

A Study of Social Media Policies Regarding Terrorism-Related Content

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Abstract : With the rapid development of technology, members of terrorist organizations received new opportunities to spread their message, recruit, and coordinate activities. Social media platforms, facing backlash for the lack of any effective measures adopted to combat this issue, started implementing policy changes over time to address the issue. To evaluate the progress made as of 2024, this paper examines the policies of the ten leading social media companies regarding terrorism content. The policies of Meta, X, YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok, Reddit, WeChat, BeReal, Pinterest and Tumblr are analyzed using the following variables: policy in place specifically prohibiting content related to terrorism as of 2024; the last update of the policy; consequences from violating the regulations regarding terrorism-related content; procedure of removing such content; any additional details relevant to the policy; 5) some examples of deleted posts. Findings show that while most platforms have specific policies in place for terrorism-related content and they were updated in the last two years for the most part, some discrepancies between them exist. The latter can indicate vulnerabilities in these platforms regarding their approach to fighting terrorism. Implications of these vulnerabilities are discussed, and recommendations on how the policies can be strengthened are also provided.

Keywords : social media, terrorism, policies, propaganda

Conference Title : ICTLE 2025 : International Conference on Technology Law and Ethics

Conference Location : Montevideo, Uruguay

Conference Dates : January 14-15, 2025