

April 3, 2019

Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

For years, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has branded itself the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes hate in America. You, along with the liberal media, have played a part in elevating them into this role. According to a July 6, 2018 Daily Caller story, the four largest technology platforms, Amazon, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, all work with SPLC for this specific purpose.

However, it is now clear that the SPLC has proven to be a hate-filled, anti-Christian, anti-conservative organization and nothing more than a weapon of the radical Left, whose goal is to bully people into compliance with their ideology. Fail to comply with their demands, and you will be labeled as a hate group or an extremist.

The recent news regarding the termination of co-founder Morris Dees and resignation of president Richard Cohen are but the latest episodes that call into question SPLC's status. There is simply no longer any defensible rationale left for an organization to use them as a point of reference or in any advisory capacity. We are writing today to demand you drop any and all affiliation with the SPLC. Moreover, you should restore your own credibility by making a public statement disavowing the SPLC and affirmatively stating that you do not have a formal or informal relationship with them.

The SPLC's track record includes targeting faith-based organizations like the Family Research Council (FRC) for speaking out about principles found in the Bible. Sadly, the result of SPLC's labeling of FRC a "hate group" was a 2012 shooting at FRC's headquarters. After that tragic incident, the FBI appeared to have dropped SPLC as a partner in determining who is and is not a hate group.

Last year, SPLC was forced to settle a \$3.375 million lawsuit for falsely labeling a Muslim individual as an extremist. Maajid Nawaz had long ago abandoned his once held Islamic radicalism and formed a foundation to fight this extremist ideology. But he was branded as a hate monger by the SPLC for criticizing the radical ideology he once embraced.

Despite this track record of making false charges of bigotry, SPLC continued to be an adviser to leading technology and social media companies like Amazon, Google, Facebook, and Twitter. No doubt you, along with executives at these other companies, feared the bullying tactics SPLC would use against you if you did not comply. None of you could afford to be labeled as friendly to hate groups on your platforms. Instead, you chose to cooperate with the SPLC despite the clear evidence that the organization wants nothing more than to shut down all conservative speech.

Now it appears the SPLC is once again exposed for its hypocrisy with the firing of co-founder Morris Dees and subsequent resignation of its president Richard Cohen. While SPLC refuses to release the details of Dees' removal from his role with the organization, news reports point to SPLC tolerating an ongoing hostile work environment toward people of color, and women as well. SPLC has not denied these reports. We can only reasonably conclude that Dees contributed to an ongoing hostile work environment and that SPLC led by Cohen is an organization tolerant of an atmosphere of hate. When combined with SPLC's clearly demonstrated anti-Christian and anti-conservative bias, it is time for reputable organizations to cut all ties with SPLC, and denounce them as nothing more than a politically motivated tool of the Left.

While you were previously unwilling to cut ties with SPLC for targeting its political enemies with hate-filled and biased allegations, are you going to continue to work with an organization which reportedly allowed outrageous discrimination to occur for years as well? By maintaining the SPLC in an advisory capacity Facebook is embracing SPLC's hate-filled agenda.

We look forward to your announcement that you are terminating your relationship with this hateful and hypocritical organization. We will publish your response or lack thereof.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
Media Research Center

Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin
(US Army, Retired)
Executive Vice President
Family Research Council

Tricia Erickson
President
Angel Pictures & Publicity, Inc.

Lady Brigitte Gabriel
Founder & Chairman
ACT for America

Cleta Mitchell
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Steven Ertelt
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Terry Schilling
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Everett Piper, PhD
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Oklahoma Wesleyan University

Rod D. Martin
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The Martin Organization, Inc.

Lieutenant Colonel Allen B. West
(US Army, Retired)
Member, 112th US Congress
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Shawn A. Mitchell
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National Federation of Republican Assemblies

Jerry Melvin
Former Dean
Florida House of Representatives

Anthony Allen
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Lee A. Beaman
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Kevin Freeman
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Mat Staver
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Justin Danhof
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Susan Carleson
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Lisa B. Nelson
CEO
American Legislative Exchange Council

Gary L. Bauer
President
American Values

Craig Shirley
Reagan Biographer and Presidential Historian

Gene Mills
President
Louisiana Family Forum

Frank Gaffney
Founder and Executive Chairman
Center for Security Policy

Bill Donahue
President
Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President
60 Plus Association

James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association