



MARK BRNOVICH  
Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General  
State of Arizona

June 28, 2021

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

Mr. Zuckerberg,

As Arizona's Attorney General, I am deeply troubled to read articles detailing how human smugglers and drug cartels have allegedly been using your platform to advertise their services to assist migrants on their dangerous journey and unlawful entry into the United States. Media reports have stated that certain posts were being utilized to assist in human exploitation and trafficking, and the posts are not proactively removed. In fact, Facebook's responses to these reports and posts appear to be a reactive approach to a serious matter that is tremendously important to national security and basic humanitarian considerations.

As you know, the migrant journey to the United States is fraught with peril and abuse. Cartels now control all avenues of the southern border, often abusing men, women, and children who are in search of greater opportunity. For every person that crosses the border, the cartels are enriching themselves.

Government officials are reporting record numbers of apprehensions, due to the drastic changes in national immigration policies and enforcement. It isn't just the migrants who are suffering from this historic crisis; law-abiding Americans across the country are negatively affected by the realities of what is now occurring. For example, ranchers residing near the border are encountering large volumes of migrants and smugglers trespassing on their properties. Cities across the country face threats posed by the mass influx of illegal drugs transported by smugglers across the southern border. And taxpayers fund a significant portion of the care and transportation of migrants once they are apprehended and released.

Earlier this year, my office attempted to advertise anti-human trafficking resources now available to the public in conjunction with National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Facebook, however, denied these submissions and prevented our office from posting

them. It's perplexing that Arizona's top law enforcement department is being blocked while smugglers experience less hurdles in promoting their trafficking services on your platform.

While Facebook may not have willingly contributed to the border crisis, I am concerned the company may still be indirectly assisting the individuals and criminal organizations fueling the surge.

In light of recent reports, I am seeking further information related to these questions:

1. Has Facebook allowed, including unintentionally, transnational criminal organizations to purchase ads or use your platform to promote their ability to smuggle people or illegal drugs into the United States?
2. What measures is Facebook taking to proactively ensure that human or drug traffickers are restricted from advertising their unlawful services on your platform?
3. What does Facebook do if an ad, even accidentally, gets posted that promotes human trafficking or drug smuggling?
4. Is Facebook reporting any posts or ads promoting human or drug trafficking to law enforcement?

Time is of the essence in this national security and humanitarian crisis, so I request that Facebook provide answers to the questions above, and any other information it deems helpful, by July 16, 2021.

Respectfully,



Mark Brnovich  
Arizona Attorney General