

**From:** [Curtis, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [amartin@judicialwatch.org](mailto:amartin@judicialwatch.org)  
**Subject:** Your Public Records Request  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 5:10:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Angelo Martin Letter 2.pdf](#)  
[FACEBOOK LETTER PRESS PLAN UPDATE \(Letter Attached\) 8\\_4\(JRD\).pdf](#)  
[FACEBOOK LETTER PRESS PLAN UPDATE \(AND TEMPLATE RELEASE\) 8\\_3\(JRD\).pdf](#)  
[FB Letter - Final.pdf](#)  
[Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7\\_22.pdf](#)  
[RE Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7\\_27.pdf](#)  
[RE Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7\\_28 .pdf](#)  
[RE Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7\\_29 \(JRD\).pdf](#)  
[RE Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 8\\_4.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Martin,

Please see attached in response to your public records request. Thank you.

Best, Christopher

Christopher J. Curtis  
Chief, Public Protection Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
802-828-5586

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STATE OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
109 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001

September 10, 2020

Mr. Angelo Martin  
c/o Judicial Watch  
SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL:  
[amartin@judicialwatch.org](mailto:amartin@judicialwatch.org)

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for your public records request of August 27, 2020. You requested:

1. "Communications, such as emails, between Attorney General TJ Donovan or members of the front office, the Consumer Unit, and the Civil Rights Unit of the Office of the Vermont Attorney General and employees of Twitter and Facebook, namely, those with email domains @fb.com @support.facebook.com @twitter.com @e.twitter.com, about disinformation, hate speech, and harassment on social media platforms. The timeframe for this request is July 12th, 2020 to August 12th, 2020.
2. Communications, such as emails, between Attorney General TJ Donovan or members of the front office, the Consumer Unit, and the Civil Rights Unit of the Office of the Vermont Attorney General, and other state attorneys general or members of their staff, namely those with email domains @doj.ca.gov @oag.ca.gov @hawaii.gov @delaware.gov @oag.state.va.us @ncdoj.gov @ct.gov @ag.iowa.gov @riag.ri.gov @njoag.gov @nj.gov @dc.gov @ag.ny.gov @nmag.gov @state.ma.us @oag.state.md.us @maine.gov @atg.state.il.us @pa.gov @attorneygeneral.gov @ag.state.mn.us @doj.state.wi.us, about disinformation, hate speech, and harassment on social media platforms. The timeframe for this request July 12th, 2020 to August 12th, 2020.

Attached please find records responsive to your request. If you believe any records have been withheld in error you may appeal to Deputy Attorney General Joshua Diamond. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*/s/ Christopher J. Curtis*  
Christopher J. Curtis  
Chief, Public Protection Division

**From:** [Leland Moore](#)  
**To:** [Mayorga, David \(OAG\)](#); [Geller, MARRISA \(OAG\)](#); [Levy, Fabien](#); [Rubin, Morgan](#); [Kempner, Delaney](#); [Rishi Khalsa](#); [Gabrielle Magana](#); [Mat.Marshall@Delaware.gov](#); [Carl.Kanefsky@delaware.gov](#); [tjoseph@atg.state.il.us](#); [pthompson@atg.state.il.us](#); [lynn.hicks@ag.iowa.gov](#); [john.stiles@ag.state.mn.us](#); [CGomer@oag.state.va.us](#); [mkelly@oag.state.va.us](#); [Shade, Mark](#); [kdosreis@riag.ri.gov](#); [Benton, Elizabeth](#); [Quackenbush, Margaret \(AGO\)](#); ["Quackenbush, Margaret \(AGO\)"](#); [krishna.f.jayaram@hawaii.gov](#); [ballwegra@doj.state.wi.us](#); [rcoombs@oag.state.md.us](#); [awarmack@oag.state.md.us](#); [dcarl@nmag.gov](#); [Clark, Charity](#); [lbrewer@ncdoj.gov](#); [Diamond, Joshua](#); [drummondgl@doj.state.wi.us](#)  
**Subject:** FACEBOOK LETTER PRESS PLAN UPDATE (Letter Attached)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:57:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [AGs Letter to Facebook 2020.08.05.pdf](#)

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello again, all. Attached is the multi-state letter to Facebook scheduled to be sent out tomorrow – Wednesday, August 5.

Just circling back to confirm that the letter and your press releases announcing same are **strictly embargoed until 2 p.m. EST.** As we all know, there are occasionally delays of one sort or another on launch day, so please wait until you have confirmation from me that the embargo has been lifted to launch on Wednesday.

Thank you.

Best,

Leland Moore  
NJ OAG Communications

Below is a template press release for your use/reference.

AG **[NAME]** Joins Letter Calling on Facebook to Take Stronger Steps to Prevent Use of Its Platforms to Spread Hate and Disinformation

**[DATELINE]** -- Attorney General **[NAME]** today joined **19** Attorneys General from across the United States in calling on Facebook to take additional steps to prevent the popular social media website from being used to spread hate and disinformation. The Attorneys General also urged Facebook to provide stronger support for users who fall victim to online intimidation and harassment on its platforms.

In a letter today to Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg and Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, the Attorneys General assert that despite its stated commitment to working to keep its user community safe, Facebook has fallen short in keeping hate content off its platforms and protecting users from online harassment.

Led by New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine, and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, today's letter observes that the nation is presently in a moment of reckoning on issues of racial justice and civil rights. Against this backdrop, the letter states that "[p]rivate parties, organized groups and public officials continue to use Facebook to spread misinformation and project messages of hate against different groups of Americans," with many of those messages leading to the abuse of individual Facebook users.

The letter follows the release of a Civil Rights Audit of Facebook's practices -- commissioned by the company and completed in July -- that faults Facebook for failing to advance civil rights, and refusing to enforce its own policies against dangerous organizations and individuals, including white supremacists and other extremists.

Recent surveys suggest more than 40 percent of Americans have experienced some form of online harassment, and that of those victims, more than 75 percent have reported being harassed on Facebook. The letter urges Facebook to implement several reforms recommended in the Civil Rights Audit to "strengthen its commitment to civil rights and fighting disinformation and discrimination." It further recommends steps designed to improve Facebook's supportive services for victims.

-----[YOUR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S QUOTE]-----

According to today's letter, much of the harassment reported by Facebook users focuses on characteristics protected by civil rights laws, including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, and disability.

Such harassment can include conduct like cyberstalking, doxing (maliciously publishing someone's personal information), and swatting (filing false police reports to prompt law enforcement response targeting the victim.) The letter contends that at present, "recourse is unavailable for too many of these victims," due to limitations on the services that Facebook offers victims, as well as other factors.

The Attorneys General acknowledge that "Facebook has -- on occasion -- taken action to address violations of its terms of service in cases where we have helped elevate our constituents' concerns." But the letter adds that many Facebook users continue to find the redress process "slow, frustrating, and ineffective."

The reforms recommended in today's letter, many of which are highlighted in the recent Civil Rights Audit, include calls for Facebook to:

- Aggressively enforce its policies against hate speech and organized hate

organizations;

- Allow public, third-party audits of hate content and enforcement;
- Commit to an ongoing, independent analysis of Facebook's content population scheme and the prompt development of best practices guidance; and
- Expand policies limiting inflammatory advertisements that vilify minority groups;

The Attorneys General also recommends steps to enhance Facebook supportive services including:

- Offer live real-time assistance to victims of intimidation and harassment;
- Make information about unlawful harassment and intimidation more readily available; and
- Strengthen filtering, reporting, and blocking tools.

In addition to [Your State], Attorneys General representing the following jurisdictions are participating in today's letter: California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont and Wisconsin. (Please remember to remove your own state from this list)

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**From:** [Leland Moore](#)  
**To:** [Mayorga, David \(OAG\)](#); [Geller, MARRISA \(OAG\)](#); [Levy, Fabien](#); [Rubin, Morgan](#); [Kempner, Delaney](#); [Rishi Khalsa](#); [Gabrielle Magana](#); [Mat.Marshall@Delaware.gov](#); [Carl.Kanefsky@delaware.gov](#); [tjoseph@atg.state.il.us](#); [pthompson@atg.state.il.us](#); [lynn.hicks@ag.iowa.gov](#); [john.stiles@ag.state.mn.us](#); [CGomer@oag.state.va.us](#); [mkelly@oag.state.va.us](#); [Shade, Mark](#); [kdosreis@riag.ri.gov](#); [Benton, Elizabeth](#); [Quackenbush, Margaret \(AGO\)](#); ["Quackenbush, Margaret \(AGO\)"](#); [krishna.f.jayaram@hawaii.gov](#); [ballwegra@doj.state.wi.us](#); [rcoombs@oag.state.md.us](#); [awarmack@oag.state.md.us](#); [dcarl@nmag.gov](#); [Clark, Charity](#); [lbrewer@ncdoj.gov](#); [Diamond, Joshua](#); [drummondgl@doj.state.wi.us](#)  
**Subject:** FACEBOOK LETTER PRESS PLAN UPDATE (AND TEMPLATE RELEASE)  
**Date:** Monday, August 3, 2020 6:29:44 PM

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**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello, all. Welcome to any new states that have joined since my last email. You are receiving this notification because your Attorney General has joined a multi-state letter to Facebook Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg requesting that Facebook take new, stronger measures to prevent its pages from being used to spread disinformation and hate, and facilitate discrimination. The letter will also call on Facebook to provide more steps of redress for users victimized by online intimidation and harassment, etc.

FYI, issuance of the Facebook letter and the announcement of same are strictly embargoed until this coming Wednesday, August 5, at 2 p.m. EST.

Below is a template press release for your use/reference.

Best regards,  
Leland Moore  
NJ OAG Communications

AG **[NAME]** Joins Letter Calling on Facebook to Take Stronger Steps to Prevent Use of Its Platforms to Spread Hate and Disinformation

**[DATELINE]** -- Attorney General **[NAME]** today joined **19** Attorneys General from across the United States in calling on Facebook to take additional steps to prevent the popular social media website from being used to spread hate and disinformation. The Attorneys General also urged Facebook to provide stronger support for users who fall victim to online intimidation and harassment on its platforms.

In a letter today to Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg and Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, the Attorneys General assert that despite its stated commitment to working to keep its user community safe, Facebook has fallen short in keeping hate content off its platforms and protecting users from online harassment.

Led by New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine, and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, today's letter observes that the nation is presently in a moment of reckoning on issues of racial justice and civil rights. Against this backdrop, the letter states that "[p]rivate parties, organized groups and public officials continue to use Facebook to spread misinformation and project messages of hate against different groups of Americans," with many of those messages leading to the abuse of individual Facebook users.

The letter follows the release of a Civil Rights Audit of Facebook's practices -- commissioned by the company and completed in July -- that faults Facebook for failing to advance civil rights, and refusing to enforce its own policies against dangerous organizations and individuals, including white supremacists and other extremists.

Recent surveys suggest more than 40 percent of Americans have experienced some form of online harassment, and that of those victims, more than 75 percent have reported being harassed on Facebook. The letter urges Facebook to implement several reforms recommended in the Civil Rights Audit to "strengthen its commitment to civil rights and fighting disinformation and discrimination." It further recommends steps designed to improve Facebook's supportive services for victims.

-----[YOUR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S QUOTE]-----

According to today's letter, much of the harassment reported by Facebook users focuses on characteristics protected by civil rights laws, including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, and disability.

Such harassment can include conduct like cyberstalking, doxing (maliciously publishing someone's personal information), and swatting (filing false police reports to prompt law enforcement response targeting the victim.) The letter contends that at present, "recourse is unavailable for too many of these victims," due to limitations on the services that Facebook offers victims, as well as other factors.

The Attorneys General acknowledge that "Facebook has -- on occasion -- taken action to address violations of its terms of service in cases where we have helped elevate our constituents' concerns." But the letter adds that many Facebook users continue to find the redress process "slow, frustrating, and ineffective."

The reforms recommended in today's letter, many of which are highlighted in the recent Civil Rights Audit, include calls for Facebook to:

- Aggressively enforce its policies against hate speech and organized hate organizations;

- Allow public, third-party audits of hate content and enforcement;
- Commit to an ongoing, independent analysis of Facebook's content population scheme and the prompt development of best practices guidance; and
- Expand policies limiting inflammatory advertisements that vilify minority groups;

The Attorneys General also recommends steps to enhance Facebook supportive services including:

- Offer live real-time assistance to victims of intimidation and harassment;
- Make information about unlawful harassment and intimidation more readily available; and
- Strengthen filtering, reporting, and blocking tools.

In addition to [Your State], Attorneys General representing the following jurisdictions are participating in today's letter: California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont and Wisconsin. (Please remember to remove your own state from this list)

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KARL A. RACINE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



KWAME RAOUL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS



GURBIR S. GREWAL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

August 5, 2020

Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer  
Facebook, Inc.  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg & Ms. Sandberg:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write to request that you take additional steps to prevent Facebook from being used to spread disinformation and hate and to facilitate discrimination. We also ask that you take more steps to provide redress for users who fall victim to intimidation and harassment, including violence and digital abuse.

Our nation is in the midst of a reckoning on issues of racial justice and civil rights. As State Attorneys General, we have witnessed firsthand how the country's longstanding undercurrent of discrimination has burst into the open, as reports of hate crimes and bias incidents of all kinds have dramatically increased in recent years.<sup>1</sup> And while recent events have further highlighted the systemic injustice that persists in our society, the last few months also have seen millions of Americans join together to call for action against bias and racism.

As you know, Facebook is not immune to these problems. Although Facebook has made some progress in counteracting the use of its platform to dehumanize and demean, that is just the beginning of what is necessary.<sup>2</sup> Private parties, organized groups, and public officials continue to use Facebook to spread misinformation and project messages of hate against different groups

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<sup>1</sup> See Adeel Hassan, "Hate-Crime Violence Hits 16-Year High, F.B.I. Reports," *The New York Times* (Nov. 12, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/12/us/hate-crimes-fbi-report.html>; Press Release, AG Grewal Releases Preliminary Number of Reported Bias Incidents in New Jersey in 2019, Showing 65 Percent Increase Over 2018 (Jan. 13, 2020), <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases20/pr20200113c.html>.

<sup>2</sup> See Laura W. Murphy & Megan Cacace, *Facebook's Civil Rights Audit – Final Report* (July 8, 2020), <https://about.fb.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Civil-Rights-Audit-Final-Report.pdf>.

of Americans. In many cases, these messages lead to intimidation and harassment of particular individuals online.

According to recent surveys, more than forty percent of Americans have experienced some form of online harassment, including cyberstalking, doxing (maliciously publishing someone's personal information), and swatting (filing false police reports to prompt a law enforcement response targeting the victim).<sup>3</sup> Of those Americans who report having been harassed online, more than three-quarters have reported being harassed on Facebook.<sup>4</sup> Much of that harassment is focused on characteristics protected by the civil rights laws that many of us are charged with enforcing, including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, and disability.<sup>5</sup> Recourse is unavailable for too many of these victims, due to limitations on the services that Facebook offers victims and other impediments to securing relief through civil lawsuits or criminal prosecutions.

We understand that Facebook has committed to the public and its users that it will “invest billions of dollars each year to keep [Facebook’s] community safe and continuously work with outside experts to review and update [Facebook’s] policies.”<sup>6</sup> But, as the most recent Civil Rights Audit reveals, the steps you have taken thus far have fallen short. With the vast resources at your disposal, we believe there is much more that you can do to prevent the use of Facebook as a vehicle for misinformation and discrimination, and to prevent your users from being victimized by harassment and intimidation on your platforms.

As State Attorneys General, we are responsible for protecting the safety and wellbeing of all the communities we serve. As part of that mission, we must constantly contend with the impacts of online hate, intimidation, and harassment. Many of our offices enforce the laws that protect our residents from bias offenses, intimidation, and harassment—whether online or on our streets.<sup>7</sup> And many of our offices include units dedicated to serving the victims of unlawful conduct, including helping them access and use tools that allow them to vindicate their rights.

As part of our responsibilities to our communities, Attorneys General have helped residents navigate Facebook’s processes for victims to address abuse on its platform. While Facebook has—on occasion—taken action to address violations of its terms of service in cases where we have helped elevate our constituents’ concerns,<sup>8</sup> we know that everyday users of Facebook can

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<sup>3</sup> See Maeve Duggan, Pew Research Center, *Online Harassment 2017* (July 11, 2017), [https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2017/07/PI\\_2017.07.11\\_Online-Harassment\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2017/07/PI_2017.07.11_Online-Harassment_FINAL.pdf); Anti-Defamation League, *Online Hate and Harassment: The American Experience 2020*, at 7, <https://www.adl.org/media/14643/download>.

<sup>4</sup> *Online Hate and Harassment* at 15.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Live post on Mark Zuckerberg’s Facebook Profile (June 26, 2020 at 1:49 p.m.), <https://www.facebook.com/zuck/videos/10112048862145471/>.

<sup>7</sup> See Press Release, Attorney General Fox Intervenes in Neo-Nazi Intimidation Case (May 15, 2018), <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-fox-intervenes-in-neo-nazi-intimidation-case/>.

<sup>8</sup> See Press Release, Division on Civil Rights Calls on Facebook to Monitor Comments on Group Page Encouraging Violence Against Orthodox Jews in Ocean County (Apr. 5, 2019), <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases19/pr20190405a.html>; Press Release: “Joint Statement by Governor Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal on Facebook’s Removal of Anti-Semitic, Racist Group Page,” (Feb. 4, 2020), <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20200205b.shtml>.

find the process slow, frustrating, and ineffective. Thus, we write to highlight positive steps that Facebook can take to strengthen its policies and practices. We hope to work with you to ensure that fewer individuals suffer online harassment and discrimination, and that it is quickly and effectively addressed when they do.

Based on our collective experience, we believe that Facebook should take additional actions including the following steps—many of which are highlighted in Facebook’s recent Civil Rights Audit—to strengthen its commitment to civil rights and fighting disinformation and discrimination:

- **Aggressively enforce Facebook policies against hate speech and organized hate organizations:** Although Facebook has developed policies against hate speech and organizations that peddle it, we remain concerned that Facebook’s policies on Dangerous Individuals and Organizations, including but not limited to its policies on white nationalist and white supremacist content, are not enforced quickly and comprehensively enough.<sup>9</sup> Content that violates Facebook’s own policies too often escapes removal just because it comes as coded language, rather than specific magic words. And even where Facebook takes steps to address a particular violation, it often fails to proactively address the follow-on actions by replacement or splinter groups that quickly emerge.
- **Allow public, third-party audits of hate content and enforcement:** To gauge the ongoing progress of Facebook’s enforcement efforts, independent experts should be permitted access to the data necessary to conduct regular, transparent third-party audits of hate and hate-related misinformation on the platform, including any information made available to the Global Oversight Board. As part of this effort, Facebook should capture data on the prevalence of different forms of hate content on the platform, whether or not covered by Facebook’s own community standards, thus allowing the public to determine whether enforcement of anti-hate policies differs based on the type of hate content at issue.
- **Commit to an ongoing, independent analysis of Facebook’s content population scheme and the prompt development of best practices guidance:** By funneling users toward particular types of content, Facebook’s content population scheme, including its algorithms, can push users into extremist online communities that feature divisive and inflammatory messages, often directed at particular groups. Although Facebook has conducted research and considered programs to reduce this risk, there is still no mandatory guidance for coders and other teams involved in content population. Facebook should commit to an ongoing, independent analysis of its content population scheme, including its algorithms, and also continuously implement mandatory protocols as best practices are identified to curb bias and prevent recommendations of hate content and groups.
- **Expand policies limiting inflammatory advertisements that vilify minority groups:** Although Facebook currently prohibits ads that claim that certain people, because of their membership in a protected group, pose a threat to the physical safety of communities or the nation, its policies still allow attacks that characterize such groups as threats to national culture or values.<sup>10</sup> The current prohibition should be expanded to include such ads.

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<sup>9</sup> See Tech Transparency Project, *White Supremacist Groups Are Thriving on Facebook* (May 21, 2020), <https://www.techtransparencyproject.org/articles/white-supremacist-groups-are-thriving-on-facebook>.

<sup>10</sup> See *Civil Rights Audit* at 23 (noting that advertisers could still “claim[] a religious group poses a threat to the ‘American way of life’”).

We also recommend the following measures to improve the supportive services that Facebook offers to users who have been or may become victims of harassment and intimidation on its platforms:

- **Offer live real-time assistance:** Facebook users can report intimidation and harassment but cannot immediately engage a Facebook employee who can promptly address issues that are occurring in real time. Victims of intimidation and harassment would benefit from more immediate access to Facebook employees who can offer prompt assistance. For example, if a user is being doxed, live assistance could help stop the spread of the user's personal information before the damage cannot be undone.
- **Make information about harassment and intimidation more readily available:** Facebook should facilitate evidence preservation and cooperate with victims and law enforcement agencies seeking evidence to prove a case of harassment or intimidation, such as cyberstalking or non-consensual distribution of intimate imagery, when the offenders use Facebook to perpetrate their crimes.
- **Strengthen filtering, reporting, and blocking tools:** Facebook allows users to block individual people, but users should have stronger tools and more choices for filtering out and reporting hateful, intimidating, and harassing content they do not want to see in their feeds. For example, if members of a Facebook group are engaged in an organized campaign of harassment against a single user, the victim should be able to block all members of the group and report batches of posts or users without having to block or report each individually.

We urge Facebook to take these steps to better tackle hate in our society, and address the interests of users who are victimized by others in the online community that Facebook has built.

Sincerely,



GURBIR S. GREWAL  
New Jersey Attorney General



KARL A. RACINE  
District of Columbia Attorney General



KWAME RAOUL  
Illinois Attorney General



XAVIER BECERRA  
California Attorney General



WILLIAM TONG  
Connecticut Attorney General



KATHLEEN JENNINGS  
Delaware Attorney General



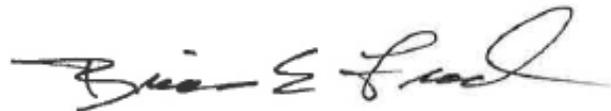
CLARE E. CONNORS  
Hawaii Attorney General



TOM MILLER  
Iowa Attorney General



AARON M. FREY  
Maine Attorney General



BRIAN E. FROSH  
Maryland Attorney General

MAURA T. HEALY  
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HECTOR BALDERAS  
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LETITIA JAMES  
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JOSH STEIN  
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PETER NERONHA  
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THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.  
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*Mark R. Herring*

MARK R. HERRING  
Virginia Attorney General

*Joshua L. Kaul*

JOSHUA L. KAUL  
Wisconsin Attorney General

**From:** [Melissa Medoway](mailto:Melissa.Medoway@njoag.gov)  
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**Subject:** Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:19:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Facebook Letter 7.22 for distribution.docx](#)

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Dear Colleagues—

We are writing on behalf of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Illinois to invite your offices to sign on to the attached multistate letter to Facebook about Facebook's policies and practices concerning harassment, intimidation, and misinformation on the platform, including Facebook's approaches to hate content and hate groups and its services for victims of harassment/intimidation. The letter was prompted in part by Facebook's most recent [Civil Rights Audit](#) and coincides with (but does not mention) the ongoing [Stop Hate for Profit](#) campaign in which a coalition of civil rights groups have organized major businesses to halt their Facebook advertising in July to prompt changes at the company. The letter calls for Facebook to make policy changes, but does not assert that Facebook's current practices violate any law and was not written with enforcement in mind.

We are asking for sign-ons by **COB on Tuesday, July 28**, and are planning to release the letter in the day or two after that. Please let us know if you have any questions. If you have any comments on the letter, we ask that you please send them to us by COB on Friday.

We hope that you'll join us!

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**Cc:** [Pryor, Shareese](#); [Roberson-Young, Elizabeth](#); [Rock, Jimmy \(OAG\)](#); [Konopka, Kathleen \(OAG\)](#); [Wiseman, Benjamin \(OAG\)](#); [Downes, Brendan \(OAG\)](#); [Aaron Scherzer](#); [Mayur Saxena](#); [Keshav Poddar](#); [Matthew Berns](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:54:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Facebook Letter 7.22 for distribution update with edits.docx](#)

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Dear colleagues—

Attached is an updated draft of the letter, incorporating some helpful edits we received. NJ, DC, and IL are pleased to report that, to date, the following states have confirmed that they will be joining the letter: CA, DE, IA, MN, NY, and VA.

Just a reminder that we are asking for sign-ons by **COB tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28**. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Law  
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We hope that you'll join us!

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Law  
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**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:54:07 PM

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Dear colleagues—

Thanks so much to everyone who has provided feedback and has let us know they will be signing on. NJ, DC, and IL are pleased to report that, to date, the following states have confirmed that they will be joining the letter: CA, CT, DE, HI, IA, MA, ME, MN, NY, PA, RI, and VA.

We are going to postpone the launch of this letter until early next week. Therefore, we will be extending the sign-on deadline to **COB on Friday, July 31**.

If you have already confirmed that your state will be joining, our press office will be reaching out to your press contacts shortly.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
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Telephone: (609) 575-4958  
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**From:** Melissa Medoway

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**Subject:** Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

Dear Colleagues—

We are writing on behalf of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Illinois to invite your offices to sign on to the attached multistate letter to Facebook about Facebook's policies and practices concerning harassment, intimidation, and misinformation on the platform, including Facebook's approaches to hate content and hate groups and its services for victims of harassment/intimidation. The letter was prompted in part by Facebook's most recent [Civil Rights Audit](#) and coincides with (but does not mention) the ongoing [Stop Hate for Profit](#) campaign in which a coalition of civil rights groups have organized major businesses to halt their Facebook advertising in July to prompt changes at the company. The letter calls for Facebook to make policy changes, but does not assert that Facebook's current practices violate any law and was not written with enforcement in mind.

We are asking for sign-ons by **COB on Tuesday, July 28**, and are planning to release the letter in the day or two after that. Please let us know if you have any questions. If you have any comments on the letter, we ask that you please send them to us by COB on Friday.

We hope that you'll join us!

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Law

Telephone: (609) 575-4958

Email: [Melissa.Medoway@njoag.gov](mailto:Melissa.Medoway@njoag.gov)

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**From:** [Melissa Medoway](#)  
**To:** [Diamond, Joshua](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayur Saxena](#); [Matthew Berns](#); [Jason Rockwell](#); [Keshav Poddar](#); [Curtis, Christopher](#); [Thompson, Julio](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:44:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Facebook Letter 7.22 for distribution update with edits.docx](#)

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Thanks, Josh.

Attached is the latest draft. If any additional changes are made, we will certainly circulate an updated version.

To date, 17 states are signed on (CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, IA, IL, MA, ME, MN, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, and VT).

Best,  
Melissa

---

**From:** Diamond, Joshua <Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** Melissa Medoway <melissa.medoway@njoag.gov>  
**Cc:** Mayur Saxena <Mayur.Saxena@law.njoag.gov>; Matthew Berns <Matthew.Berns@njoag.gov>; Jason Rockwell <Jason.Rockwell@law.njoag.gov>; Keshav Poddar <Keshav.Poddar@njoag.gov>; Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>; Thompson, Julio <julio.thompson@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

Melissa,

Please see attached. Could you provide the latest draft with a state count as well?

Best, Josh

Joshua R. Diamond, Deputy Attorney General  
Vermont Attorney General's Office  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05609  
802-595-8317  
[joshua.diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:joshua.diamond@vermont.gov)

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---

**From:** Melissa Medoway <[melissa.medoway@njoag.gov](mailto:melissa.medoway@njoag.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:04 AM

**To:** Diamond, Joshua <[Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov)>

**Cc:** Mayur Saxena <[Mayur.Saxena@law.njoag.gov](mailto:Mayur.Saxena@law.njoag.gov)>; Matthew Berns <[Matthew.Berns@njoag.gov](mailto:Matthew.Berns@njoag.gov)>; Jason Rockwell <[Jason.Rockwell@law.njoag.gov](mailto:Jason.Rockwell@law.njoag.gov)>; Keshav Poddar <[Keshav.Poddar@njoag.gov](mailto:Keshav.Poddar@njoag.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Yes, there's still time. And we're so pleased to have Vermont on board!

Can you please send us your AG's signature?

---

**From:** Diamond, Joshua <[Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:27 PM

**To:** Melissa Medoway <[melissa.medoway@njoag.gov](mailto:melissa.medoway@njoag.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

Melissa,

Is there still an opportunity for states to join? If so, Vermont would like to sign onto the letter.

Please advise.

Thanks. Josh

Joshua R. Diamond, Deputy Attorney General  
Vermont Attorney General's Office  
109 State Street  
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802-595-8317  
[joshua.diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:joshua.diamond@vermont.gov)

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---

**From:** Melissa Medoway <[melissa.medoway@njoag.gov](mailto:melissa.medoway@njoag.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:20 PM

**To:** [KHoffmann@riag.ri.gov](mailto:KHoffmann@riag.ri.gov); [randerson@ag.nv.gov](mailto:randerson@ag.nv.gov); [jluska@nmag.gov](mailto:jluska@nmag.gov); [cbrady@ag.nv.gov](mailto:cbrady@ag.nv.gov); [shermana@michigan.gov](mailto:shermana@michigan.gov); [nathan.blake@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:nathan.blake@ag.iowa.gov); [fay.stetz-waters@doj.state.or.us](mailto:fay.stetz-waters@doj.state.or.us); [Kelly.kemp@ag.state.mn.us](mailto:Kelly.kemp@ag.state.mn.us); [john.keller@ag.state.mn.us](mailto:john.keller@ag.state.mn.us); [Shafaq.islam@mass.gov](mailto:Shafaq.islam@mass.gov); [joshua.perry@ct.gov](mailto:joshua.perry@ct.gov); [Leanne.Robbin@maine.gov](mailto:Leanne.Robbin@maine.gov); [mary.freeley@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.freeley@state.ma.us); [Susan.Slager@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Susan.Slager@doj.ca.gov); [abigail.taylor@state.ma.us](mailto:abigail.taylor@state.ma.us); [canderson@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:canderson@attorneygeneral.gov); [JSamuels@oag.state.va.us](mailto:JSamuels@oag.state.va.us); [Jessica.Clarke@ag.ny.gov](mailto:Jessica.Clarke@ag.ny.gov); [elena.goldstein@ag.ny.gov](mailto:elena.goldstein@ag.ny.gov); [DoddamaniS@michigan.gov](mailto:DoddamaniS@michigan.gov); [JLevitan@atg.state.il.us](mailto:JLevitan@atg.state.il.us); [shafaq.islam@state.ma.us](mailto:shafaq.islam@state.ma.us); [sara.colb@mass.gov](mailto:sara.colb@mass.gov); [rachel.bell-munger@ag.state.mn.us](mailto:rachel.bell-munger@ag.state.mn.us); [Mark.Denney@delaware.gov](mailto:Mark.Denney@delaware.gov); [zhurley@oag.state.md.us](mailto:zhurley@oag.state.md.us); [Samantha.Hall@dc.gov](mailto:Samantha.Hall@dc.gov); [MSiddiqui@oag.state.va.us](mailto:MSiddiqui@oag.state.va.us); [Kate.Vlach@dc.gov](mailto:Kate.Vlach@dc.gov); [Kathryn.Jarosz@dc.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Jarosz@dc.gov); [Nicole.Hill@dc.gov](mailto:Nicole.Hill@dc.gov); [RobinsonR11@michigan.gov](mailto:RobinsonR11@michigan.gov); [Brendan.Downes@dc.gov](mailto:Brendan.Downes@dc.gov); [Christina.Arndt@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Arndt@doj.ca.gov); [Michael.Newman@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Newman@doj.ca.gov); [sstvincent@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:sstvincent@attorneygeneral.gov); [Eric.Olson@coag.gov](mailto:Eric.Olson@coag.gov); [Adam.Rice@coag.gov](mailto:Adam.Rice@coag.gov); [Robert.T.Nakatsuji@hawaii.gov](mailto:Robert.T.Nakatsuji@hawaii.gov); [kimberly.t.guidry@hawaii.gov](mailto:kimberly.t.guidry@hawaii.gov); [SNarasimhan@ncdoj.gov](mailto:SNarasimhan@ncdoj.gov); [gibsoncj@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:gibsoncj@doj.state.wi.us); [zoliknj@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:zoliknj@doj.state.wi.us); [simcoxJA@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:simcoxJA@doj.state.wi.us); [ellen.austinhall@atg.wa.gov](mailto:ellen.austinhall@atg.wa.gov); Battles, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Battles@vermont.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Battles@vermont.gov)>; Thompson, Julio <[julio.thompson@vermont.gov](mailto:julio.thompson@vermont.gov)>; Smith, Rachel E <[Rachel.E.Smith@vermont.gov](mailto:Rachel.E.Smith@vermont.gov)>; Spottswood, Eleanor <[Eleanor.Spottswood@vermont.gov](mailto:Eleanor.Spottswood@vermont.gov)>

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**Subject:** Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Dear Colleagues—

We are writing on behalf of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Illinois to invite your offices to sign on to the attached multistate letter to Facebook about Facebook's policies and practices concerning harassment, intimidation, and misinformation on the platform, including Facebook's approaches to hate content and hate groups and its services for victims of harassment/intimidation. The letter was prompted in part by Facebook's most recent [Civil Rights Audit](#) and coincides with (but does not mention) the ongoing [Stop Hate for Profit](#) campaign in which a coalition of civil rights groups have organized major businesses to halt their Facebook advertising in July to

**prompt changes at the company. The letter calls for Facebook to make policy changes, but does not assert that Facebook's current practices violate any law and was not written with enforcement in mind.**

**We are asking for sign-ons by COB on Tuesday, July 28, and are planning to release the letter in the day or two after that. Please let us know if you have any questions. If you have any comments on the letter, we ask that you please send them to us by COB on Friday.**

**We hope that you'll join us!**

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Law  
Telephone: (609) 575-4958  
Email: [Melissa.Medoway@njoag.gov](mailto:Melissa.Medoway@njoag.gov)

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**From:** [Melissa Medoway](#)  
**To:** [KHoffmann@riag.ri.gov](#); [jlusk@nmag.gov](#); [nathan.blake@ag.iowa.gov](#); [Kelly.kemp@ag.state.mn.us](#); [john.keller@ag.state.mn.us](#); [Shafaq.islam@mass.gov](#); [joshua.perry@ct.gov](#); [Leanne.Robbin@maine.gov](#); [mary.freeley@state.ma.us](#); [Susan.Slager@doj.ca.gov](#); [abigail.taylor@state.ma.us](#); [canderson@attorneygeneral.gov](#); [JSamuels@oag.state.va.us](#); [Jessica.Clarke@ag.ny.gov](#); [elena.goldstein@ag.ny.gov](#); [JLevitan@atg.state.il.us](#); [shafaq.islam@state.ma.us](#); [sara.colb@mass.gov](#); [rachel.bell-munger@ag.state.mn.us](#); [Mark.Denney@delaware.gov](#); [zhurley@oag.state.md.us](#); [Samantha.Hall@dc.gov](#); [MSiddiqui@oag.state.va.us](#); [Kate.Vlach@dc.gov](#); [Kathryn.Jarosz@dc.gov](#); [Nicole.Hill@dc.gov](#); [Brendan.Downes@dc.gov](#); [Christina.Arndt@doj.ca.gov](#); [Michael.Newman@doj.ca.gov](#); [sstvincent@attorneygeneral.gov](#); [Robert.T.Nakatsuji@hawaii.gov](#); [kimberly.t.luidry@hawaii.gov](#); [SNarasimhan@ncdoj.gov](#); [gibsoncj@doj.state.wi.us](#); [zoliknj@doj.state.wi.us](#); [Battles, Benjamin](#); [Thompson, Julio](#); [Smith, Rachel E](#); [Spottswood, Eleanor](#)  
**Cc:** [Pryor, Shareese](#); [Roberson-Young, Elizabeth](#); [Rock, Jimmy \(OAG\)](#); [Konopka, Kathleen \(OAG\)](#); [Wiseman, Benjamin \(OAG\)](#); [Downes, Brendan \(OAG\)](#); [Aaron Scherzer](#); [Mayur Saxena](#); [Keshav Poddar](#); [Matthew Berns](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 7:20:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [AGs Letter to Facebook 2020.08.05.pdf](#)

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Dear colleagues—

Thanks so much to everyone who provided feedback and joined to the attached letter. We are so pleased to have 20 states signed on!

We are attaching a final, slightly revised version that reflects comments from a few more states. We are planning to send this version to Facebook tomorrow morning at 8am Eastern.

As our communications team has communicated to yours, this is embargoed until 2pm tomorrow. NJ's communications team has been in contact with your respective comms contacts with additional details.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you again for your partnership on this.

Best,

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Law  
Telephone: (609) 575-4958  
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---

**From:** Melissa Medoway  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** [KHoffmann@riag.ri.gov](#); [randerson@ag.nv.gov](#); [jlusk@nmag.gov](#); [cbrady@ag.nv.gov](#); [shermana@michigan.gov](#); [nathan.blake@ag.iowa.gov](#); [fay.stetz-waters@doj.state.or.us](#); [Kelly.kemp@ag.state.mn.us](#); [john.keller@ag.state.mn.us](#); [Shafaq.islam@mass.gov](#); [joshua.perry@ct.gov](#); [Leanne.Robbin@maine.gov](#); [mary.freeley@state.ma.us](#); [Susan.Slager@doj.ca.gov](#); [abigail.taylor@state.ma.us](#); [canderson@attorneygeneral.gov](#); [JSamuels@oag.state.va.us](#); [Jessica.Clarke@ag.ny.gov](#); [elena.goldstein@ag.ny.gov](#);

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<Keshav.Poddar@njoag.gov>; Matthew Berns <Matthew.Berns@njoag.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

Dear colleagues—

Attached is an updated draft of the letter, incorporating some helpful edits we received. NJ, DC, and IL are pleased to report that, to date, the following states have confirmed that they will be joining the letter: CA, DE, IA, MN, NY, and VA.

Just a reminder that we are asking for sign-ons by **COB tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28**. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Melissa Medoway  
Deputy Attorney General  
Section Chief – Special Litigation  
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---

**From:** Melissa Medoway

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:20 PM

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**Subject:** Multistate Letter to Facebook - sign ons due COB 7/28

Dear Colleagues—

We are writing on behalf of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Illinois to invite your offices to sign on to the attached multistate letter to Facebook about Facebook's policies and practices concerning harassment, intimidation, and misinformation on the platform, including Facebook's approaches to hate content and hate groups and its services for victims of harassment/intimidation. The letter was prompted in part by Facebook's most recent [Civil Rights Audit](#) and coincides with (but does not mention) the ongoing [Stop Hate for Profit](#) campaign in which a coalition of civil rights groups have organized major businesses to halt their Facebook advertising in July to prompt changes at the company. The letter calls for Facebook to make policy changes, but does not assert that Facebook's current practices violate any law and was not written with enforcement in mind.

We are asking for sign-ons by **COB on Tuesday, July 28**, and are planning to release the letter in the day or two after that. Please let us know if you have any questions. If you have any comments on the letter, we ask that you please send them to us by COB on Friday.

We hope that you'll join us!

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