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US will not sign Christchurch agreement to stamp out online extremism amid free speech concerns

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New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern 'does not understand' why US has failed to toughen gun laws. / CNN

Washington Post

The White House will not sign an international agreement to combat online extremism brokered between French and New Zealand officials and top social media companies, amid US concerns that it clashes with constitutional protections for free speech.

The decision comes as world leaders prepare to announce the so-called "Christchurch call to action" on Wednesday, an effort named after the city where a shooter attacked two mosques in an attack inspired by online hate and broadcast on social-media sites.

The document calls on governments and tech giants to improve their efforts to study and stop the spread of harmful content.

