political spectrum to get a balanced view.

Stop the spread of #misinformation and #disinformation