

# ANOTHER Facebook Whistleblower: Interference On a Global Level in Elections

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“I was seeing them interfering on a global level in elections. I saw a blatant exception that just targeted conservatives or favored liberals—and you know, we're deleting on average 300 posts or actioning 300 posts a day,” said Arizona-based Facebook content moderator Ryan Hartwig. “If you magnify that by however many content moderators there are on a global scale, that's a lot of stuff that's getting taken down,” he said.

Hartwig is the second Facebook Whistleblower Project Veritas debuted this week to report on the behavior. [Earlier this week](#), recordings captured Facebook content moderators bragging

about deleting posts and comments supporting President Donald Trump and conservative causes.

Hartwig was employed by Cognizant the same third-party company reported earlier this week to have contracted with Facebook to conduct content moderation. Cognizant content moderators are called “process executives” and they use Facebook’s review queue to adjudicate whether a post or comment should be allowed, taken down or escalated to a supervisor.

Hartwig wore a hidden camera to document reviewing of content and office interactions. In an interview with Project Veritas CEO James O’Keefe, Hartwig said although he signed a confidentiality agreement, he could no longer ignore the suppression of Facebook content supporting President Donald Trump, Republican causes or the conservative agenda with a massive exception to the company’s public position on protecting political speech across the platform.

“That was the tipping point. knowing about what I knew about how they were giving exceptions for the policy, I knew that it was likely that it was happening elsewhere on a global scale,” he said. “Just seeing such blatant bias from Facebook really bothered me.”

O’Keefe said Hartwig exemplifies the heroic virtues of Project Veritas’ “Be Brave. Do Something.” campaign.

## **Content Moderators Express Hostility to Trump, His Supporters**

One of the moderators Hartwig recorded was Israel Amparan, who he said typifies the worldview of most of the content moderators he encountered.

“Trump supporters are f\*cking crazy \*ss \*sshholes, that every other f\*cking word out of their mouth is you know ‘Come take it,’ ‘Seal the border;’” said Amparan. “Come take it” refers to the “Come and Take It” slogan Texan colonists put on their flag after the Mexican government demanded they turn in their cannon.

Amparan said he targeted content by Trump supporters because it scared him.

“I hate government as much as the next f\*cking person, but you’re not gonna catch me riding over the f\*cking. It’s like impeachment. It’s like a PRAW. Trump called it a f\*cking coup-- and it’s like that should scare you more than anything.” A PRAW, or Python Reddit API Wrapper, is a Reddit program to allow user to more quickly and easily post on Facebook.

Hartwig also videotaped Steve Grimm, who is a team lead at Facebook-Cognizant’s content review—and who said Trump supporters are in the same speech category as Hitler, under the Facebook policy on Dangerous Individuals and Organizations.

“One of my projects before now was, was hate,” Grimm said. “I’ve spent quite a bit of time looking at pictures of hate organizations, Hitler, Nazis, MAGA, you know, Proud Boys, all that stuff all day long.” MAGA is the acronym for Trump’s 2016 slogan: Make America Great Again.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before Congress the only speech Facebook targets for deletion is speech advocating

hate, violence and terrorism, but not political speech.

## **Facebook Waived Hate Speech Policies to Advance its Pro-Pride/LGBTQ Agenda**

One example was when Facebook-Cognizant policy and training manager Shawn Browder told all the content moderators in Hartwig's section for the 2018 Pride Month hate speech would be allowed to stay up if it was in support of the LGBTQ agenda.

Hartwig said Browder told the moderators to implement the special policy, which in the case of Pride Month allowed attacks on a single group of people, quoting Browder: "Hey, we're making the exceptions for our policy to favor the, LGBT community."

*O'Keefe: Hate speech is allowed if it's 'intended to raise awareness for pride LGBTQ,' so hate speech is allowed in some cases, but apparently not others?*

*Hartwig: Yeah.*

According to a screenshot of the policy captured by Hartwig:

*"Anything that is a delete per our Hate Speech policies but is intended to raise awareness for Pride/LGBTQ. This may occur especially in terms of attacking straight white males."*

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Hartwig also told O’Keefe he witnessed how Facebook carves out exceptions in its speech policies if the speech boosts its own political agenda.

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*Example: “Straight white males are filth for not fighting more on behalf of LGBTQ.”*

### **‘No one has the white man’s back anymore’**

Hartwig also told O’Keefe he himself was targeted at work for being a white male. This cultural bias was documented in a previous Project Veritas undercover investigation, when a PV journalist recorded Leslie Brown, who was a human resources contractor for Google and who now works at a human resources executive at Facebook, talking about the ease of firing a white male without repercussions or any due diligence requirements.

*Project Veritas Journalist: I mean, they were able to fire him without having to worry about discrimination.*

*Brown: Due diligence, right. Because he’s a white man. Yeah, white man. No problem. You can’t do it that easily if there are other issues.*

*Journalist: Oh, it’s easier when they’re-*

*Brown: White man.*

*Journalist: Yeah, no protected class.*

*Brown: No one has the white man's back anymore.*

O'Keefe said Project Veritas still targets Facebook and other social media giants for more investigations—and those investigations are propelled by insiders like Hartwig and the other Facebook insider Zach McElroy, who was featured in the first video released from this investigation into Facebook's content moderation policies and practices.