



May 21, 2024

Meta Oversight Board
[Submitted electronically via [this link](#)]

Members of the Oversight Board:

The New Tolerance Campaign (NTC) is a watchdog organization whose mission is to ensure institutions consistently apply their stated policies and values, particularly when it comes to fostering free speech and open dialogue. As such, we welcome the opportunity to submit comment in response to Facebook's request seeking guidance from the Oversight Board regarding "Posts that Include 'From the River to the Sea.'"

With emotions still high and war ongoing nearly eight months since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israeli civilians, it may be helpful to consider hypotheticals outside of the Israel-Hamas dynamic.

If a Facebook user were to post "Russia must wipe Ukraine off the face of the earth!" would that qualify as a call to violence and the eradication of a people?

To take a real-world example: During the 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, participants infamously marched in the streets chanting, "Jews will not replace us!"¹ Deborah Lipstadt, the current United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, wrote in 2020 that the phrase has historical roots in a call upon white people to "band together, arm themselves and go on the offensive."² Would Meta consider a post making that declaration to be one encouraging violence and the targeting of an ethnic group? Has Meta censored such posts in the past?

Meta's response to "River to the Sea" cases must be consistent with its stated values and past reactions to comparable posts.

To be clear, NTC considers "From the River to the Sea" pronouncements to be eliminationist, racist rhetoric. Having said that, we do not call for the censorship of such posts from Meta platforms. Warnings may be placed on the posts in a similar fashion to the way Meta labels "Sensitive Content," but the messages should not be taken down.

Let the bigots out themselves.

Sincerely,

Gregory T. Angelo
President

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/08/14/jews-will-not-replace-us-why-white-supremacists-go-after-jews/>

² <https://files.integrityfirstforamerica.org/14228/1611248500-832-1-expert-report-of-d-lipstadt.pdf>