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Sundar Pichai  
Chief Executive Officer  
Google

January 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Pichai:

As you know, Google and YouTube have been key propagation tools of white supremacist and fascist movements and violence, both domestically and abroad.<sup>1</sup> YouTube's autoplay algorithm pushes extreme content onto users, promoting white supremacist, alt-right, and fascist messaging<sup>2</sup> and right-wing content creators.<sup>3</sup> The algorithm has been shown to be a gateway to far-right ideology for young people in particular. YouTube also enables far-right influencers to raise money by monetizing their videos.<sup>4</sup> Despite these countless cases of YouTube's role in the growth of white supremacist movements, your corporation has failed to acknowledge the connection.<sup>5</sup>

Last week, we saw the disastrous consequences of your corporation's refusal to prevent white supremacists, fascists, and their enablers from using your platforms to spread misinformation, delegitimize the democratic process, recruit followers, raise money, and plan the first successful invasion of the United States Capitol in more than 200 years. Supporters of the attack are even using YouTube to raise money off live video footage of the insurrection.<sup>6</sup>

The January 6th attack could mark the beginning of a new era of bolder and more commonplace racist and antidemocratic violence in our politics. The seditionists who led last

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<sup>1</sup> D'Anastasio, Cecilia. "The Christchurch Shooter and YouTube's Radicalization Trap." *Wired*. 08 Dec 2020. <https://www.wired.com/story/christchurch-shooter-youtube-radicalization-extremism>.

<sup>2</sup> Weill, Kelly. "How YouTube Built a Radicalization Machine for the Far-Right." *Daily Beast*. 19 Dec 2018. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-youtube-pulled-these-men-down-a-vortex-of-far-right-hate>.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis, Rebecca. *Alternative Influence: Broadcasting the Reactionary Right on YouTube*. Data & Society. Sep 2018. 1. [https://datasociety.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DS\\_Alternative\\_Influence.pdf](https://datasociety.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DS_Alternative_Influence.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Constone, Josh. "YouTube will let bigot monetize if he removes link to homophobic merch." *Tech Crunch*. 05 Jun 2019. <https://techcrunch.com/2019/06/05/abusetube>.

<sup>5</sup> Carless, William and Jessica Guynn. "Google think tank's report on white supremacy says little about YouTube's role in driving people to extremism." *USA Today*. 15 Dec 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/12/15/google-youtube-white-supremacist-nazi-problem/3830535001>.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander, Julie, Jacob Kastrenakes, and Bijan Stephen. "How Facebook, Twitch, and YouTube are handling live streams of the Capitol mob attack." *The Verge*. 06 Jan 2021. <https://www.theverge.com/2021/1/6/22217421/capitol-building-trump-mob-protest-live-stream-youtube-twitch-facebook>.

week's insurrection are actively planning further armed demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol and all 50 state capitols in the days leading up to the Presidential Inauguration next week.<sup>7</sup>

It is not enough to merely pause political contributions. You must address the harm caused by your platforms. If you fail to act, the world will hold you responsible for any further acts of violence or treason.

We demand that you act swiftly and decisively to deplatform content and content creators from YouTube that incite white supremacist or insurrectionist violence, promote or glorify white supremacist hate groups, or monetize or fundraise off videos of the insurrection. Furthermore, we demand that you remove from YouTube the personal and campaign channels of all politicians who incited, enabled, or supported the insurrection or voted against certifying all of the electoral votes from the 2020 Presidential election. This includes the channel of Donald Trump himself.<sup>8</sup>

Google and YouTube's reckless business model has helped bring our democracy to the brink. Due to the dire urgency of the situation you helped create, we request you respond within 24 hours to Saqib Bhatti from the Action Center on Race and the Economy.

Regards,

Action Center on Race and the Economy  
MPower Change  
LittleSis  
350 Butte County  
Aubin Pictures  
Call to Action CO  
Catholic Network US  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Color Of Change  
Communications Workers for America  
Hedge Clippers  
Jobs With Justice  
LittleSis  
Make the Road New York  
MediaJustice  
New York Communities for Change  
Partnership for Working Families  
PRBB Foundation  
Rapid Shift Network  
Resource Generation

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<sup>7</sup> Cohen, Zachary and Whitney Wild. "FBI warns 'armed protests' being planned at all 50 state capitols and in Washington DC." *CNN*. 12 Jan 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/11/politics/fbi-bulletin-armed-protests-state-us-capitol/index.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Donald J Trump's YouTube channel. Accessed on 13 Jan 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAqI2DyGU2un1Ei2nMYsqOA>.

Sagner Family Foundation  
Science for the People – Twin Cities  
Seeding Sovereignty  
Solidaire Action Fund  
Stardust  
Strong Economy for All Coalition  
Summer Fund II  
Survivors Know  
Take on Wall Street  
UltraViolet