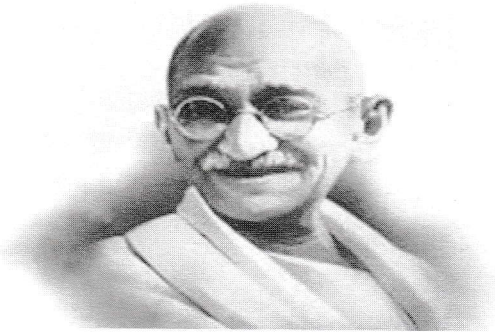


Be the Change You Seek

'You must be the change you wish to see in the world'- Mahatma Gandhi



If violence is the only way to resolve conflicts that tend to recur through-out history, we would be living in a world of peace and harmony by now. As Buddha's words in Dhammapada one should cultivate empathy towards one's enemy, not seek revenge:

*All tremble at force;
Of death all are afraid;
Likening others to one-self;
Kill nor cause to kill.*

-Dhanda Vagga-

Thus these words provide the right perspective that violence serves no purpose; it can only aggravate a tensed situation leading to reprisal attacks on places of worship and mayhem. Unless we develop the right perspective to cope with the 21st century omnipresent enemy who has acquired soft power using social media, our capacity to deal with such groups who orchestrate attacks on places of worship would be a nonstarter. We need to look up to world leaders who were firm believers of non-violence such as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

In coping with current trends, we need to reflect on the soft power which has spread world-wide on the social media in the deep web. Deep web refers to any internet content

that, for various reasons, can't be or isn't indexed by search engines. Here is a list of examples:

1. Illegal drugs
2. Pirated games and online accounts
3. Hit men for hire
4. Doxing information of public figures
5. Child abuse
6. C o m m a n d - a n d - c o n t r o l infrastructure for malware
7. Bitcoins (are the currency used when purchasing illegal goods and services)
8. Rape
9. Selling arms for terrorist activities
10. Criminal activities

Even the powerful CIA and the FBI are not able to prevent their operations. What they do is to advocate aerial bombing using drones and devastate mosques, schools and massacre civilian population and call it collateral damage to justify their action. So, the focus should be on the social media as a preventive measure as illustrated by Professor Nye:

“Social media algorithms are designed to compete for attention. Social media can make false information look more credible if it comes from “friends.” The most effective propaganda is not propaganda. It is a two-way dialogue among people.”