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# Criminal Acts of Hate Speech Through Social Media During the Covid-19 Pandemic\*

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#### Abstract:

The rise of social media has facilitated communication between people, but it has also made it simpler to spread false information, which can lead to hate speech. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, all public gatherings were canceled, and people stayed home. Due to the ease with which information may be shared and disseminated and the difficulty in determining the authenticity of user claims, online hate speech is commonplace. The author incorporates legal research methods from qualitative and normative perspectives into this paper. As the results show, social media use has skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic due to government restrictions on activities that can be carried out outside the home. Thus, many people like spending time on social media, and some even deliberately post remarks that amount to hate speech.

Keywords: Crime; Hate Speech; Social media

#### Abstrak

Maraknya media sosial telah memfasilitasi komunikasi antar manusia, tetapi juga mempermudah penyebaran informasi palsu, yang dapat mengarah pada ujaran kebencian. Pada puncak pandemi COVID-19, semua pertemuan publik dibatalkan, dan orang-orang tetap tinggal di rumah. Karena mudahnya informasi dibagikan dan disebarluaskan serta sulitnya menentukan keaslian klaim yang dibuat oleh pengguna, ujaran kebencian online menjadi hal yang lumrah. Penulis memasukkan metode penelitian hukum baik dari perspektif kualitatif maupun normatif ke dalam makalah ini. Hasilnya, penggunaan media sosial meroket di masa pandemi COVID-19 sebagai akibat dari pembatasan pemerintah terhadap aktivitas yang boleh dilakukan di luar rumah. Sehingga, banyak orang yang suka menghabiskan waktu di media sosial, bahkan ada yang sengaja memposting ucapan yang berbau ujaran kebencian.

Kata Kunci: Tindak Pidana; Ujaran Kebencian; Media Sosial

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Everything is made simpler and more suitable due to advances in technology and knowledge. Because of this circumstance, the use of social media has become increasingly varied. Because of the right to free speech, it is standard practice to use various forms of technology to voice ideas or critique content.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is not difficult to commit the crime of inciting hatred. Given the growing number of people who use the Internet, it is inevitable that a rising number of crimes will be committed.<sup>5</sup>

Having access to social media can have both beneficial and detrimental effects. One of the advantages of using social media is that it may help people share happy moments. Social media can also be a way to earn money, voice ideas, and connect with others. On the other hand, addiction, a lack of sociability in the real world, lying to make others look good, and even the transmission of messages that are not factual are some of the harmful impacts that can result from using social media. Therefore, it is essential to maintain a prudent mindset when utilizing social media, mainly because social media users include adults and youngsters. On the one hand, the widespread use of the Internet has brought about positive changes in politics, social life, and economic life. On the other hand, the general use of the Internet has caused a paradigm shift in crime, particularly crime research, related to technological advancements.<sup>6</sup>

There are stakeholders inside and outside the company who believe that the advancement of technology and information can now be rapidly accessed through the many media formats available on the Internet. These stakeholders are located both inside and outside the company. These circumstances motivate some people to express their hatred online through hate speech. One of these factors is the individual's conviction that they can do what they want.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, a person's technological sophistication level is one trait that can affect the likelihood that they will commit a crime. This is because a person's level of technical competence can either inspire them to commit crimes or increase the chance that they will commit crimes, both of which are complicit in a person's illegal activity.

The development of social media has made it possible for individuals to more readily communicate their thoughts, ideas, opinions, and general notions. On the other hand, if someone abuses their freedom within social networks, it can spark fights and lead other people to have difficulties. The use of social media must have many beneficial applications, yet, it also has many unforeseen repercussions. A person who is addicted to social media will become stagnant as a result of their addiction, and they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Fahmi; Rai Iqsandri; Rizana. 2020. "Penerapan Sanksi Terhadap Pelaku Ujaran Kebencian di Pengadilan Negeri Pekanbaru." Jurnal Hukum Respublica. Vol. 20 No. 1. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31849/respublica.v20i1.6017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ferry Irawan Febriansyah; Halda Septiana Purwinarto. 2020. "*Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Bagi Pelaku Ujaran Kebencian Di Media Sosial.*" Jurnal Penelitian Hukum DE JURE, Vol. 20 No. 2, Juni. pp. 177-188. DOI: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.30641/dejure.2020.V20.177-188</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Agus Raharjo, 2002. Pemahaman dan Upaya Pencegahan dan berteknologi, Bandung, Citra Aditya Bakti, p.36

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Meri Febriyani, 2018. "Analisis Faktor Penyebab Pelaku Melakukan Ujaran Kebencian (Hate Speech) Dalam Media Sosial." Poenale: Jurnal Bagian Hukum Pidana 6, no. 3, pp. 1-14.

will continually hold their gadgets or devices to play social media so that they won't care about their actual life. Laziness is a symptom of addiction, and social media addiction is no exception. This is one of those terrible impacts that is, without a doubt, observable at this point. The following person will probably become more preoccupied with themselves as they spend more time on the Internet and less socializing with others. Another negative impact that is even more severe is something that is commonly referred to as cybercrime, which is just another term for illegal activity that takes place online.<sup>8</sup>

It is against the Law for anybody to incite, encourage, or provide the means for another person to engage in acts of enmity, hatred, or violence against another person, as stated in articles 162 and 163 of the Criminal Code. Social media that broadcasts animosity, hatred, and opposition can provide opportunities and means for other parties to commit illegal acts. This is true even if the source is mentioned, mainly if there is evidence that mainstream media members were involved in criminal activity. In addition, those who commit violations receive relatively minimal punishment for their actions. If, for instance, a person is believed to have disseminated information with the intention of confusing, but it turns out that the information was false, then that person must be held accountable and face the consequences of their actions, in particular, the possibility of a counterclaim or a penalty. The guidelines for this kind of situation can be found in Article 315 of the Criminal Code.<sup>9</sup>

As a result of the Law's obligatory nature, all individuals who are legally considered to be residents of Indonesia are required to submit to and comply with its requirements. People are needed to be able to accept legal responsibility for their activities no matter where they are, including in the virtual realm of the Internet, because every action must have some legal repercussion. However, the unfortunate truth is that there are still a significant number of individuals online who engage in criminal activities with the intent to cause harm to others. People don't realize that what they publish on social media is unlawful and against the Law, so even if they argue that they don't know the Law, that won't necessarily shield them from legal action. People don't realize that what they post on social media is illegal. Because of this, they have to answer to the Law for their conduct and the consequences of those actions. Even if they are under the impression that they cannot comprehend the legal system, this does not necessarily exonerate them from the possibility of legal action.<sup>10</sup>

Law No. 11 of 2008, as amended by Law No. 19 of 2016, about Information and Electronic Transactions, contains numerous rules about actions related to electronic transactions, including those about prohibited activities, such as 1) decency, 2)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Sulidar Fitri, 2017. *"Dampak Positif Dan Negatif Sosial Media,"* Jurnal Kajian Penelitian Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran 1, no. 2. pp. 118-123

<sup>9</sup> Sudirman Tebba, 2006. Hukum Media Massa Nasional, Ciputat: Pustaka Irvan, pp. 32-33.

<sup>10</sup> Sanyoto. 2008. "Penegakan Hukum Indonesia," Jurnal Dinamika Hukum. Vol. 8, No. 3. pp. 199-204

gambling; 3) insult/defamation; 4) extortion; 5) fake news and SARA; 6) threats of violence.<sup>11</sup>

The administrative, criminal law section is where the ITE Law can be found. The existence of administrative Law in criminal Law is due to the realization of a just and prosperous society (social welfare policy), as stipulated in the preamble of the Constitution of 1945. This motivated the inclusion of administrative Law in the criminal law section. Protective measures have been taken for the community (social defence policy).<sup>12</sup>

#### **B. METHODS**

The writers of this study employed qualitative research strategies throughout. by investigating this normative and theoretical nature. Analytical descriptions are used to carry out the research specifications, which entail determining how to characterize the current status of the research object, as well as the applicable Law and how it is being put into practice. The employed legal resources can be broken down into three categories: primary legal resources, secondary legal resources, and tertiary legal resources. The method that is utilized is a combination of the concept method and the case method. The primary source of information for this piece of scientific work comes from the examination of primary legal materials, such as statutes and regulations, as well as secondary legal materials, which come in the form of doctrines or theories gleaned from legal literature and other documents of academic research.<sup>13</sup>

# C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# 1. Laws and Regulations for Criminal Acts of Hate Speech Through Social Media

Social media have impacted the way people live their lives. Combined with the introduction of new services that can now be accessed through social media without the need to physically visit physical locations, these new services include the ability to register for classes, make payments through electronic transactions, reserve taxis online, and a great deal more. In addition, people need to communicate with one another through social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to meet new people and form new friendships through these platforms.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Herzoni Saragih, Alpi Sahari, T Erwin Syahbana. 2021. *Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Terhadap Ujaran Kebencian Melalui Transaksi Elektronik*. Legalitas: Jurnal Hukum, 13 (2), Desember. DOI: 10.33087/legalitas.v13i2.267

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Maroni, 2015. *Pengantar Hukum Pidana Administrasi*, Bandar Lampung, CV Anugrah Utama Raharja (aura). p.23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ahmad Faizal Azhar; Eko Soponyono. 2020. *Kebijakan Hukum Pidana dalam Pengaturan dan Penanggulangan Ujaran Kebencian (Hate Speech) di Media Sosial.* Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia. Volume 2, Nomor 2. DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.14710/jphi.v2i2.275-290</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Sherly Anita, 2016. "Pengaruh Dan Pola Aktivitas Penggunaan Internet Serta Media Sosial Pada Siswa SMPN 52 Surabaya," Journal of Information Systems Engineering and Business Intelligence 2, No. 1, p.17.

A sort of criminal activity known as computer crime, cybercrime, or cybercrime (cybercrime) is one in which the Internet and computers are utilized to commission unlawful crimes. Traditional criminal activities that use computers or computer networks to facilitate or facilitate the commission of a crime are also included within the scope of the term "cybercrime," even though the term "cybercrime" is generally used to refer to illegal activities in which computers or computer networks are the primary components of the criminal act.<sup>15</sup>

The rule of Law is, without a doubt, an essential instrument for the prevention and management of the criminal activity. Because of this, even the most basic (primitive) societies and the most advanced (and hence harmful to society) modern societies have come to terms with the reality that crime exists.<sup>16</sup>

In addition, the definition of hate speech can be found in the Chief of Police Circular Letter No. SE/06/X/2015 states that hate speech is a violation regulated in the Criminal Code (KUHP), as well as other provisions outside the Criminal Code of Conduct, provocation, incitement, and spreading fake news. Platforms or websites that are used as a vehicle to carry out acts of hate speech are also impacted by this issue, in addition to the acts of hate speech themselves. These expressions of bigotry are referred to as "hate sites," and the majority of them make use of online discussion boards and news articles to bolster a specific viewpoint. As part of an enforcement action against offences related to hate speech, law enforcement officers might take measures to freeze or prohibit access to these hate sites.<sup>17</sup>

Hate speech can be in the form of offences in the Criminal Code and other criminal provisions outside the Criminal Code, including 1) insults; 2) defamation; 3) blasphemy of religion; 4) unpleasant acts; 5) provocation; 6) sedition; 7) spread of fake news.<sup>18</sup> In addition, infringement of intellectual property rights, slander or defamation, invasion of privacy, threats and extortion, sexual exploitation and obscenity of children, interfering with computer systems, violating access codes, and forging digital signatures are all examples of cybercrime.

The form of criminal responsibility for those who commit criminal acts of hate speech on social media refers to rules such as Article 28, paragraph 2. It is based on the idea that specific laws can deviate from general laws in certain circumstances. For example, Article 45(2) of the Law passed in 2016 to amend the Law that was passed in 2008 regarding information and electronic transactions. At this time, the criminalization of hate speech is becoming a national and international problem. This is a direct result of the growing concern for protecting human rights. The use of social

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Abdul Wahid; Mohammad Labib, 2005. *Kejahatan Mayantara (Cyber Crime)*, Jakarta, PT. Refika Aditama, p. 40.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Agus Rahardjo, 2002. *Cybercrime-Pemahaman dan Upaya Pencegahan Kejahatan Berteknologi,* Bandung, Citra Aditya Bakti, pp. 29-30

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Kade Richa Mulyawati. 2021. *Kebijakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Tindak Pidana Ujaran Kebencian* (*Hate Speech*) *di Media Sosial*. Kertha Wicaksana: Sarana Komunikasi Dosen dan Mahasiswa Volume 15, Nomor 2. DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.22225/kw.15.2.2021.138-148</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Chandra Oktiawan. 2021. *Yuridis Tindak Pidana Ujaran Kebencian Dalam Media Sosial*. Al Adl: Jurnal Hukum, Volume 13 Nomor 1, Januari. DOI: <u>10.31602/al-adl.v13i1.3938</u>

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media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social networks has become the primary venue for disseminating hate speech and related criminal activity.<sup>19</sup>

Following are some brief descriptions of legal provisions governing hate speech: 1) The Criminal Code (KUHP), which regulates: a) Article 156 of the Criminal Code; b) Article 157 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code and paragraph (2); c) Article 310 paragraph (1), paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) of the Criminal Code; d) Article 311 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code. 2) Law Number 19 of 2016 and Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning ITE (Information and Electronic Transactions): a) Article 28 paragraph (2); b) Article 45 paragraph (2).

Hate speech is considered part of the formal offences that can be committed, as indicated by the distribution of offences. Common offences are acts of criminal behaviour that, after being executed in line with the Law's provisions, allow the perpetrators of hate speech to be penalized for the activities they have taken of their initiative.<sup>20</sup>

Acts that are illegal because they involve information technology are frequently referred to as "cybercrime" or "cybercrime" in Indonesian legal documents. The following is a rundown of Indonesia's preparations for dealing with cybercrime: 1) The Telecommunications Law (No. 36 of 1999); 2) The Information and Electronic Transactions Law (No. 19 of 2016 in conjunction with the Information and Electronic Transactions Law (No. 11 of 2008)

Evidence is required to justify the prohibition of hate speech spread through social media. Evidence is crucial, particularly when it comes to proving the existence of legal events that have already taken place. According to PAF Lamintang, it is clear that two pieces of credible evidence are not enough for a court to reach a verdict of guilty in a criminal case. However, judges are also required to ensure that a crime has been committed by obtaining assurance from credible evidence. For a judge to reach a verdict in a criminal case, they must first be able to convince themselves that there is sufficient evidence to support the conclusion being reached.<sup>21</sup>

Legal evidence according to Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, namely: 1) witness testimony; 2) expert testimony; 3) letters; 4) instructions; 5) testimony of the accused. The ITE Law provides evidence other than what is regulated in Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Article 5, paragraph (1) of the ITE Law confirms that evidence includes: 1) Electronic and electronic documents 2) Printouts of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Audi, Q. T., Ardhian, R. W. K., & Deris, D. (2022). Human Resource Development in the Building. JAMBU AIR: Journal of Accounting Management Business and International Research, 1(2), 59–65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> I Made Kardiyasa; A.A Sagung Laksmi Dewi; Ni Made Sukaryati Karma. 2020. *Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Ujaran Kebencian (Hate Speech)*. Jurnal Analogi Hukum, Volume 2, Nomor 1. DOI: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.22225/.2.1.1627.78-82</u>. See also: Afriandi M.S. 2017. Analisis Hukum Pidana terhadap Tindak Pidana Penistaan Agama di Aceh. Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure. Vol. 17 (1):1. DOI: 10.30641/dejure.2017.V17.1-12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Riduan Syahrani, 2000, Buku Materi Dasar Hukum Acara Perdata, Citra Aditya Bakti, Bandung, p. 42

electronic information, and/or electronic documents. This means that there is additional legal evidence in the current case according to the Criminal Procedure Code and the ITE Law.

Regarding hatred in and of itself, the ITE Law does not offer a precise definition of the term or an explanation of how it should be understood. Therefore, the meaning or understanding still corresponds to Article 156 of the Criminal Code, which is expressing hostility (*vijanschap*). This refers to the front of stating in words whose substance is viewed by society as being hostile against a group of people. In other words, the act of declaring in terms whose meaning is deemed by the public to be aggressive toward a group of Indonesian people as the public perceives the content of those words.<sup>22</sup>

## 2. Increase in Hate Speech Behavior on Social Media During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The wide availability of social media platforms has led many to worry that the already-present crime of hate speech is spreading at an alarming rate.<sup>23</sup> In addition, some people see this offence as a severe breach of morality.<sup>24</sup> When a criminal incident or a criminal act is reported, the officer who receives the report promptly launches an investigation to ascertain the facts. The information can be made verbally or in writing, but either way requires the complainant's signature.<sup>25</sup>

One of the drawbacks of the increased ease with which people may share and receive information, thanks to social media, is that viewpoints containing insults, defamation, or hatred can be widely disseminated and accessed by everyone.<sup>26</sup> Therefore, on October 8, 2015, the National Police declared hate speech a crime through Circular Letter (SE) No. SE/06/X/2015 regarding hate speech. Hate speech in the form of insults, slander, slander, offensive behaviour, provocation, incitement and spreading fake news, insulting victims through the use of words, pictures and memes, as well as spreading information on social media that aims to be based on Ethnicity, Religion, Race and Intergroup (SARA) and creates hatred or hostility between individuals and/or certain groups of people.<sup>27</sup>

There is an increasing need for government attention to cases of hate speech that threaten human decency and humanity. Collective hatred, exclusion,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Adami Chazawi, 2016. *Hukum Pidana Positif Penghinaan*. Malang: Media Nusa Creative, p.199.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Andi Sepima; Gomgom T.P. Siregar; Syawal Amry Siregar. 2021. *Penegakan Hukum Ujaran Kebencian Di Republik Indonesia*. Jurnal Retentum, Volume 2 Nomor 1, (Februari), pp.108-116

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Dian Junita, 2019. "Kajian Ujaran Kebencian Di Media Sosial," Jurnal Ilmiah Korpus 2, No. 3, pp. 241-252

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Salam, M. F. (1994). Peradilan Militer Indonesia. Bandung: Mandar Maju. p. 100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Kwaar, Y., Soumokil, A., & Sialana, F. (2022). *The Use of Exercise Methods in Improving Student Learning Outcomes in the Material of Living and Practicing Religious Teachings That he Adheres to Class XI Social Studies-2 Students at SMAN 9 Ambon.* IJRAEL: International Journal of Religion Education and Law, 1(1), pp.5–7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Muklis Suhendro. 2021. Penegakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Ujaran Kebencian Melalui Media Sosial. Justice Pro: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum. Volume 5 Number 1, June. DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.53027/jp.v5i1.256</u>

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discrimination, violence, and even genocide or genocide against groups can all be fueled by hate speech.<sup>28</sup>

Because of this, Chief of Police Circular Number SE/6/X/2015 was distributed to all departments. The only purpose of the Circular of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police, which is a variant of these Policies and Regulations, is to ensure that the actions of the police in dealing with acts of hate speech are in line with the various laws and regulations of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police SE. Polri is nevertheless compelled to comply with the numerous legal procedures outlined in general administrative law norms (government administrative law) and sectoral administrative law norms that regulate activities categorized as hate speech in circular letters.<sup>29</sup>

Every citizen in Indonesia is allowed to have their voice heard. On the other hand, this liberty is frequently abused in the guise of the freedom of expression, which is a component of human rights (HAM). The Constitution protects freedom of expression, adopted in 1945 and Law no. 9 of 1998, respecting Freedom of Public Speech, passed in 1998. Therefore, hate speech is a consequence of too much free expression, particularly during the ongoing pandemic. The number of personnel was cut, and classes and other activities in the office and school were cancelled. As a result, while people's expenditures on their families increased, their incomes decreased in addition to the reports and findings surfacing on social media in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic.

During the pandemic caused by Covid-19, the government enforced social restrictions and limited people's ability to contact one another both inside and outside the chamber. The many social limitations that have been imposed have resulted in a variety of opinions, both positive and bad, among the general populace. Because many rules and legislation were created during the epidemic without previous socialization to the public, this gave birth to an increasing number of new questions and perspectives that lacked a clear legal basis. In the past, ordinary people who wanted to comprehend politics, legislation, and government news were required to grasp what occurred during the epidemic. This was because only social media could accommodate and accommodate all of the demands that society placed upon it. The use of social media also accelerates the dissemination and consumption of news and information.

One of them is hate speech on social media, which is particularly distressing during this pandemic since it is directed at people who work in the healthcare field and the government. Naturally, the President of the Republic of Indonesia did not escape remarks from cyber leaders on social media who chastised the administration for handling Covid-19 in this particular situation. During the period covered by COVID-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> I Made Kardiyasa; A.A Sagung Laksmi Dewi; Ni Made Sukaryati Karma. 2020. Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Ujaran Kebencian (Hate Speech). Jurnal Analogi Hukum, Volume 2, Nomor 1, DOI: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.22225/.2.1.1627.78-82</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Nanda Ivan Natsir, Muhammad Natsir & Abdul Hamid. 2019. *Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Hate Speech Melalui Media Sosial Di Wilayah Hukum Polda NTB*. Jurnal Kompilasi Hukum Volume 4 No. 2, Desember.

19, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, has frequently been the target of abusive language posted on Twitter. It was determined that 25 out of the 500 tweets contained hate speech. These 25 tweets were responsible for 5% of all of the data that was gathered. This 5% can be a baseline for determining the amount of hate speech associated with the keyword "Jokowi" per tweet in the Covid-19 study.<sup>30</sup>

The spread of the Covid-19 epidemic has also affected how people speak with one another while they are communicating virtually. The handling of COVID-19 is hugely intertwined with the communication that each element is responsible for carrying out. Whether political communication, public communication, or communication for da'wah, etc. Contact is essentially neutral, except for the areas in which the user may choose to exploit problems that arise. In the context of the Covid-19 epidemic, communication is frequently influenced to make the situation worse. For example, certain political parties find it difficult to take advantage of the situation to achieve a political advantage by spreading hoax news and hate speech against the government's handling of Covid-19. This is because of the difficulty in gaining political advantage from the issue.<sup>31</sup>

The existence of social media has had an effect on people's interactions with one another. Alterations in social relations, alterations in the equilibrium (balance) of social ties and modifications in the various forms of social institutions affect social institutions, including the values, attitudes, and patterns of behaviour shared among social groups. Both society and the economy stand to benefit from beneficial social improvements, such as those that make it simpler to acquire and share knowledge. On the other hand, social change is frequently for the worse, as seen by the formation of social groups in the name of religion or race and specific patterns of behaviour that occasionally break from the existing standards.<sup>32</sup>

## **D. CONCLUSION**

One interpretation of freedom of speech is that it is an individual's right to freedom that needs to be fulfilled, safeguarded, and guaranteed in the Constitution. This interpretation is consistent with the traditional understanding of freedom of speech. However, monitoring the substance of information disseminated in a user's surroundings is impossible because the material can be freely produced and shared on social media. Because of this, there has been a rise in the circulation of hoaxes and fake news, some of which include hate speech. Article 45, paragraph 2 of Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning ITE, which regulates sanctions against perpetrators of hate speech, contains the rule addressing sanctions against hate speech. This Law also governs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Wahyu Maulana; Mulyadi. 2021. *Ujaran Kebencian Terhadap Jokowi pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19: Studi Kasus Twitter*. Jurnal Linguistik Komputasional (JLK), Vol. 4, No. 1, Maret.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Baharuddin; Zulkarnain. 2021. Dampak Pandemi Covid-19 Bagi Komunikasi Publik dan Politik: Studi Deskriptif Pentingnya Syiar Dakwah dalam Keluarga. Al-Hikmah Media Dakwah, Komunikasi, Sosial Dan Kebudayaan, 12(2), pp.114-128. <u>https://doi.org/10.32505/hikmah.v12i2.3595</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Anang Sugeng Cahyono. 2016. *Pengaruh Media Sosial Terhadap Perubahan Sosial Masyarakat Di Indonesia*. Publiciana, 9(1), pp.140-157. <u>https://doi.org/10.36563/publiciana.v9i1.79</u>

sanctions against the perpetrators of hate speech. Arrangements for the distribution of information that raises concerns of hatred and SARA are regulated by the Law Number 19 of 2019 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions, specifically the second paragraph of Article 28 of that Law.

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