

Facebook starting nominations 'soon' for content oversight panel

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Facebook said it is moving ahead with CEO Mark Zuckerberg's plan to establish a content oversight panel that would function as a "supreme court" for difficult decisions on what to remove or allow on the leading social network

Facebook said Thursday it would soon open up nominations for a new 40-member oversight panel to make tough decisions on content

moderation, saying it would be independent of governments and management of the social networking giant.

A report on the process was released following more than six months of consultations in 88 countries on how to deal with the delicate topics of allowing and removing controversial comments and images.

The initiative was based on chief executive Mark Zuckerberg's call for a "[supreme court](#)" that would make difficult calls on what is appropriate content for Facebook.

"First and foremost, people want a board that exercises independent judgment—not judgment influenced by Facebook management, governments or third parties," said a blog post by Facebook governance and global affairs director Brent Harris.

"And people want a board that's as diverse as the many people on Facebook and Instagram... These members should be experts who come from different backgrounds, different disciplines, and different viewpoints, but who can all represent the interests of a global community."

Facebook's initiative comes amid intense pressure around the world for the social platform used by more than two billion people to root out abusive content, manipulation and hoaxes, while remaining open to [free expression](#).

Facebook said it was in the process of seeking the first members for the oversight board.

"In sourcing [potential candidates](#), we have been soliciting suggestions from those who have participated in the public consultation process and the in-person workshops and roundtables," Harris said.

"We have been engaging consultants and executive search firms, and will soon be opening a nomination process. We want to make sure that we're casting a wide net, not just looking to those experts who may already be known to us. Facebook will select the first few people and those members will then help select the remaining people."

Facebook said the new entity would focus solely on [content](#) moderation and not on other questions such as algorithmic feed ranking or artificial intelligence.

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