

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2025

Maryana Iskander
Chief Executive Officer
Wikimedia Foundation
1 Montgomery Street Suite 1600
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Iskander:

We write to express our deep concern regarding antisemitism, anti-Israel bias, and the potential abuse of Wikipedia by coordinated actors. Wikipedia plays an important role not only for the hundreds of millions of regular users who access it directly, but also as a key source for search engines and Large Language Models (LLMs) which incorporate Wikipedia's content into their answers.

A [recent report](#) by the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) identified a group of approximately 30 Wikipedia editors who have significantly undermined the platform's credibility, making more than 1.5 million edits over the past decade to gradually and systematically distort neutral narratives on articles related to Israel, pushing an antisemitic, pro-Hamas, anti-Zionist, and anti-Israel agenda. While Wikipedia mandates that all content be written from a "neutral point of view (NPOV)," these edits go far beyond presenting differing perspectives. Instead, they suggest a deliberate effort to inject antisemitic bias and propaganda, raising concerns that some of these editors may be pro-Hamas or even acting on behalf of foreign state actors.

One particularly egregious example of this manipulation involves distorting history with an aim to hide certain groups' and figures' support for terrorism and violence. Editors have deliberately removed evidence of public figures' support of political violence and overt antisemitism, as well as erasing references across multiple articles that document terrorist violence. This is especially evident on Wikipedia's entry for Hamas, where significant edits have downplayed and de-emphasized the organization's terror activities.

The ADL report concludes that these edits are not the result of the organic changes that occur on Wikipedia as editors update pages to reflect evolving understandings of complex issues. Instead, they appear to be part of a long-running, coordinated scheme that involved serious infractions to Wikipedia's anti-bias policies, including violations such as canvassing and likely off-platform coordination and communication.

ADL is not alone in recognizing bias on the platform. Last month, Wikipedia's English-language Arbitration Committee—a volunteer body of 15 senior editors elected by fellow Wikipedians—acknowledged the issue by banning [eight editors](#) from changing articles related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Five of the eight editors were also identified in ADL's list of 30 bad faith editors. While it is a welcome first step, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure Wikipedia remains free of bias, antisemitism, and pro-terrorist content. With that in mind, please answer the following questions by May 30, 2025:

1. **Preventing Foreign Interference:** Has the Wikimedia Foundation investigated if prolific Wikipedia editors and administrators are covertly acting on behalf of adversaries of the United States, including Iran, Hamas, and other antagonistic foreign entities?
 1. What safeguards are in place to prevent coordinated editing campaigns by foreign actors, and how does Wikipedia detect and mitigate disinformation sponsored by state and nonstate actors?

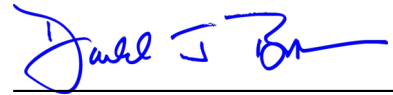
2. In what cases does Wikipedia verify the identities and affiliations of editors, including those making frequent or high-impact edits on politically sensitive topics, to ensure that foreign adversaries are not abusing the platform to spread misinformation or propaganda?
2. **Editor Oversight:** What steps are being taken to ensure sufficient oversight of editors and administrators to prevent biased or coordinated manipulation of content?
3. **Addressing Antisemitic and Anti-Israel Bias:** What specific measures does Wikipedia have in place to prevent and address antisemitic, anti-Zionist, and anti-Israel bias among its editors? How does it ensure that factual, well-sourced information is not overridden by ideologically- motivated edits?
4. **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:** Understanding that all edits are public but not easily retrievable or understood, can Wikipedia provide us data on content disputes, edit reversions, and administrator actions related to antisemitic, anti-Zionist, or anti-Israel bias?
 1. What steps are being taken to increase transparency and accountability in addressing these issues?
 2. Is Wikipedia or the Wikimedia Foundation considering using additional AI or data-related tools to better enforce its policies?

We greatly appreciate your swift attention to this matter and look forward to reviewing your thorough response.

Sincerely,



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



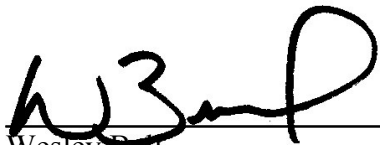
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



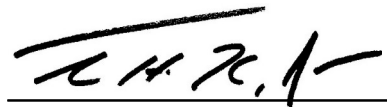
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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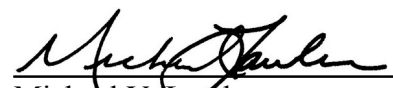
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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
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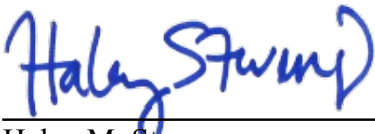
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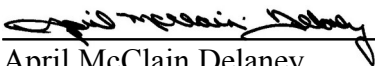
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