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ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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OC Human Relations Commission stands resolute on fighting online hate

The internet has become a prime mean of communication and it has an unprecedented global reach. It allows for families and friends to connect outside the boundaries of time, space, and location. It has allowed us to do so much, and the pandemic taught us that we have not fully tapped its capacity. This can be a wonderful thing but has also become a dangerous one. Tracking virtual communications is difficult and this has allowed extremists to repackage how they promote hate, raise funds and recruit members. Hate groups and movements are creating websites, forums, profiles on social networks and online gaming sites to normalize racism, misogyny, bigotry, and much more. Social networking has now made it easier for these groups to move white supremacist ideas from the fringe to the mainstream.

Last Friday, Elon Musk stepped in as the new owner of Twitter with the promise of “bolstering free speech” and “rethinking Twitter’s approach to content moderation”. Quickly a high number of anti-Black and antisemitic posts emerged that went unchecked. People who had been banned for promoting hate and violence have found themselves unblocked and “freed” to continue trolling. Among them is Kanye West who a couple of weeks ago made Antisemitic remarks on his social media accounts. The Orange County Human Relations Commission has made a commitment to denounce hate when it arises and is resolute to upholding its mission of eradicating the causes of discrimination and intolerance. We are concerned about online hate continuing to go unchecked and the impact this will have on the people and communities who continue to be targeted.

The OC Human Relations Commission will continue to shed light to injustice, inequity, and hate. Online hate, like all forms of hate, aims to isolate and divide us. We will not waver and remain committed to those who are victimized. We will continue to elevate their stories, seek resources for support, and create safe spaces for connectedness. In the spirit of uplifting our “Hate Hurts Us All” campaign, we will explore strategies and ways that will help us address online hate together.

If you have been a witnessed a hate act or have been victimized, please report via the following ways: Online: <https://hatecrime.211oc.org/>; Call: 211, press #6; Text: OCHATEACTIVITY to 898211.

References:

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/28/tech/elon-musk-twitter-changes/index.html>

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/kanye-west-suspended-for-anti-semitic-remarks-is-back-on-twitter-as-musk-takes-over/ar-AA13uBsr>



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