

MOTION 1:

Disinformation is the biggest threat to peace in 2025

From Roman propaganda wars to Cold War campaigns, disinformation has always played a role in politics. However, the scale and speed of this public influence has transformed in the digital age. Now, social media and AI-generated content can spread false narratives globally within seconds. In an era defined by instant communication and viral narratives, the spread of false information has become a powerful force shaping our societies.

Supporters of this motion may argue that disinformation intensifies hate and creates division between communities, leading to radicalisation, violence and civil unrest; examples of which can be seen globally and in more local contexts. In many recent conflicts, false narratives have been weaponised to undermine trust, divide populations and erode the possibility of negotiated peace. Many associate disinformation with election mistrust and mob attacks which destabilise democracies, fuel conflict and threaten peace.

Or perhaps other threats, such as militarisation, nuclear proliferation and armed conflict, remain bigger issues than disinformation. Climate change and inequality may also pose more of a threat to peace, driving displacement and conflict. Furthermore, there are ways to counter disinformation, from digital literacy education to AI moderation, potentially making it less of an existential threat.

Yet, these threats are deeply interconnected; disinformation can fuel inequality, while rising inequality creates fertile ground for disinformation to spread. At a time when sharing information is easier than ever, and where a single deepfake or false tweet can spiral into violence, disinformation threatens peace both locally and globally. So, should our focus be on issues like climate change and inequality? Or is disinformation the biggest threat to peace in 2025?

Debate it!

