

December 14, 2020

Re: Facebook must protect democracy and Georgia election workers

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg, Ms. Sandberg, Ms. Elin, and Mr. Zafar,

The Georgia Senate runoff elections are less than a month away, and election workers in Georgia have already been forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves against online threats of violence, with some even forced into hiding.¹

Facebook currently offers additional privacy and safety features to frequently targeted people, like journalists and politicians. As organizations dedicated to social justice and stopping the spread of harmful hate speech and disinformation, whose constituents' lives hang in the balance, **we implore Facebook to expand these protections to Georgia election workers and commit to closer monitoring in Georgia to block election disinformation and violent activity that is organized on your company's platform.**

The majority of election workers are women, and many extremists are focusing their attacks on Black election workers in majority-Black districts.² These Black women, who make our democracy work, are facing harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence--and Facebook has an opportunity to change that.

This is not a partisan issue; it's a matter of protecting our public servants and the integrity of our democracy. Election workers across Georgia are reporting widespread harassment and death threats,--one worker found a noose outside of his family's home with his name on it.^{3,4,5} On December 1, Republican Gabriel Sterling, Georgia's voting system implementation manager, warned at a press conference that "[s]omeone is gonna get hurt, someone is gonna get shot, someone is gonna get killed." He added, "It's not right."

Facebook has served as a site for hateful extremists to spread disinformation, harass election workers, and undermine our votes. Now, heading into the final weeks of the runoff elections, it's critical that Facebook take immediate action to protect Georgia election workers by extending to them the protections that are

¹ [Georgia poll worker in hiding after false claims online](#), AP News, November 6, 2020

² ['We will not allow anyone to stop us': Day and night, under historic scrutiny, the nation's vote counters carried on](#), The Washington Post, November 9, 2020

³ [As Trump Rails Against Loss, His Supporters Become More Threatening](#), The New York Times, December 8, 2020

⁴ ['This has to stop': Harassed and threatened, GOP election officials urge party leaders to take stand](#), NBC News, December 2, 2020

⁵ [Someone's gonna get shot': Georgia official calls out Trump, senators over harsh election rhetoric](#), FOX 5 Atlanta, December 1, 2020

currently provided to journalists and politicians and taking steps to block the spread of disinformation and violence in Georgia.⁶

Signed,

#VOTEPROCHOICE

9to5, National Association of Working Women

Access Now

Accountable Tech

ACRONYM

Advance Native Political Leadership

BlackPAC

Care2

Care in Action

Catalist

Center for Democracy & Technology

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)

Color Of Change

DemCast USA

End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund

Equality Labs

Fair Fight Action

Faithful America

Fix Democracy First

Free Press Action

Free Speech For People

Generation Justice

Greenpeace

Guns Down America

Higher Heights

Indivisible Chicago Alliance

⁶ [‘Someone’s going to get hurt’: Georgia elections official denounces threats, asks President Trump to condemn violent rhetoric](#), The Boston Globe, December 1, 2020.

Indivisible Northern Nevada
Indivisible Plus Washington
Jewish Women International (JWI)
Kairos Action
Lake Oconee Community Church
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
MediaJustice
MomsRising
MoveOn
Muslim Advocates
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Hispanic Media Coalition
RealityTeam
ReFrame
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Stand Up America
Stop Online Violence Against Women Inc.
SumOfUs
Supermajority
Tech Transparency Project
The Greenlining Institute
The Representation Project
The Womxn Project
UltraViolet Action
Unitarian Universalist Association
United We Dream
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Way to Win
Where It's Needed (WIN PAC)
Win Black / Pa'lante

Win Without War

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US (WILPF US)

Women's March