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“Safer Web = Safer America”

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**FACEBOOK GENERATES WHISTLEBLOWERS
WHILE ZUCKERBERG WHISTLES PAST THE GRAVEYARD**

**FACEBOOK HAS A HABIT OF LYING TO CONGRESS
CONGRESS HAS A HABIT OF DOING NOTHING ABOUT FACEBOOK**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 5, 2021

The Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW) (www.coalitionsw.org) lauds the courage of Frances Haugen, which confirms (once again) that Facebook’s management continuously lied about the “progress” it is making against hate speech, violence, and misinformation.

Unfortunately, her accusations reveal the latest in a long, long trail of scurrilous efforts by Facebook’s management to deceive Congress and the public boasts that it is succeeding to reduce the threat of incitement, hate and violence on Facebook and Instagram.

Here are representative examples of Facebook’s intentional efforts to deceive the public which have been repeatedly flagged to Facebook executives by CSW since 2019:

- **[Facebook Facilitated Extremist Operations on Jan 6](#)**: In the days before and during January 6 violence at the Capitol, Facebook was freely used by extremist groups to communicate, plan, train, and enable the sale of illegal weapons.

CSW repeatedly advised Facebook’s executives that neo-Nazi extremist groups were using Facebook to plan and execute violence in Washington on January 6. Facebook’s executives failed to respond to CSW’s warnings.

- **QAnon Accounts:** On October 6, 2020, Facebook pledged to remove QAnon Facebook Pages, Groups, and Instagram accounts; “our Dangerous Organizations Operations Team will enforce this policy.” Unfortunately, due to Facebook’s negligence, these QAnon accounts used their platform to openly plan and incite the January 6 Capitol Attack.

Despite FB’s pledge CSW continues to uncover dangerous, hate-filled QAnon content on FB and Instagram, as disclosed in CSW’s February 5, 2021 press release. But QAnon followers continue to find ways around Facebook’s de-platforming efforts.

- **Facebook is Addicted to Drugs:** Facebook executives have repeatedly testified before Congress that it will stop enabling the sale of illegal drugs on FB & Instagram.

CSW and other watchdog groups continue to uncover the sale of illegal steroids, opioids, and bogus Covid remedies. When brought to its attention, Facebook consistently fails to act even after it assured Congress it was doing so.

- **Sale of Bogus Covid Vaccinations:** Facebook and Instagram have done nothing to prevent the sale of counterfeit Covid-19 vaccinations on their marketplaces.

CSW has issued press release after press release warning Facebook that criminals are hawking illegal Covid remedies on its Groups Marketplaces accounts. Facebook assured Congress that it was preventing these sales. CSW continues to find them.

- **Facebook’s Refusal to Delete Anti-Semitic Content:** Facebook’s amplification algorithms continue to promote rabid, inciteful anti-Semitic content. CSW has repeatedly called on Facebook & its Oversight Board to act against neo-Nazi, white nationalist incitement, to no avail.

As repeatedly cited to the media by CSW, Facebook groups and Instagram accounts are digital gateways to amplify white nationalist/anti-Semitic content via TELEGRAM and foreign Facebook news feeds. Facebook has repeatedly refused to remove anti-Semitic incitement flagged by CSW and other groups.

- **Facebook Consistently Fails to Remove Pro-ISIS Propaganda:** ISIS accounts, ISIS audio feeds, and ISIS instructional videos can still be found on Facebook.

CSW has repeatedly warned Facebook’s executives that ISIS and other radical Islamic content has migrated from fringe web platforms to Facebook, and CSW has flagged these violations, but the content is not removed.

[Facebook Must Be Held Accountable to an Independent Regulator](#)

CSW and other independent experts have consistently asserted that Facebook's business model (more consumer eyeballs/more ad revenue) will never compel its management to enforce and audit its own content moderation pledges. That is why CSW proposed the creation of a **Social Media Standards Board (SMSB)** [[plan on CSW's website](#)] as an important, initial step to compel independent accountability for social media platform resistance and deception with respect to the public's safety.

In the absence of any meaningful legislative or regulatory sanctions painful enough to compel a change of content moderation conduct by Facebook's executives, the private sector must fill this vacuum.

The SMSB would be composed of independent social media experts, digital scientists, and civic watchdogs to provide Congress and the American people regular audits of social media compliance/non-compliance with content moderation pledges. If these audits reveal violations of consumer protections, social media companies would lose their immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 until they are verifiably and irrevocably cured to the satisfaction of this independent private regulatory board.

At the same time, Congress can do more than hold more hearings and complain to Facebook executives. Congress has NEVER demanded representatives of the digital advertising industry to use its monopolistic ad-purchasing leverage to bring Facebook to heel and call on it to help lead the establishment of the SMSB.

Instead, the industry created the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM) to work cooperatively with social media to enforce content accountability. But GARM has proven to be a charade and has failed to hold Facebook to its consumer obligations. GARM has been so defanged by Facebook and other social media platforms that it is better referred to as the "Gaslighting Alliance for Revenue Maximization."

Amb. Marc Ginsberg, President of CSW stated:

"Ms. Haugen is a true hero. CSW applauds her courageous efforts to reveal the toxic underbelly of Facebook's intentionally deceptive content amplification practices.

But let's also be clear that Congress and the Biden Administration have so far failed to take concrete legislative and regulatory actions to hold Facebook and other social media platforms to account for lying to them with impunity all the while making America less safe, less democratic, and more victimized by hate, misinformation, and incitement. No matter how many Congressional hearings and bills introduced, only European governments have compelled meaningful accountability on Facebook so far. Meanwhile, Facebook's lobbyists prevail.

A SMSB would compel Congress and the advertising industry to join forces to leverage Section 230 as a sanction on Facebook when it violates its pledges or refuses to take meaningful remedial action to clean up its amplification algorithms.”