

The ADL's Never is Now Conference: Game Over! How Online Hate Is Infiltrating New Platforms
Sophia Marangoudakis
November 8th 2021

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is an organization fighting hate around the world especially anti semitism. The organization believes that once there is a little hate the amount only increases. The ADL's annual Never Is Now conference just took place with a variety of workshops to learn how to combat hate on school campuses, how false information fuels antisemitism, how to be a change maker and how comic books can help society and many more interesting workshops. I attended a workshop that talked about how online games are a rich and thriving environment but also can be harmful. These online games inforce individuality with kids learning how to navigate a new place without their parents. Online games break down geographical barriers making the world come together with kids forming relationships with kids in other countries. On the other hand, players are more vulnerable to say inappropriate things because of not physically knowing the gamer on the other side of the screen.

I really liked this conference and how they touched on topics all ages can understand and find interesting. The priority of non-violence, one of Global Studies themes throughout this workshop was evident. In the game workshop I attended, solutions were discussed to prevent violence. For example, creating restrictions and talking about games as if they are physical activities like sports and not downplaying them. Some people view gamers as members of a seperate society which gives this group a bad reputation. Non violent activities and conversations are so important to have in our world to help create a more peaceful and happy place. This workshop made me realize that games can be used for good passionate causes and can be designed to make people think differently or address situations differently. By the ADL having workshops and events, it makes hate a less likely to happen and having it be a more open conversation to fighting against it.