

# *U.S. refuses to join “Christchurch Call” against on- line extremism*

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Paris, May 20 (RHC)-- In Paris, the leaders of France and New Zealand have unveiled an agreement to combat on-line extremism. The so-called “Christchurch Call” is named after the New Zealand city where, a white nationalist gunman killed 51 worshipers at two mosques -- and live-streamed the massacre on Facebook.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said: “The social media dimension to the attack was unprecedented. And our response today with the adoption of the Christchurch Call is equally unprecedented as well. Never before have countries and tech companies come together in the wake of a horrific attack to commit to an action plan that will deliver collaboratively, work in new technology built to make our communities ultimately safer.”

So far the Christchurch Call has the support of 16 countries, the European Commission and eight tech giants. But the Trump Administration said it was “not currently in a position to join the endorsement.”

The White House cited concerns the agreement could violate the First Amendment. In a New York Times opinion piece last weekend, Prime Minister Ardern wrote she supports free speech rights but “that right

does not include the freedom to broadcast mass murder.”

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