

Should Social Media Platforms Do More to Prohibit Harmful Speech?

No

Here are some of the reasons people might argue that social media companies **should not** do more to prohibit harmful speech.

Companies should not dictate what opinions are acceptable

In a democracy, individuals are allowed to express their views, even if they are controversial. While the Charter of Rights and Freedoms places some 'reasonable' limits on Canadians' freedom of expression, these limits are meant to be determined by courts through legitimate legal processes, not by companies.

Difficulties defining harmful content

Social media content policies can be vague, and it is not always clear whether some content violates a website's policies or not. People will also disagree about what it means for content to be "harmful". As a result, decisions about what speech is allowed are too subjective, and social media companies should not decide what is harmful or not.

Difficulties moderating harmful content

Every day, billions of people post on their social media accounts. The sheer quantity of posts to review makes it nearly impossible to take down all harmful content. What's more, these attempts at moderation can backfire. For example, some companies - like TikTok - use artificial intelligence for content moderation, which often leads to content that is not harmful being censored.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right

If social media platforms are going to function as a modern public square, then all Canadians have a fundamental right to participate. Canadians should be free to express themselves freely, without fear of being banned from a platform.

Moderation should be left to the users

Social media provides a space for people to express themselves and exchange their beliefs and points of view with a wide audience. If someone says something socially unacceptable, it is the job of other users - and not the social media company - to explain why that opinion is wrong. Users should determine which ideas they think are best.

Read More

- [To protect our privacy and free speech, Canada needs to overhaul its approach to regulating online harms](#) | The Conversation
- [Why It's Virtually Impossible to Moderate Social Media Sites](#) | Make Use Of

- [Meta to get rid of factcheckers and recommend more political content](#) | The Guardian