Stop Funding Hate
Guide for individuals
Some publications and media outlets are using hate and division to drive sales and push a socially divisive agenda. Advertisers are a major part of their business model, providing up to half of many companies’ revenues.

With hate crime on the rise in the UK, we are making hate unprofitable by persuading advertisers to pull their support from these publications.

This guide will explain how you, as an individual, can also help persuade companies to stop funding hate.
WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND HATE ONLINE

1. Find an advertiser/company on the page
2. Take a screenshot of the advertiser
   - Try to make sure that the screenshot includes both the comment or headline, and advertiser.
3. Write a polite message to the company
4. Contact them, via social media, email or post
5. Wait...
6. Share!

If the company gets back to you, share the message with us on Facebook, tweet us or email info@stopfundinghate.info

MESSAGE
Dear Advertiser,
I noticed...

SHARE
Great news!
Thanks Advertiser!
#stopfundinghate
FIND AN ADVERTISER / COMPANY THAT IS FUNDING HATE

UK newspapers and media outlets often run adverts alongside hateful content — often without the advertiser even knowing.

The first step in persuading companies to stop funding hate is to identify hateful content and find the advertiser on the channel or page.

SPOTTING HATE SPEECH

Hate speech can come in many forms and contexts. Here are common types of hate speech to look out for:

- **Demonisation**
  Presenting the target group in overwhelmingly negative terms, e.g. characterising the group as 'aggressive', 'dirty' or 'criminal'.

- **Incitement to violence**
  Calling for the target group to be attacked or killed — including in coded terms, e.g. 'they need wiping out'.

- **Toxic misinformation**
  Falsely linking the target group to violent, criminal or morally corrupt behaviour, e.g. using a fake crime report.

- **Incitement to discrimination**
  Calling for members of the target group to be denied equal treatment, e.g. suggesting that they should be denied voting rights.

- **Dehumanisation**
  Portraying the target group as subhuman — likening them to vermin, parasites or disease, e.g. characterising the targeted group as 'rats', a 'swarm', 'plague' or 'infestation'.

- **“Accusation in a mirror”**
  Claiming that the target group is conspiring to attack the wider population and poses an existential threat.
CHOOSE THE MOST OBVIOUS AND EXTREME EXAMPLES

Find examples that as many people as possible will ‘get’, and which will immediately make brands feel awkward, for example anything that endorses violence (e.g. “they need to be wiped out”), or makes demonstrably false claims.

CHOOSE YOUR ADVERTISER

Sometimes advertisers may be associated with a hate campaign by a particular news outlet.

A ‘scattergun approach’ - contacting lots of companies and checking who replies - can be very useful. At the same time, you may spot brands that are likely to be ‘on side’, for example, those that promote values such as honesty, integrity and diversity. Focusing extra attention on these can find you a crucial first company to withdraw advertising.

In November 2019, The Spectator published an article suggesting that it should be made harder for Muslims to vote. We noticed that the National Theatre was one of the advertisers in the magazine. It stood out as an institution that would want to be seen to be inclusive of all communities. We launched a weekend of action and focused on the National Theatre alongside other advertisers. They were indeed the first to respond.

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@NationalTheatre
4:37 PM Nov 4, 2019

Replying to @NationalTheatre and @StopFundingHate

We have no further adverts planned with The Spectator, but this column, which was very much at odds with our organisational values, will be taken into account in our regular review of the places we advertise. 2/2
**2**

**TAKE A SCREENSHOT OR PHOTO OF THE ADVERTISER**

Create a strong visual link between a particular advertiser and the toxic media content that their money is funding and share this online.

Try to make sure that the screenshot includes both the comments or the headline, and the advertiser.

**TO SCREENSHOT:**

- On desktop: `ctrl` + `PrtScn`
- On Mac: `cmd` + `shift` + `3`
- Mobile phones vary
WRITE A POLITE MESSAGE TO THE COMPANY

If you feel comfortable, speaking out can be even more compelling if you are personally affected by the type of hate that a company is funding.

One Stop Funding Hate supporter singlehandedly persuaded a major brand to pull their online ads from the Daily Mail by talking about how she, as a trans woman, was affected by the Mail’s transphobic media coverage.

TACTIC: MAKING IT PERSONAL

TACTIC: GIVING BRANDS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

Many brands won’t even know where their online ads are appearing. Assuming they’re onside can therefore be very powerful.

For example, ask, “surely (brand name) doesn’t want to be aligned with this?”

Hi @sainsburys & @LidlGB Are you aware that your brand was advertised on C4 Dispatches programme ‘The truth about Traveller crime’ which labelled an entire ethnic minority as criminals? How does this fit w/ your brand values?

@StopFundingHate

Hi @audibleuk. Are you happy for your brand to be seen on a website notorious for transphobic hate and platforming posts calling a trans YP author a “paedophile”? As a parent of a trans child & Audible subscriber, I ask you to reconsider where you place your Ads#StopFundingHate
**4 CONTACT THEM VIA SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL OR POST**

Email, post or social media are all great ways to get in touch with companies.

Twitter is an ideal space because responses are public, other supporters can join in and SFH supporters can help to amplify your tweets. Ask friends, family and members or organisations you’re part of to share your tweets or contact the company directly.

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**TIPS TO USING TWITTER TO #STOPFUNDINGHATE**

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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>If you’re not on Twitter, consider setting up a Twitter account, even if all you ever use Twitter for is to tweet advertisers.</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Download the app to your phone, so that you can be ready to move quickly.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Write a short, polite message to the company. If you feel comfortable, make it personal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Tag @stopfundinghate so we get notified and can retweet it.</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Use the hashtag #stopfundinghate for extra exposure.</td>
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<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Retweet the tweets from other supporters or campaigners. We know from the community groups we engage with just how motivating this solidarity and support is!</td>
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FRAMING THE DEBATE

A successful campaign will have clear messages that aim to get campaigners, social media users and companies on board. The words and metaphors that we use to communicate a message can have a profound effect on the way that message is received.

Tips for successful framing:

- Have some simple, short messages. For example, “hate in the media leads to hate crime on the streets”.

- ‘Be the change’: communicate in a way that isn’t hateful and focus on the positives.

- Tap into widely-held positive beliefs and values, such as kindness, empathy and love, which are shared across the political spectrum. For example, “every life is precious.”

- Avoid getting bogged down in arguments that reinforce unhelpful narratives.

- Find ‘angles’ that are difficult to disagree with. Remember that the language that inspires a committed progressive campaigner may not always resonate so well with people who are less politically-engaged.

- Emphasise the positive change you are seeking. For example, “we are creating a better media.”

"WHEN YOU NEGATE THE FRAME, YOU REINFORCE THE FRAME"

When you focus on challenging negative stereotypes, you draw attention to them.

The same applies to attacks on your campaign. Rather than trying to rebut negative commentary, try to block and ignore it as much as possible, focusing instead on the real message your campaign is sharing.

Anat Shenker-Osorio
@anatosaurus
3:58 AM Jan 24, 2019

Replying to @glaad

When you negate a frame, you evoke and reinforce it. Say what you believe, not what you oppose.

Trans people are courageous
Trans people are worthy
Trans people are our family
Trans people are our neighbors
Trans people are our colleagues
KEEPING CHECKING WHETHER THE COMPANY HAS RESPONDED

If the company gets back to you, share the message. If they pull advertising say thank you. It’s great to get brands on side! If they say they are looking into the issue, ask them to follow up with you once a decision has been made.

SHARE!

Let us know too, on Facebook, Twitter or by emailing info@stopfundinghate.info
DEALING WITH ONLINE TROLLS

Sometimes just sending a tweet or sharing an online post can be enough to prompt abuse. However, this becomes more likely if your post is shared or the advertiser responds.

Look out for overtly racist/far right accounts and/or accounts that are new, have few followers or look fake, e.g. “@Nigel4327970”.

Here are some steps for dealing with trolls:

Don’t feed the trolls. We would never recommend engaging with trolls in any way. Engaging can amplify their message, even if they say they want debate.

Block or report them. If trolls become abusive, resorting to hate speech or threats, push back by blocking, reporting, and in extreme cases (e.g. death threats) reporting to the police.

Be aware that trolls may search out information about you from the public domain. If a) your home address or other contact details are available anywhere or b) there’s information in the public domain linking you back to your employer then be mindful that they may seize on this. If there is sensitive personal information about you already online then it’s important to be mindful of the additional risks this creates. You may choose to not engage with advertisers publicly but email or write a letter instead.

Self-care is vital: take breaks and filter tweets from people you don’t follow.

Check out fixtheglitch.org for self-care tips

THE ICEBERG EFFECT

For every advertiser who’s made a public statement, there are likely to be many more who have quietly stopped funding hate.
Ethical Consumer is an independent, not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder co-operative with open membership, based in Manchester. We provide all the tools and resources you need to make choices at the checkout simple, informed and effective.

Stop Funding Hate is making hate unprofitable by persuading advertisers to pull their support from publications that spread hate and division.

Supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation