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Raising the red flag on the culture of hate worldwide

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IT is no longer a secret that the world has become obsessed with climate change. As torrential rains and heatwaves hit many parts of the world, people are worried that climate change would unleash a force so destructive that entire communities could be wiped out.

The most vulnerable are those living in low-lying coastal areas and small island nations. If the rise in sea level continues unchecked, as is happening now, many of the islands in the Pacific will be totally submerged. This explains why, at every meeting of the UN Climate Change Conference, representatives from the threatened islands will press world governments to take the appropriate action to mitigate global warming by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewables are starting to gain favour among businesses as they struggle to reduce their carbon footprints. Those who fail to com-

ply will be less favoured by investors and customers alike.

As the world grapples with the challenges posed by climate change, it is in danger of missing another threat to humanity – the rise of the culture of hate.

Experts who have been monitoring global concerns and threats have of late been raising the red flag on hate.

They have assessed the many forms of hate, which include hate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, skin colour and ethnic differences, and have unanimously concluded that the culture of hate is an even bigger threat to humanity than climate change.

Some have even suggested that reducing hate be made another sustainable development goal (SDG).

Hate on the basis of skin colour is still on the rise in the United States. In fact, with the growing number of new immigrants enter-

ing the US, especially from Latin American countries, the level of hatred based on skin colour has risen.

Some semblance of this has also been reported in European countries, as more refugees from Africa and the Middle East enter the continent. Unless checked, the localised conflicts that have erupted may escalate into a larger scale war.

Religious hatred is also escalating in many parts of the world. Years ago, we saw how religious divisions between ethnic groups culminated in the split of Yugoslavia into smaller states. Closer to home, the Rohingya conflict, which arose chiefly from the religious and social differentiation between the Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims, is now being discussed at the International Court of Justice.

India is also witnessing a worrying trend in religious hatred.

There are many other examples around the world. The question before us is why is this culture of hate allowed to develop? Why is the international community not taking proactive actions to prevent such developments?

Though many believe education can be the tonic that can free the world from hate culture, no serious actions have been taken to include the study of hate in the curriculum. If at all, the way education is practised and organised is the complete opposite.

We now talk a lot about education for sustainable development, but it is time we create a curriculum in education for increasing tolerance and eradicating the hate culture.

PROFESSOR DATUK DR AHMAD IBRAHIM
Tan Sri Omar Centre for STI Policy
UCSI University