



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2019

Ms. Monika Bickert
Vice President, Global Policy Management
Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Ms. Bickert:

I am writing to urge your company to help combat online extremist content by blocking 8chan hyperlinks on Facebook. As you know, some of the most harmful and hate-filled content on the internet can be found on 8chan. At a time when domestic terrorist attacks and mass shootings are becoming a normalized part of American life, it is incumbent upon all of us—including corporate America—to do what we can to keep the American people safe. Blocking harmful hyperlinks to 8chan is well within your rights as they violate your community standards—but more importantly, it could save lives.

We need only look to this past year to see the consequences of inaction. On March 15, 2019, a terrorist killed 51 people and injured 49 others in Christchurch, New Zealand. He posted his hateful manifesto on 8chan and livestreamed the shooting on Facebook.

On April 27, 2019, a terrorist entered a synagogue in Poway, California and began shooting. He killed one woman and wounded three others and was inspired by hateful content he saw on 8chan. He also posted an antisemitic and racist open letter on 8chan shortly before his crimes.

On August 3, 2019, a terrorist shot and killed 22 people and injured 24 others at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. He also posted a hate-filled manifesto on 8chan prior to the shooting and was inspired by the New Zealand massacre.

Facebook should not allow online extremist content on 8chan to be accessible via hyperlinks on your platform. Sites like 8chan offer a home to violent extremism and play a central role in the growing trend of online self-radicalization. Facebook should not be in the business of amplifying these voices. I strongly urge you to immediately ban hyperlinks to 8chan from being posted on Facebook.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Lives are on the line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Max Rose', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Max Rose
Chairman
Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism
Committee on Homeland Security