Secure Community Network Sends Letter to Elon Musk Calling for Removal of Antisemitic and Extremist Twitter Accounts

Letter Outlines Ways for Social Media Site to Combat Online Hate and Violence

Today, the Secure Community Network (SCN), as the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, sent Elon Musk a letter calling for the removal of antisemitic and extremist Twitter accounts, and with recommendations for how Twitter can become a better and safer social media site.

SCN specifically requested Twitter to remove the accounts of @JackPosobiec, @psyops_fren, and @BWCbottom (The Goyim Defense League) as they publish and elevate violent extremism. SCN also requested that Musk remove the hashtags #TheNoticing and #KilltheJews.

“Unfortunately, Twitter has become a platform where users can create, share, and elevate violent extremism and antisemitism,” said Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of SCN. “There is now an opportunity to change that. We hope Elon Musk makes the changes to Twitter we are requesting as the safety and security of the Jewish community depends on them.”

The letter also included security recommendations for Musk to do the following:

- Change policies that protect users who post antisemitic content. Their content should not be allowed.
- Improve reporting procedures to timely remove harmful content.
- Hire, train, and support moderators so they are aware of what violent and antisemitic content looks like.
- Establish policies that support the ability for law enforcement to identify accounts, and the individuals who are associated with them, who are determined to be threats to others.

To read the full letter please see below.
31 October 2022

Elon Musk
Twitter
1355 Market St #900
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Musk,

Congratulations on your acquisition of Twitter.

We understand your desire for Twitter is centered around free speech, and that you want Twitter to serve as, as you call it, a ‘digital town square,’ where users can speak freely within the bounds of the law. That said, a town square can only exist if people feel free to occupy it without the threat of violence, or even death.

Unfortunately, for the Jewish community, the town square that Twitter wishes to provide is one laden with antisemitism, hate, and threats of violence. Twitter has an antisemitism problem - with hashtags such as #holocon [Holocaust Hoax] and #killthejews abounding on the site. The result of hashtags like these is commentary and posts that are, often, undeniably antisemitic and frequently violent. There is not much left to the imagination when someone calls for the murder of another human being.

As the leader of the Secure Community Network, the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, I know firsthand the consequences of the violent, antisemitic rhetoric that is posted and hosted on Twitter, and justified through false arguments about the first amendment or freedom. This is not about the first amendment. And it is not about freedom. This violent speech must be monitored and policed like lives depend on it - because they do.

I know you have a vision about how to make Twitter better. There is not a more crucial place to start than the violence and antisemitism that Twitter not only permits but amplifies. The problem existed before you got there, but you can be the one to fix it. Twitter has hundreds of millions of followers and antisemitism is thousands of years old. The two don’t need to mix. As a visionary who has changed the ways in which billions of people live their lives, I would respectfully request that you use this opportunity - and your new platform - to change lives for the better.

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The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.