



B'NAI BRITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CANADA  
NATIONAL OFFICE/Bureau national

Nov. 30, 2017

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Lester B. Pearson Building  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Freeland:

I am writing on behalf of B'nai Brith Canada, a leading Jewish advocacy and human rights organization and opponent of antisemitism.

As a key priority, our organization is focused on combatting hate crimes and hate speech, in Canada and internationally, a phenomenon that has increasingly been in evidence on social media platforms.

We are encouraged that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is addressing the threat posed by online Holocaust denial, antisemitism, and other forms of discrimination and that Canada is supporting this effort.

As an illustration of B'nai Brith's commitment to this objective, I attach a presentation to an international audience delivered October 24, 2017, by our Senior Legal Counsel, Mr. David Matas, on the subject [Mobilizing Internet Providers to Combat Antisemitism](#).

In May 2016, the European Commission made public with Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube a Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online. The companies agreed to review the majority of valid notifications for removal of illegal hate speech in less than twenty-four hours and remove or disable access to such content, if necessary.

Certain organizations located in European Union Member States were accepted as "trusted flaggers" to notify the social media companies of alleged illegal hate speech content and report to the Commission on the reactions. The Commission in turn reported publicly on the results. Information about the Code of Conduct and the "trusted flagger" is found in the Commission's press release of June 1, 2017, found [here](#).



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B'nai Brith is requesting that the Government of Canada negotiate a similar arrangement for Canada, with the same companies and local “trusted flaggers”. We believe that the operation of such an arrangement would provide important assistance in combating in Canada promotion of hate speech and antisemitism online.

We note that the Commission describes its efforts as contributing also to the action of G7 leaders “who have also recently committed to supporting industry efforts and increasing engagement with civil society to combat online extremism”.

It may be that the Government of Canada is already engaged in pursuing a course of action such as that we are recommending. If so, we would welcome an update on progress made thus far. B'nai Brith Canada remains committed to cooperating with the Government of Canada in combatting hate speech and antisemitism online and we are prepared to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Michael Mostyn  
Chief Executive Officer  
B'nai Brith Canada

c.c.

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C.  
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