Product Policy Forum
June 4, 2019

TOPICS: Non-exploitative Child Nudity, Age-Gating Adult Nudity
Agenda

1. RECOMMENDATION: Non-exploitative Child Nudity
2. HEADS UP: Age-Gating Adult Nudity
RECOMMENDATION:
Non-exploitative Child Nudity
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Overview

**Issue:** Our child nudity policies do not permit non-sexual or non-exploitative child nudity even when shared in the context of war or famine. We apply our newsworthy guidelines when the context indicates that the public interest value outweighs the risk of real-world harm, but in some cases our decision making can lead to public confusion and the perception of inconsistency. We want to establish a narrow set of circumstances where it is clear that the public interest value of the content is high and there is limited risk of real-world harm.

**Summary to Date:**
- 22 external engagements
- 5 working groups

**Recommendation for discussion:** Apply newsworthy guidelines (and mark content as sensitive) to non-exploitative child nudity in the context of war or famine and when posted by a news outlet.
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

**Status Quo**

**Remove:**
- Digital nude minors, toddlers, or babies UNLESS in health context

**Allow:**
- Real world art depictions of nude minors, toddlers, and babies
- Digitally-created imagery of nude minors, toddlers, or babies for health or educational purposes.
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Research Findings

Internal and External Research:

- A *child* is globally defined as a person under the age of 18

- Harms associated with benign child nudity include: identity theft, embarrassment, bullying by peers, digital kidnapping, and child pornography

- In cases of photojournalism, a sociopolitical cause may outweigh the harms associated with publishing child nude imagery (i.e. to inform about war); however, caution should be paid to state-run news media propaganda

- In graphic or violent contexts, repetitive viewing of violent content can lead to *vicarious traumatization*, trauma that is stimulated by exposure; however, when presented in context, can lead to a more empathetic response to the situation or victims.

Policy Relevance: a revised policy should clearly define child in terms of growth and development, consider that not all media agencies operate under democratic governments, and weigh the socio-political contexts of these photos in each country or region.

Sources: Internal Research; *Convention on the Rights of the Child*; *NPR, 2016*; *Mott Childrens, 2015*; *Eyewitness Media, 2019*; *Grizzard et al, 2017*
We spoke to 22 experts globally, including safety experts, academics, and news media professionals in journalism & photography.
Non-Exploitative Child Nudity

External Outreach

(Most restrictive)
Narrow exceptions + on escalation only

Allow in limited contexts + Mark as Sensitive + shared by News Source

(Most permissive)
Allow in limited contexts + shared by anyone
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 1: Status Quo

Current newsworthy considerations include:
● Nudity that is prominent or incidental
● Potential for the image to be used exploitatively
● Public interest value

**Pros:**
● Minimal risk of images being exploited
● We would not give preferential treatment to news outlets over other sources

**Cons:**
● Inconsistent enforcement
● Confuses the public
Sensitive Content Warning
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 1: Examples

Allowed under exception
Context: medical
Source: user

Allowed under exception
Context: famine
Source: NYT

Removed
Context: genocide
Source: Pulitzer Prize winning photographer
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 2: Mark as Sensitive (MAS) certain newsworthy content when posted by a news outlet (Recommendation for discussion)

- Allow non-exploitative child nudity when shared in context of famine, genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity
- Apply “Mark as Sensitive” label

**Pros:**
- Minimal risk of images being exploited
- Allows content that is intended to raise awareness
- Marking as sensitive recognizes user sensitivities

**Cons:**
- Does not permit content from legitimate sources outside of news outlets
Non-exploitative Child Nudity
Policy Development Framework - Types of Signals

Source:
- News Agency
- NGO
- Parent
- Celebrities

Setting:
- War
- Famine
- Genocide
- Birthing
- Pregnancy
- Medical
- Religious
- Artistic

Nudity:
- Uncovered
- Female nipple
- Genitalia
- Buttocks
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 2: Examples

Remove
Context: medical
Source: user

Allow
Context: famine
Source: NYT

Remove
Context: genocide
Source: Pulitzer Prize winning photographer
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 3: Allow non-exploitative child nudity in the context of famine, genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity

- Unrestricted source
- No “Mark as Sensitive” label
- Applied at-scale

**Pros:**
- Same rules applied to all sources
- Allows broader discourse and awareness

**Cons:**
- High risk of images being exploited
- Not in line with advice from safety experts
- No interstitial for users that may be sensitive
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Option 3: Examples

Remove
Context: medical
Source: user

Allow with interstitial
Context: famine
Source: NYT

Allow with interstitial
Context: genocide
Source: Pulitzer Prize winning photographer
Non-exploitative Child Nudity

Next Steps

• Work with News Partnerships on operationalizing guidelines
HEADS-UP:
Age-Gating Adult Nudity
Age-Gating Adult Nudity

Overview

Issue: We remove adult nudity on the platform except in limited circumstances, such as nudity in a protest or medical context. We have received internal and external feedback that this content should be age-gated to ensure that minors are not exposed to adult nudity; however, this restriction may limit self-expression and prevent young users from accessing educational content.

Goals:

• Consider the tradeoffs between user voice and safety.
• Consider whether to age-gate other context-specific adult nudity.
• Determine whether any product changes would be required.
Age-Gating Adult Nudity

Status Quo – Delete adult nudity with limited carveouts

REMOVE
• Real images of nudity
• Nudity is defined as images of uncovered nipples of those who identify as female as well as visible genitalia

EXCEPT
• We allow uncovered female nipples in the context of: breastfeeding; mother and baby after-birth; mastectomy/gender confirmation surgery; female breast exposure in breast health context or in the act of protest
• We place a ‘mark as sensitive’ interstitial on content with visible genitalia and/or anus in medical/health context
WARNING:
Mature Content
Age-Gating Adult Nudity

Examples
Age-Gating Adult Nudity

Next Steps

• Engage with external experts on potential impact for groups (e.g. minors, artists, activists)
• Partner with the policy research team to review existing research and academic work
• Convene cross-functional working groups
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