



January 20, 2023

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO
Meta
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Delivered electronically

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

On behalf of Change the Terms, a [coalition](#) of more than five dozen civil rights, human rights, tech policy and consumer protection organizations, we urge you to permanently instate Meta’s ban on former President Donald Trump.

The findings of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, in its draft [report](#), “Social Media & the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol” merit your scrutiny as you consider whether to reinstate President Trump’s Facebook account. In particular, the committee observed that although President Trump could soon return to social media, “the risk of violence has not abated.”

The Select Committee draft report found that President Trump’s supporters used Facebook to closely track “his claims about a stolen election and subsequently his calls to descend on D.C. to protest the Joint Session of Congress on January 6th, 2021.” It further identified that Facebook’s “delayed response to the rise of far-right extremism—and President Trump’s incitement of his supporters—helped to facilitate the attack on January 6th.”

For years, the Change the Terms coalition has advocated for Meta to hold powerful world leaders like President Trump to the same content moderation standards as the rest of us. Yet as the Select Committee draft report reveals, “[f]or at least two years before the election, Facebook executives intervened to make exceptions to their own policies for prominent right-wing partisans on their platform, including President Trump.” Indeed, you acknowledged these policy exceptions in your January 7, 2021 [post](#) decrying President Trump’s use of Meta “to incite violent insurrection against a democratically elected government.” We believe these exceptions are misguided,

allowing the rich, famous and powerful among us to abuse their positions of power to exploit and harm others.

President Trump repeatedly violated Meta's rules. He used Facebook to spread hate and racism against people of color, targeted Black women and women of color politicians, spread misogyny and white supremacy, used your advertising platform to target xenophobic campaign ads to potential voters, repeatedly spread lies about the integrity of our electoral process to undermine our democracy, and used your platform to incite a violent insurrection. Given his [recent posts](#) on Truth Social and other public statements in recent months, he has only [doubled down](#) on his dangerous flirtation with authoritarianism and political violence. His return would surely embolden a base of existing supporters, who [believe](#) that such violence is justified if it means returning Trump to power.

On January 6, 2021, you might have claimed ignorance on the extent of the harm posed by President Trump's use of Meta's platforms. Today such a claim would be a reckless abdication of your responsibility to protect the safety of the larger Meta community and the health of U.S. democracy. We implore you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jessica J. González, co-chair

Heidi Beirich, co-chair

Adam Conner, co-chair

On behalf of Change the Terms