Dear Facebook administrators,

We, the undersigned organizations, represent hundreds of thousands of ex-Muslims, secularists, humanists, atheists, and agnostics who are dedicated to safeguarding the universal human rights for freedom of religion, belief, and expression.

Due to abuse of Facebook’s reporting tools, atheist and ex-Muslim organizations and groups find themselves yet again the target of censorship campaigns by religious conservatives. We respectfully ask that Facebook create mechanisms to prevent abuse of its features so that our organizations and groups do not fear unjust restriction and removal.

Following what appears to be a coordinated reporting and flagging campaigns, multiple Facebook Groups and Pages are routinely restricted or shut down. Each time, Facebook claims that the restriction or removal is due to violations of its terms of service and community standards. However, each time, no details are given as to which standards are violated. Sometimes, the decision is overturned after appeals and campaigns, sometimes it is not.

Online spaces like Facebook are the last refuge for many atheists and secularists in the Muslim world. Apostates are persecuted by governments, threatened by fundamentalist theocrats, and murdered by vigilantes all over the Muslim world and beyond. Even in the West, many apostates hide their lack-of-faith from friends and family for fear of retribution and social ostracization.

The internet, however, has provided this vulnerable minority with a sense of community that can be impossible to attain in their everyday lives. Atheists can share their beliefs, spreading their ideas and literature in anonymity – considered by many to be a key factor in the rise of atheist visibility in the Muslim world. Facebook in particular has been a boon to community-building efforts among persecuted minorities around the world. In fact, the greater the persecution faced by the group, the more vital the online connectivity and activism.

However, even online, our groups maintain a precarious position, as coordinated attacks using Facebook’s reporting tools are simple and effective. The same social media which empowers religious minorities is susceptible to abuse by religious fundamentalists to enforce what are essentially the equivalent of online blasphemy laws. A simple English-language search reveals hundreds of public Groups and Pages on Facebook explicitly dedicated to this purpose – giving their members easy-to-follow instructions on how to report public groups and infiltrate private ones.

Attacks of this nature are not new. Arab atheists, Bangladeshi secularists, and numerous other groups have been under attack for years, as religious conservatives in the Muslim world learn to abuse Facebook’s reporting system to their advantage. Early last year, multiple atheist and
secularist groups were targeted with mass, coordinated infiltration and reporting – leading to the closure of many groups. These groups were eventually restored, but only after a lengthy and sustained effort by organizers to draw public attention to the issue.

However, they, along with dozens of other atheist and ex-Muslim groups and organizations, remain vulnerable to future harassment and targeted campaigns, and many face regular cycles of removal, appeal, and restoration.

So long as the procedures for reporting are liable to be easily misused, the most vulnerable groups will again find themselves without the support and connectivity so vital to their existence and growth.

We, the undersigned, request that Facebook take measures to improve their reporting mechanisms and protect vulnerable groups which rely on its services.

Facebook should create a whitelist for Groups and Pages which are determined as vulnerable to malicious attacks. Reports and flags aimed at these groups should not be handled by automated mechanisms but reviewed and given due consideration by a trained Facebook employee.

Facebook should also penalize individual accounts and groups which are found to have been repeatedly abusing its reporting system.

These measures will help ensure that social media continues to be a valuable asset for empowerment of dissenting and minority voices - we respectfully ask Facebook to develop and implement these measures as soon as possible.

Signed:

Atheist Republic
Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)
American Atheists
American Humanists Association
Arab Atheist Network
Association of Mindfulness Meditation
Ateizm Derneği
Atheist Alliance of America
Atheist Alliance International
Atheist Nexus
Black Nonbelievers, Inc.
British Humanist Association (BHA)
Center for Inquiry (CFI)
Central Council of Ex-Muslims
Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain
Council of Ex-Muslims of France
Council for Secular Humanism
Ex-Muslims of Norway
Faith to Faithless
Foundation Beyond Belief
Freethought Action
Freethought Society
Hispanic American Freethinkers
Institute for Humanist Studies
International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)
Society for Humanistic Judaism
The Humanist Community at Harvard
The Humanist Hub
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.
Military Association of Atheists &amp; Freethinkers
Mukto Mona
One Law for All
Pakistani Atheists and Agnostics
Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason &amp; Science (RDFRS)
Secular Buddhism
Secular Coalition for America
Secular Student Alliance
United Coalition of Reason
UU Humanist Association
#VoteSecular
دختك يتعرف؟ / dkhlak.com
Report Anti-Islamic pages
11,493 members - 81 new members

Report Anti-Islamic pages
196 members

Report Anti-Islamic Pages
94 members
Help us to Shut down all The Anti-Islamic Pages by Reporting them. If You See Any Page against Islam, Just Post the Page link in this group. We will Report those Pages.

Report Anti-Islamic Pages
2,081 members - 2 new members
Request! To All new and old members of this group, please report All the links in this group, here we will post the anti Islamic pages, post your link here in this group we will make the direct report link...

Report abuse to anti islamic pages
126 members
Assalam o Alaikum dear brother and sister plz promote this group and join us to report abuse to anti islamic community

REPORT ANTI ISLAMIC PAGES
76 members
The aim of this page is to report those pages which are anti islam, proper way to report is 1- Click on "report page" 2- Click on "Hate Speech" 3- Choose "targets on Religious group" 4- Click on...

Report Anti Islamic Pages
56 members - 1 new member
Report anti Islamic pages is one of a group who reports the pages/profiles/posts/comments or anything else which goes against
**Names of members intentionally blurred**

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**DESCRIPTION**

THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH AND MUHAMMAD SALLALLAHU ALAYHI-WASALLAM IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH

Muslim Brothers and sisters

The main aim of this Group is to report those Pages/Groups which are against Islam (Anti Islamic Pages/Groups)

1. **HowToReportAPage**
   - **Open the Page**
   - **Click on** Report
   - **Choose** target on Religious group
   - **Click on** Continue
   - **Click on** Report to Facebook
   - **Click on** Continue button
   - **Click OK**

Important Instructions About Reporting

Brothers don’t comment & post on any anti-Islamic page, this would result in promotion of them just silently report.

Kindly do not report more than 5 pages at a time.

Wait 15 minutes and do it again for further.

WalaAllah_Muslims

PLEASE READ FB COMMUNITY***

STANDARDS

https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards

TAGS

Islam, Security Report