

# Facebook, Twitter urged to do more to police hate on sites

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A new AI tool created to help identify certain kinds of substance abuse based on a homeless youth's Facebook posts could provide homeless shelters with vital information to incorporate into each individual's case management plan. Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Tech giants Facebook, Twitter and Google are taking steps to police

terrorists and hate groups on their sites but more work needs to be done, the Simon Wiesenthal Center said Tuesday.

The organization released its annual digital terrorism and hate report card and gave a B-plus to Facebook, a B-minus to Twitter and a C-plus to Google.

Facebook spokeswoman Christine Chen said the company has no comment on the report. Representatives for Google and Twitter did not immediately return emails seeking comment.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Wiesenthal Center's associate dean, said Facebook in particular built "a recognition that bad folks might try to use their platform" into its business model. "There is plenty of material they haven't dealt with to our satisfaction but overall, especially in terms of hate, there's zero tolerance," Cooper said at a New York City news conference.

Rick Eaton, a senior researcher at the Wiesenthal Center, said hateful and violent posts on Instagram, which is part of Facebook, are quickly removed but not before they can be widely shared.

He pointed to Instagram posts threatening terror attacks at the upcoming World Cup in Moscow. Another post promoted suicide attacks with the message "You only die once. Why not make it martyrdom."

Cooper said Twitter used to merit an F rating before it started cracking down on Islamic State tweets in 2016. He said the move came after testimony before a congressional committee revealed that "ISIS was delivering 200,000 tweets a day."

Cooper and Eaton said that as the big tech companies have gotten more aggressive in shutting down accounts that promote terrorism, racism and

anti-Semitism, promoters of terrorism and hate have migrated to other sites such as VK.com, a Facebook lookalike that's based in Russia.

There also are "alt-tech" sites like GoyFundMe, an alternative to GoFundMe, and BitChute, an alternative to Google-owned YouTube, Cooper said.

"If there's an existing company that will give them a platform without looking too much at the content they'll use it," he said. "But if not they are attracted to those platforms that have basically no rules."

The Los Angeles-based Wiesenthal Center is dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism, hate and terrorism.

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