

Public Consultation: Oversight Board

In this consultation, we are actively seeking contributions, opinions, and perspectives from around the world on questions pertaining to Facebook's Oversight Board.

Why an Oversight Board?

Every day, teams at Facebook make decisions about whether content violates our rules and policies and should therefore be removed. As our community has grown to more than 2 billion people, we have come to believe that Facebook should not make so many of those decisions on its own. People should be able to appeal some of our most challenging and disputed content decisions to an independent body. We are establishing an Oversight Board to help address these issues.

What will the Oversight Board do?

The Board's purpose is to provide oversight over many of Facebook's content decisions, in accordance with the policies and values we use to make those decisions. The Board will be a global body of independent experts who will review some of Facebook's most challenging content decisions, focusing on important and highly disputed cases. It will share its decisions transparently and give reasons for them. The Board will be able to reverse Facebook's decisions about whether to allow or remove certain posts on the platform. Facebook will then accept and implement the Board's decisions.

Throughout this consultation, we will ask questions about Board membership, decisions, and governance. Responses to these questions will help inform the design and implementation of the Oversight Board. All responses to this consultation are voluntary. Unless you provide us with your permission at the end of this consultation, your responses to these questions will only be shared publicly in aggregated and anonymized form. By continuing to the next page, you agree to our Terms of Use, you indicate that you would like to share your perspectives on these issues, and that your responses will help shape next steps in building the Oversight Board. See our Privacy Policy for information about how your data will be processed and the rights you have.

By continuing below, you agree to the [use of cookies](#), which allows you to save your progress and submit your survey responses. In addition, cookies help to prevent multiple and duplicate submissions.

- Yes, I want to participate
 - No, I do not want to participate
-

We ask that participants of the consultation are 17 years of age or older, and by continuing to the next page, you confirm that you are.

- Yes, I am 17 years of age or older
-

There are two sections of this consultation. The first section is a questionnaire, which should take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete. The second section includes three essay questions, which will ask for your open-ended perspectives on Board membership, decisions, and governance. Please keep in mind that your responses are voluntary.

You are about to begin the questionnaire. In this first section, we'd like to hear your thoughts about the **members** of the Oversight Board.

In your opinion, how many members should the Board have in total? Please keep in mind that the Board should have enough members to represent a variety of backgrounds and expertise from around the world. However, it should also operate as a united group.

In your opinion, what is the **total** number of members the Board should have?

- 20 or fewer
- Between 21 and 40
- Between 41 and 60
- Between 61 and 80
- More than 80

When selecting individual Board members, how important are each of the following qualifications?

	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Professional background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and linguistic knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Familiarity with social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Now think about the Board as a whole. How important is it that the Board includes members with different backgrounds in each of the following ways?

	Extremely important	Quite important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Professional background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and linguistic knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ideological or political views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nationality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Race or ethnicity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other characteristics (e.g., gender, sexuality)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Income level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Facebook will select the first group of Board members based on a set of qualifications that will be made public. Once the Board is established, who should **nominate** future members to the Board?

Please select all that apply.

- Facebook
- The public
- Existing Board members
- Non-governmental organizations and academics
- Other (Please specify on the next page)

Who else should nominate future members to the Board?

Who should **select** future Board members from the list of nominations?

Please select all that apply.

- Facebook
- The public
- Existing Board members
- Non-governmental organizations and academics
- Other (Please specify on the next page)

Who else should select future Board members from the list of nominations?

The Board should remain fair and impartial when making decisions. To ensure impartiality, the Board may need to set clear criteria preventing certain people from becoming Board members. For example, current and former Facebook employees will not be allowed to serve on the Board.

In your opinion, which of the following groups of people should **not** be allowed to serve on the Board?

Please select all that apply.

- Current government officials
- People who are financially invested in Facebook
- Lobbyists in a related industry
- Other (Please specify on the next page)
- Nothing should automatically disqualify a candidate

What other groups of people should **not** be allowed to serve on the Board?

Out of the entire Board, smaller groups of 3-7 members will be formed to make decisions on individual pieces of content. We will refer to these smaller groups as "panels", and to these individual pieces of content as "cases".

The Board will select panel members for each case. In your opinion, which of the following considerations is **most important** when selecting panel members?

- Professional or educational background
- Geographic location
- Cultural or linguistic knowledge
- Ideological or political views
- Panel members should be randomly selected
- Other (Please specify on the next page)

What other considerations are most important when selecting panel members?

You responded that it is most important for the Board to consider professional or educational background when selecting panel members.

In your opinion, is it more important that panel members have professional or educational backgrounds that are diverse from one another, or that are relevant to a particular case?

- Highly diverse
- Highly relevant

You responded that it is most important for the Board to consider geographic location when selecting panel members.

In your opinion, is it more important that panel members come from geographic locations that are diverse from one another, or that are relevant to a particular case?

Highly diverse

Highly relevant

You responded that it is most important for the Board to consider cultural or linguistic knowledge when selecting panel members.

In your opinion, is it more important that panel members have cultural or linguistic knowledge that is diverse from one another, or that is relevant to a particular case?

Highly diverse

Highly relevant

You responded that it is most important for the Board to consider ideological or political views when selecting panel members.

In your opinion, is it more important that panel members have ideological or political views that are diverse from one another, or that are relevant to a particular case?

Highly diverse

Highly relevant

Thank you for sharing your views on Board membership.

In this next section, we'd like to hear your thoughts about how the Oversight Board will make **decisions** on cases.

The Board's primary responsibility will be to make decisions on content cases. These cases will be relevant to Facebook's interpretation and implementation of its own rules and policies (e.g., its [Community Standards](#)). However, the Board may make decisions that differ from Facebook's rules and policies.

In your opinion, should the Board be allowed to **recommend changes to Facebook's rules and policies**?

Yes

No

The Board may review cases that are similar to one another based on issue or context. Although these cases may be related, they will not be identical.

Should the Board be able to **group related cases into a single review**?

Yes

No

For each case, Facebook will provide information to the Board for additional context. However, Board members may need to consult with experts from particular groups, disciplines, or backgrounds to help make decisions. After all, the Board cannot realistically include members from every country, language group, and culture.

Of the following types of experts, **who should Board members be able to consult?**

Please select all that apply.

- Research assistants supporting the Board
- Individual subject matter experts
- Non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and universities
- Other (Please specify on the next page)
- No one; Board members should not consult with experts

What other types of experts should Board members be able to consult?

The Board's decision on a case may affect certain people, groups, or industries, who may wish to submit their opinions to the Board for consideration. While reviewing a case, should the Board be allowed to **read written submissions of those opinions?**

- Yes
- No

Of the following, **whose written opinions** should the Board be able to consider? By "content", we mean photos, videos, posts, or comments shared on Facebook.

Please select all that apply.

- The people who posted or shared the content
- The people who reported the content
- The people identified or mentioned in the content
- Concerned individuals and organizations
- Other (Please specify on the next page)

In addition to the above, whose written opinions should the Board be able to consider?

Over time, the Board will be asked to make decisions on cases that are similar to cases it has reviewed in the past. When this happens, how important is it that the Board take its **past decisions into consideration**?

- Extremely important
 - Quite important
 - Somewhat important
 - Not at all important
-

The number of cases the Board will review each year could range widely. The more cases the Board reviews, the more decisions they can make, but the less time and research they can spend on each case.

In your opinion, is it **more important** for the Board to dedicate more time and research to each case, or to make more decisions each year?

- Dedicate more time and research to each case
 - Make more decisions each year
-

Thank you for sharing your views on Board decisions.

In this next section, we'd like to hear your thoughts about the **governance** of the Oversight Board, including responsibility, transparency, and authority.

In your opinion, what is the maximum **number of years** a member should be able to serve on the Board?

Please select a number between 1 and 10 in the box below.

▼ 1 ... 10

How useful are each of the following methods for **making sure the Board is acting in the public's best interests?**

	Extremely useful	Quite useful	Somewhat useful	Not at all useful
Review a minimum number of user cases each year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publicly explain the reasoning behind each decision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publish regular reports about trends and findings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choose cases that will have the greatest public impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publicly disclose Board members' potential conflicts of interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Each content case will be reviewed by small groups of 3-7 members, which will be called "panels". In your opinion, should the **identity** of those panel members reviewing individual

cases be **publicly disclosed**? Please keep in mind that the identity of all Board members will be publicly disclosed.

Yes

No

Please explain why you think the identity of panel members **should not** be publicly disclosed.

Please explain why you think the identity of panel members **should** be publicly disclosed.

Each panel's decisions will be made public. Should the Board also produce **broader, publicly accessible reports** that summarize the Board's actions and content decisions?

- Yes
 - No
-

How frequently should the Board produce these reports?

- Once every 3 months
 - Once every 6 months
 - Once every year
-

In addition to the support Facebook will provide, **who should supervise, administer, and support the Board's operations?**

- An accredited university
 - An industry body or association
 - A nonprofit or nongovernmental organization
 - The Board itself, as its own entity
 - Other (Please specify on the next page)
 - None of the above
-

What kind of **industry body or association** should supervise, administer, and support the Board's operations? Please explain your answer.

Who else should supervise, administer, and support the Board's operations?

You have completed the questionnaire section of this consultation. Thank you for sharing your time and perspectives with us.

The next section of this consultation includes three essay questions. **Would you like to continue to the essay section**, or would you like to skip to the end of this consultation?

- I'd like to continue
- I'd like to skip to the end

In this final section, we would like to hear your thoughts about Board membership, decisions, and governance in more detail. As we establish an Oversight Board to review our content decisions, we would like to welcome your input on the critical decisions we will need to make. If you would like to read our draft charter before continuing, please [click here](#).

This section will comprise three essays. Please provide as much detail as you can in your essay responses, each of which should be between 1,000 and 5,000 characters. You may address any or all of the issues described in each question.

Essay 1: The membership of the Board

Facebook has proposed an Oversight Board of experts with experience in content, privacy, free expression, human rights, journalism, civil rights, safety, law, and other relevant disciplines. The list of members will always be public. The Board will be supported by full-time staff, which will serve the Board and ensure that its decisions are implemented. The staff will not form part of the Board itself.

Regarding Board **membership**, we would welcome comments on issues such as:

- Appropriate criteria for membership
- Selection process (both initial and future)
- Conditions for termination
- Terms of agreement for Board members

Essay 2: The decisions of the Board

The Oversight Board will review the decisions Facebook makes when enforcing its Community Standards. Board decisions on each piece of content will be binding, subject to applicable law. The Board's decisions could also influence Facebook's policies moving forward.

Regarding Board **decisions**, we would welcome comments on issues such as:

- Criteria and process for case selection
- Ability for users and/or the public to request review
- The role for precedent and influence on Facebook's rules and policies
- Implementation of Board decisions
- The Board's process and basis for decision-making
- The level of transparency in the Board's deliberation and decision-making process
- Form of case presentation and deliberation
