

POLICY FORUM

facebook

November 17th, 2020

Recommendation: Violence & Incitement Carve-outs

Organic Content Policy

Issue

Our Violence and Incitement policy prohibits threats and content inciting violence that could lead to real-world harm, but existing carve-outs in our Violence and Incitement policy permit such threats against people accused or convicted of crimes, in order to avoid enforcing on speech involving current events.

We recognize that certain forms of this speech allow people to discuss, express anger against, and seek justice for crimes; however, we also want to recognize the inherent human dignity of the accused in this speech.

Sensitive Content

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples

Allow



Allow



Brexit News
0y 0m 30d 6h 27m

Sign and share 64000 signstures already. Stop Shamima Begum returning to the Uk for public safety.

[External Link](#)

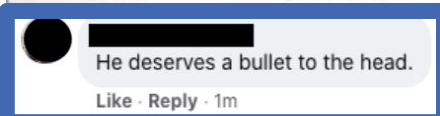
Sign the Petition
Stop Shamima Begum returning to the Uk for public safety

T Tom Hang her by the neck until dead
0y 0m 30d 3h 17m

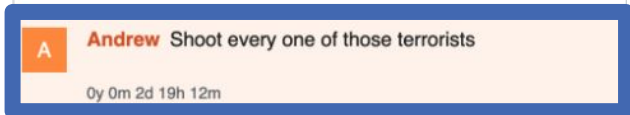
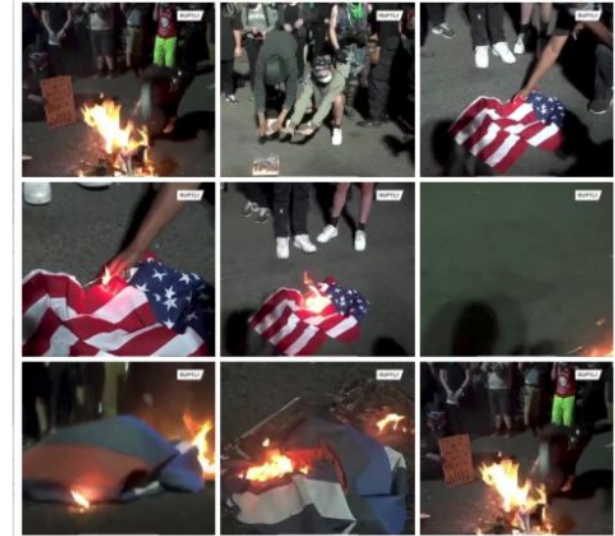
Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples

Allow



Remove




Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples

Allow

 **Daily Mirror** ✓
May 28 · 🌐


Utterly despicable.



MIRROR.CO.UK

Mum 'poisoned son, wrapped his body in a sheet and dumped it at their old home'

👍👎👏 649 124 Comments 118 Shares

 [REDACTED]
Let's inject her with botox until she dies.


Like · Reply · 2m

Allow

[REDACTED]

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters released a statement on the Ohio Supreme Court's decision to uphold the conviction of serial killer Anthony Kirkland. Authorities say Kirkland killed two teenage girls and two women between 2006-2009. The victims are Esme Kenney, 13, Casonya Crawford, 14, Kimya Rolison, 25, and Mary Jo Newton, 45. FOX19

Like · Reply · 1d

 [REDACTED]
yall need to sentence him to death 😡😡😡😡 ...

Like · Reply · 2d

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Overview

Recommendation

Narrow the current carve-out to allow for certain threats of violence towards Dangerous Individuals and Organizations and perpetrators of an act of high-severity violence or sexual offense

Source

Multiple escalations

External Outreach

49 External Engagements

Working Groups

10 XFN Working Groups

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Status Quo

We permit (1) calls for action, (2) statements advocating for, and (3) aspirational or conditional statements to commit high and mid-severity violence against an organization or individual covered in the Dangerous Individuals and Organizations policy, **or is described as having carried out violent crimes or sexual offenses, wherein criminal/predator status has been established by media reports, market knowledge of news event, etc.**

		High-Severity - lethal	Mid-Severity - serious injury
	Statements of Intent	"I am going to kill Joe"	"I'm going to beat Rachel"
1	Calls for Action	"Let's kill them"	"Punch those rapists"
2	Statements Advocating for	"He should be stabbed"	"Jane deserves to be kicked"
3	Aspirational Statements	"I hope they hang him"	"I wish they hit Bob"
	Conditional Statements	"If convicted, she should be	"If they find him, then they

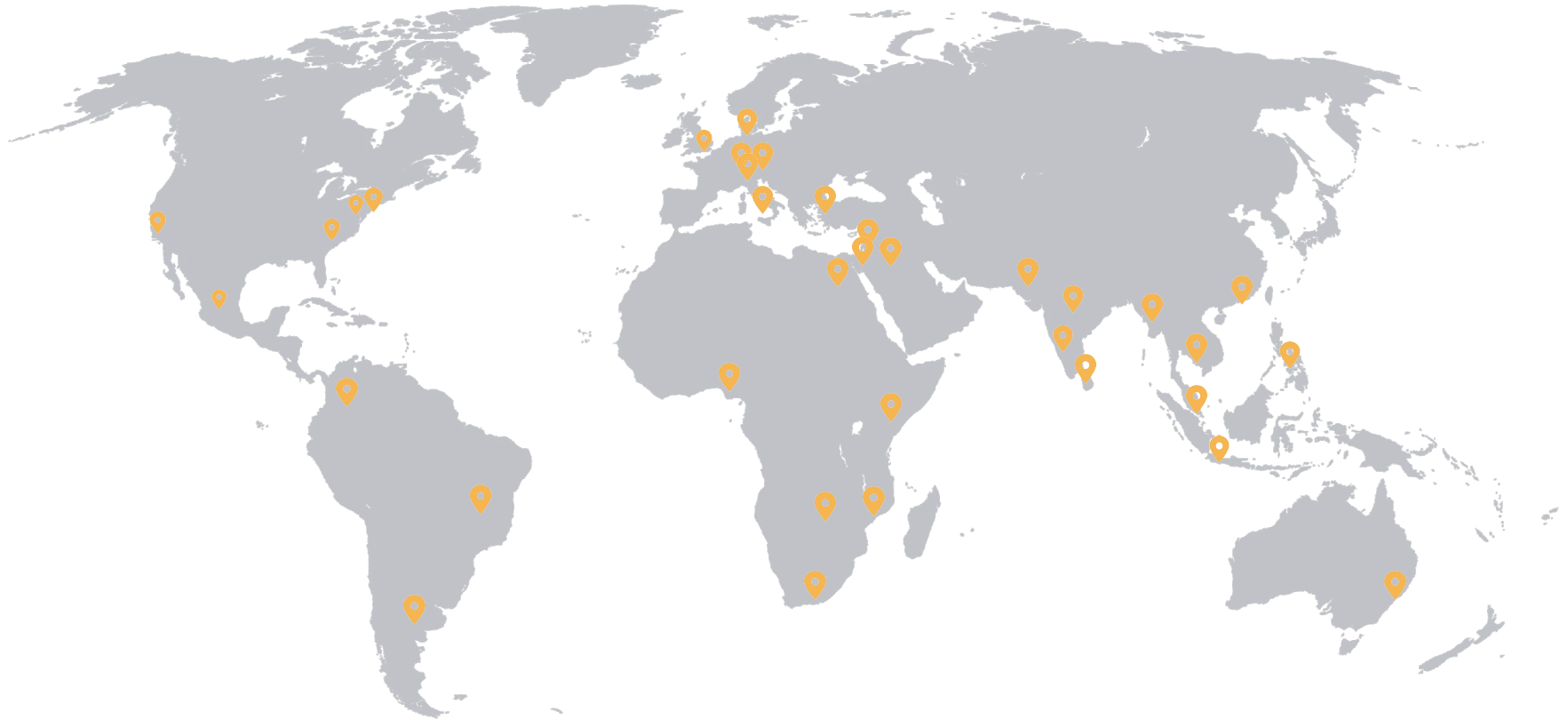
Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Research Findings

- U.S. jurisprudence tends to prioritize free speech in this domain unless it promotes and is likely to lead to "imminent lawless action". Those accused of crimes are afforded equal protections.
 - In some contexts, accusations are disproportionately levied against minority groups.
- There may be a relationship between incitement on social media and offline violence, but research has not identified evidence of a causal linkage—practical and ethical constraints limit rigorous research on this topic. Research has in some instances identified causal linkages between media content more broadly and public behavior (e.g., protest movements), but research is not specific to this carve-out.
- Research does find that many people *believe* that online incitement causes real offline violence. Research also finds, however, that public concerns about censorship and biased suppression of free speech by social media platforms are on the rise, although such research is once again not specific to this carve-out.

Violence & Incitement Carve-Outs

External Outreach



We connected with 47 stakeholders and conducted two multi-stakeholder roundtables on this issue, including with experts in international humanitarian law, criminal justice, vigilantism as well as many civil society organisations

Violence & Incitement Carve-outs

External Outreach

Key Themes:

- Many stakeholders expressed concern about the carve-out possibly leading to offline or vigilante violence
- Freedom of speech experts said a blanket ban on all violent speech goes too far
- Criminal justice experts said inequities in judicial systems mean marginalised groups are disproportionately targeted with violent speech
- Safety groups said not allowing victims and marginalised groups express anger at horrible acts silences them further

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Maintain Status Quo plus Refinements

Option 1

Maintain status quo, and issue clarifying guidance to address known enforcement ambiguity such as defining who is considered a violent criminal, what is considered a violent act, and what is considered a credible media outlet, etc.

Pros

- Allows for expression of diverse views
- Allows victims to feel empowered

Cons

- May contribute to a culture of violence which could encourage vigilantism and mob justice
- Disproportionately impacts marginalized groups who are more likely to be accused of violent attacks
- Difficult to automate

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples - Option 1

Allow



Allow

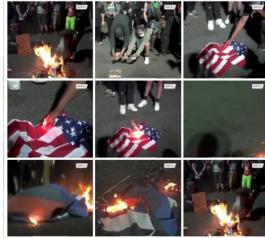


Allow



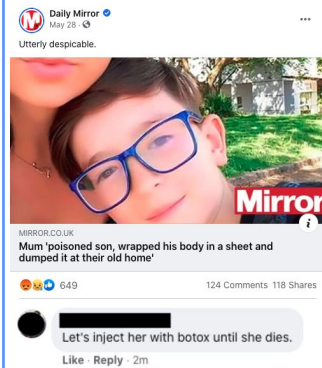
He deserves a bullet to the head.
Like Reply · 1m

Remove



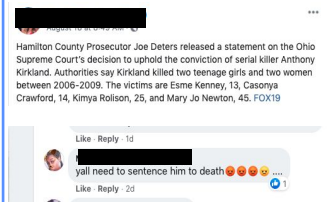
Shoot every one of those terrorists
0y 0m 2d 19h 12m

Allow



Let's inject her with botox until she dies.
Like Reply · 2m

Allow



Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Allow Certain Threats Towards Perpetrators of an Act of High-Severity Violence or Sexual Offense

Option 2 (Rec)

Narrow the carve-out to allow advocating, conditional, and aspirational statements of violence when targeted towards ***those described as having carried out an act of high-severity violence or sexual offense***

Pros

- Removes calls for violence that could lead to real world incitement to violence
- Allows for victims to share what's important to them in the aftermath of high-severity violence or sexual offenses
- Allows for political speech pertaining to designated individuals and groups under DOI policy

Cons

- Limits some speech even in the context of advocating for justice or raising awareness
- Difficult to explain to someone that they didn't express their emotion in the right way
- May contribute to inconsistent enforcement

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples - Option 2 (Rec)

Remove



Allow

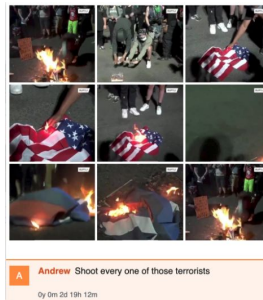


Allow



He deserves a bullet to the head.
Like Reply · 1m

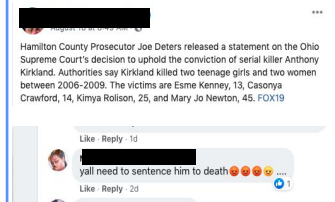
Remove



Remove



Allow



Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Allow threats of violence towards Dangerous Individuals and Organizations and groups of criminals

Option 3

Narrow carve-out to allow threats of high and mid-severity violence against organizations and individuals covered in the Dangerous Individuals and Organizations policy, and **groups of violent criminals**

Pros

- Prevents potential real-world harm towards accused individuals
- Easier to operationalize and automate enforcement

Cons

- Does not address how people speak when advocating for justice for a victim or current event
- Difficult to explain to someone that they didn't express their emotion in the right way
- Removes speech about violent criminals, which may include calls for justice

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples - Option 3

Remove



Allow

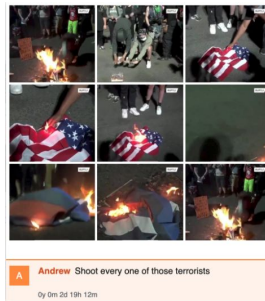


Remove



He deserves a bullet to the head.
Like Reply · 1m

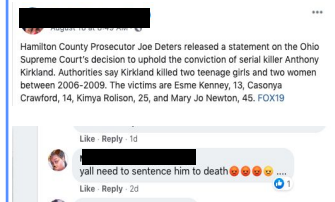
Remove



Remove



Remove



Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Remove Carve-Out

Option 4

Remove all threats of high and mid-severity violence against individuals described as having carried out acts or high-severity violence or a sexual offense

Pros

- Consistent with our policy rationale to remove all threats that could contribute to potential real-world harm and vigilantism
- Improves ability to automate removal of violent threats

Cons

- Limits users ability to raise awareness and call for justice around current events in their community and political discourse
- Difficult to explain to someone that they didn't express their emotion in the right way
- Inequitable treatment of designated groups and individuals versus violent criminals and sexual offenders

Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Examples - Option 4

Remove



Allow

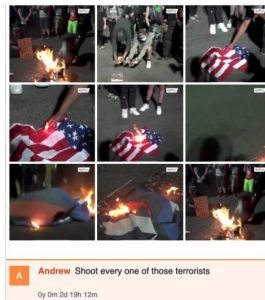


Remove



He deserves a bullet to the head.
Like Reply · 1m

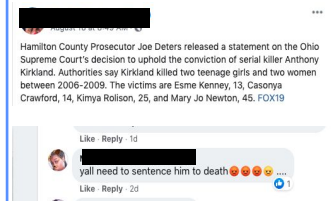
Remove



Remove



Remove



Violence and Incitement Carve-outs

Options Overview

Examples	Option 1	Option 2 (Rec)	Option 3	Option 4
“Hang a rapist”	Allow	Allow*	Allow*	Remove
Parent Post: Petition to allow a terrorist bride to return to the UK Comment: “Hang her by the neck until dead”	Allow	Allow	Allow	Allow
Parent Post: BOLO for an armed suspect accused of killing two officers Comment: “He deserves a bullet to the head”	Allow	Allow	Remove	Remove
Parent Post: Video of BLM protestors burning an American flag Comment: “Shoot every one of those terrorists”	Remove	Remove	Remove	Remove
Parent Post: News report of a mother poisoning her son Comment: “Let’s inject her with botox until she dies”	Allow	Remove	Remove	Remove
Parent Post: News report communicating the conviction of a serial killer Comment: “Y’all need to sentence him to death”	Allow	Allow	Remove	Remove

Violence & Incitement Carve-Outs

External Outreach - 4 Options



Option 1: Status Quo

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder

Option 2: Recommendation

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder

Option 3: Targeting Groups

Placeholder

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder

Option 4: Remove Carve-Out

Placeholder

- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder
- Placeholder

Next Steps

Developments



Work with Global Ops and CI to operationalize policy recommendation

Comms



Work with Comms to update external facing Community Standards language

Launch



Proposed launch date: January 2021