



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

March 16, 2022

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

The response from Meta (Facebook) my office received on March 8th is woefully inadequate and fails to address any of the concerns I have regarding the role your company plays in fueling the immigration crisis at our southern border.

My initial inquiry addressed the role your platform has with alien smuggling, not human trafficking. The law is clear, and I would like to reiterate you and your staff could be subject to prosecution for violating Title 8, U.S.C. § 1324(a), which defines several distinct offenses related to aliens. In your response, you confirmed you do not remove content on how to illegally cross the U.S. border, which means Meta is hosting content to encourage and induce aliens to come to, enter, or reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such coming to, entry, or residence is or will be in violation of law. Previous reports from the Tech Transparency Project have confirmed Meta continues to allow human trafficking and alien smuggling to flourish on your platform with little to no oversight or accountability¹.

Even more alarming, Meta claimed, *“many of the documents requested in your letter are kept confidential, in part to promote full and frank discussion within Meta about important issues like this and to preserve users’ and employees’ privacy.”* Since Meta has continuously failed to comply with congressional requests, I would like to remind you that Meta is obligated to preserve all information that relates to investigations conducted during the 117th Congress, including all oversight requests or demands from Congress. Specifically, this preservation request should be construed as an instruction to preserve all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that is or may be potentially responsive to a congressional inquiry, request, or investigation. For the purpose of this request, “preserve” means securing and maintaining the integrity of all relevant documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, by taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, mutation, or negligent or reckless

handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. This includes preserving all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to requests, even if copies of individual documents may still exist elsewhere. It is my hope Meta will voluntarily provide the information I am requesting, or you may be compelled to by congressional subpoena next year.

Along with the original questions, which remain unanswered, I outlined in my letter on November 16th, 2021, I request an additional response to the following questions:

1. Specify which “safety and human rights NGOs, activists, organizations focused on curtailing illegal immigration and securing America’s borders” are included in Meta’s “external voices”.
2. How does Meta assess whether or not an account is posting content that may aim to recruit into, coordinate, or exploit people for the purpose of domestic servitude or other forms of exploitation? Does Meta notify the appropriate local, state, and federal law enforcement entities when they identify human trafficking or alien smuggling?
3. How does Meta differentiate between human trafficking and alien smuggling content vs. content relating to asylum?

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Gooden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lance" and last name "Gooden" clearly distinguishable.

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

ⁱ <https://www.techtransparencyproject.org/articles/spot-check-facebook-still-haven-human-smuggling>