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COMMUNITY SUBSTANDARDS

**CAPTURING THE EMPTY PROMISES OF
BIG TECH'S SAFETY AGAINST ONLINE
ROMANCE SCAMS**

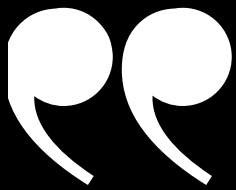
ADVOCATING AGAINST ROMANCE SCAMMERS

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THE NEED FOR RESEARCH

How does one prove that platforms are accessories to crimes? Federal Law, Section CDA 230 gives platforms the “get out of jail free” card for all 3rd party posts, including online criminal activity. In 2018, the CDA 230 was amended for the first time since 1996 by the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (FOSTA-SESTA). Since then, there have been significant talks of amending the fundamental law. This report will aim to show a small fraction of the criminal activity online focusing on online romance scamming. All research was conducted by Advocating Against Romance Scammers (AARS) to shed light on the reachable for all, once hidden, dark web.



number 2 in total losses of \$600,249,821 were the Confidence Fraud/Romance scams.

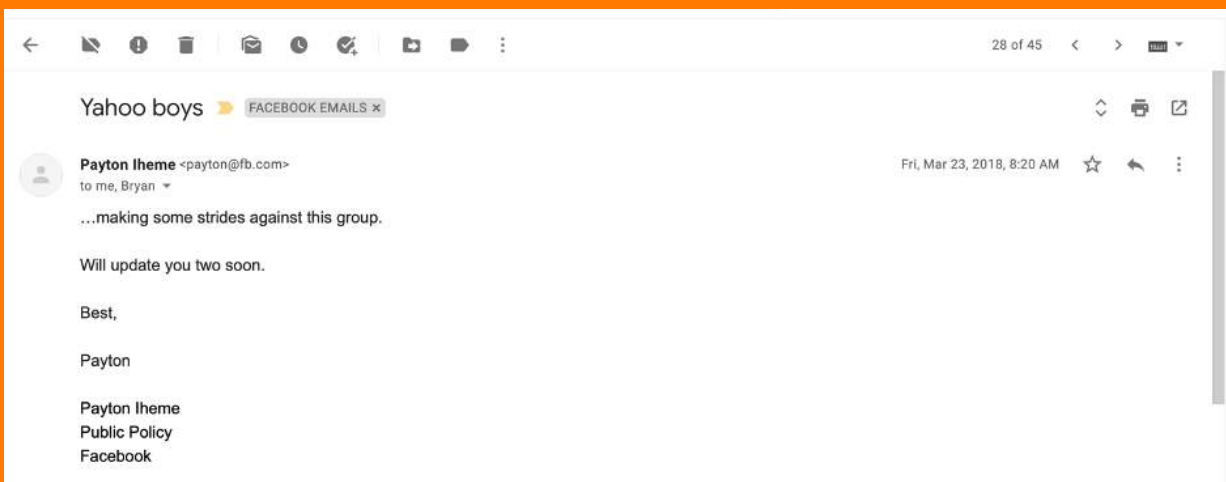
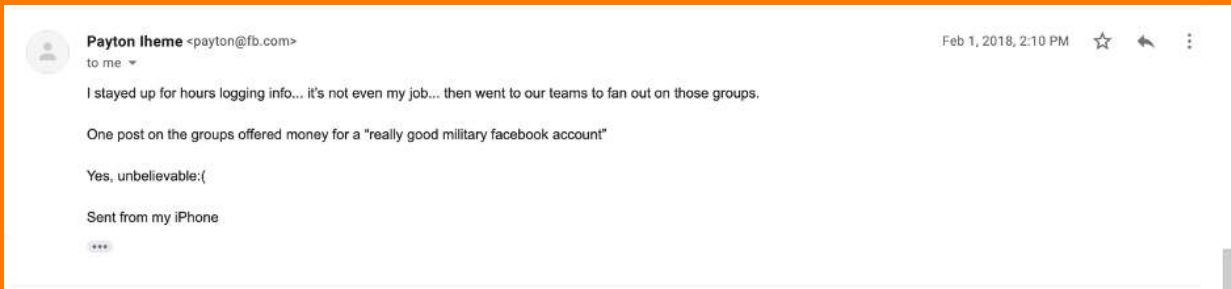
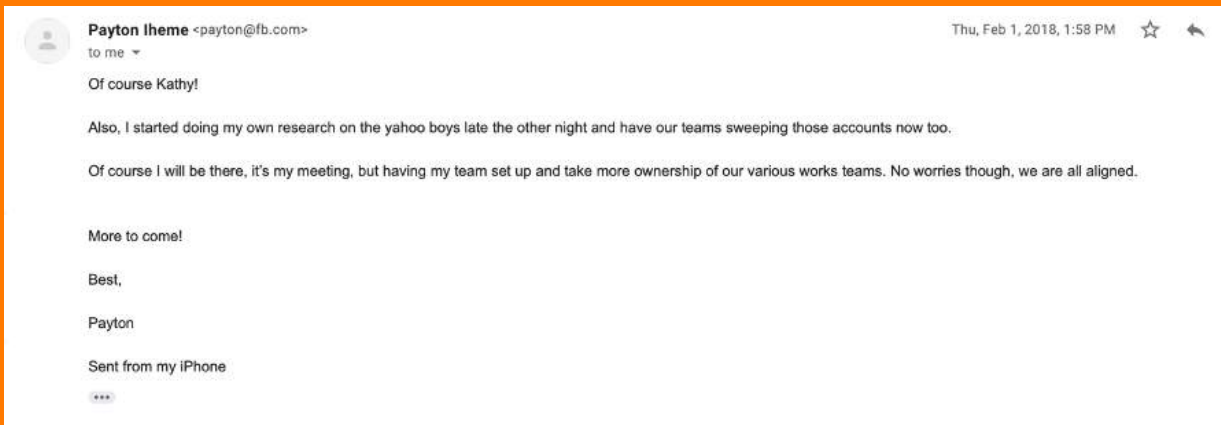


There are several scams conducted upon our social media platforms every day however, there is one that stands out from the rest. According to the Internet Crimes Complaint Center (IC3), coming in at number eight with 23,751 reported complaints and number two in total losses of \$600,249,821 was the Confidence Fraud/Romance scams(#1 being business scams). Not only are these numbers based within the United States alone, but after speaking with the Chief of Financial Fraud for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2019, they firmly believe that only a third of all victim’s report romance scams.

As mentioned previously, the IC3 reported numbers may be significantly lower than those actually victimized. Why is this? Psychological, emotional and financial abuse is the recipe to a romance scam; thus, making this crime one of the cruelest scams on the internet today. Romance scams are not a simple “ask, and you shall receive”. This scam is far more intricate. Ran primarily by organized crime groups, the deception is in the name “organized.” The cons details are seamlessly delivered. The construction of their scripts, formation of fake websites to support the scripts, photographs pilfered from innocent men and women’s social media profiles to enhance the scammer’s tall tales, even to using victims to launder money from other victims. Consistent with the IC3’s numbers, their deception has been a success. So why, year after year, are online romance scams allowed to flourish? The crimes conducted occur in the “homes” of platforms, those protected by the CDA 230 from responsibility of third-party posts. In the “real world”, those who are aware of money laundering, financial abuse, and identity theft under their roof, are considered accessories to the crimes, an arrestable offense. Significantly few platform patrons realize the criminal activity “housed,” within the platforms, and even fewer identify platforms as “accessories” to online romance scams.

For seventeen years, Facebook’s recognized leadership for the latest technology, interactive social options, and the most up-to-date world news has brought them to the media forefront. In the last five years, however, Facebook has endured scrutiny over the safety and security across their platforms.

For the previous four years, AARS has worked with a team at Facebook consisting of a Policy Advisor, Public Policy and Communications, Chief of Law Enforcement, Trust and Safety Facebook Legal/Security Representative, Leader of Global Influencer Team, Media Support Coordinator, Community Partnership- Civic Leadership Representative, and Politics and Government Outreach Representative. The team has met with AARS on several occasions on the topic of bad actors and fraudulent accounts. On January 29, 2018, an email was sent to the team regarding the organized crime gang “Yahoo Boys” and their crimes upon Facebook. That same day, the email was acknowledged by the Public Policy and Communications Representative with a brief statement of having to “look into” the information. There was also an acknowledgment from the Policy Advisor stating, “Have our teams sweeping those accounts now too.” She also went on to recognize, “One post on the groups offered money for [really good military Facebook account]”. Following with a final follow up on March 23, 2018, by the same Policy Advisor stating, “Making some strides against this group.” (See the emails below)



After stating, "will update you two soon," additional information from Facebook never transpired. AARS did included findings of the Yahoo Boy groups in later reports to Facebook, with no further acknowledgement about the Yahoo Boys, from the team. Refer to the AARS website for additional reports at advocatingforu.com/platform-reports.

RESEARCH



TABLE 1

YAHOO BOY'S SCAMMING LANGUAGE	
SLANG TERM	DEFINITION
Client	Person being scammed
Picker	Person used to move money (money launderer), help open bank accounts
Script or Format	Story prewritten to attract postential scam victims
Carding	Buying a stolen credit card, and using it to buy products online
Bombing	Seek and message scammed victims in mass quantity
"Lock a Client"	Keeping a scammed victim believing in the scam and loyal to the scammer
White Heads	Caucasian scammed victims
Loader	Person who makes deposits and verifies account balances

On May 2, 2021, AARS began researching twenty-four Facebook accounts led by Yahoo Boys' organized crime group. Of these twenty-four, eleven were private groups (needing to be a member to see all posts), twelve were public groups (can be seen by anyone utilizing the Facebook Application), and one was a public page.

The research conducted focused on what type of business/crime was committed upon the group/page, how many followers each group possessed, and if the accounts would be removed or found to be within Facebook's "Community Standards."

To conduct proper research and be unquestionably admitted into many private groups, one must portray themselves with similarities to the Yahoo Boy's, such as proximity, age, ethnicity, likes, etc. To perform this action, AARS took the initiative to build a fake account. (<https://www.facebook.com/ariyo.musa.73/>) The subject's name was Ariyo Musa from Accra, Ghana (a recognized area for scammers of the romance scam "profession").

Communication was not performed with other members in the accounts researched; however, a list of their lingo was collected to understand the transactions between members better. The list in Table 1 is an example of repeated slang used upon the twenty-four sites researched. You may find some of these words within screenshots later in this report.

MEMBERS/SUBSCRIBERS/VIEWERS

FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MEMBERS

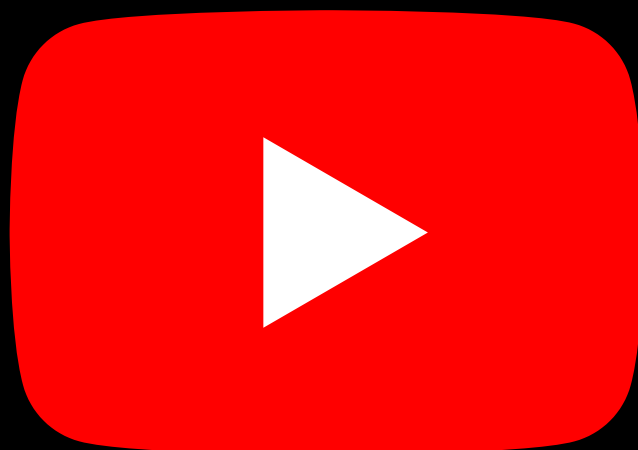
Once AARS created a fake account, the next step entailed the admission process of the private and public Yahoo Boy groups. Private group acceptance comes from the page administrators. Before admission, the Yahoo Boy Groups provided questions, such as “Are you willing to share our page” and “Do you plan on scamming the members in this group”; whereas the public groups required zero obstacles to join. All groups approached for admission, accepted “Ariyo Musa’s” (AARS’S) request. Upon acceptance, AARS recorded the date joined and how many members the group currently possessed. They also documented the numbers to show an increase or decrease in members and the public interest of the groups themselves. (See Table 2)

TABLE 2

FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS FROM INITIAL JOIN TO REPORTING			
NAME OF GROUP OR PAGE	WHEN JOINED	WHEN REPORTED	DIFFERENCE
Legit_Yahoo_Hustle_Updates	5/2/2021- 1312	6/27/2021- 1385	56 days up 73
Trust gee ? ?	5/2/21- 16.8K	6/27/2021- 27k	56 days up. 10.2k
YAHOO KING	5/2/21- 31.9K	6/27/2021- 57.6k	56 days up 25.7k
Yahoyy Billing formats. *NAME CHANGE TO Funny gengs	5/2/21- 22.2K	6/27/2021- 29.5k	56 days up 7.3k
yahoo boyz	5/2/2021- 11.6K	6/27/2021- 11.8k	56 days up 200
Yahoo boys	5/2/2021- 525	6/27/2021- 4.9k	56 days up. 4.3k
Yahoo boys	5/2/2021 22	6/27/2021- 157	56 days up. 135
Cash Out Boiz	5/2/2021- 6.7K	6/27/2021- 33.2k	56 days up 26.5k
Yahoo cashout boyz.	5/2/2021 1.4K	6/27/2021- 2.5k	56 days up. 1.1k
Yahoo update \$ \$ cashout \$ \$	5/2/2021- 17.6K	6/27/2021- 30.5k	56 days up 12.9k
Legit Yahoo's update drops	5/2/2021 2.4K	6/27/2021- 30.6k	56 days up 28.2k
yahoo plus.	5/2/2021- 5.3K	6/27/2021 9.7k	56 days up 4.4k
[YBNA] Yahoo Boy No Android - *NAME CHANGE TO NYBAL Yahoo Boy Apple Laptop	5/2/2021- 852	6/27/2021- 3k	56 days up 2.1k
Yahoo boys *Name Change Fb fame	5/5/21 12.7K	6/27/2021- 17.3k	53 days up. 4.6k
Yahoo group.	5/5/2021- 19.8K	6/27/2021- 66.7k	53 days up 46.9k
Young Yahoo Boys Nigeria.	5/5/2021- 3.7K	6/27/2021- 28.5k	53 days up. 24.8k
Yahoo Boys Association of Nigeria (YBAN)	5/5/202-1 15.6K	6/27/2021- 19.5k	53 days up. 3.9k
Gee Boys update	5/7/2021 5.9K	6/27/2021- 6.8k	52 days up. 900
Yahoo boyZ update	5/9/2021- 4.9k	6/27/2021- 5.9k	50 days up. 1k
yAhOO UpDaTE	5/9/2021- 17.5k	6/27/2021- 20.7k	50 days up 3.2k
Yahoo Lord steady cashout	6/26/2021- 2.9k	6/27/2021- 3.0k	1 day up. 100
V.I.P_Yahoo Update [GEE NEVER LACK]	6/26/2021- 3.9k	6/27/2021- 4.1k	1 day up. 200
Yahoo boys online update	6/26/2021- 37.7k	6/27/2021- 38k	1 day up. 300
Yahoo update and format	6/26/2021 3.7k	6/27/2021- 3.8k	1 day up. 100

The overall findings showed an increase of members in each account documented, with one, having a significant hike from 19.8k to 66.7k, a 46.9k member increase in a matter of fifty-three days. Exhibiting the Yahoo Boy’s accounts are well known and undoubtedly active.

MEMBERS/SUBSCRIBERS/VIEWERS



YOUTUBE ACCOUNT MEMBERS

Short informational videos are viral among today's online consumers. Similar to message boards like Facebook, YouTube's videos are considered to be posted upon a "Billboard". The well versed romance scammers can service their future scamming colleagues along with promoting their crime-based businesses upon the "billboard". To comprehend the popularity of the videos, on June 28, 2021, AARS took twelve published YouTube videos that contained material such as how to scam, how to make fake videos, and how to hack social media accounts, followed by monitoring the number of viewers and subscribers. Video views ranged from 1,212 to 162,505, whereas subscribers were as low as 140 to 16,400. After a thirty-day marinating period from initial documentation, all numbers increased. On July 28, 2021, video views ranged from 1,662 to 173,191, and subscribers ranged from 142 to 23,400. The numbers did not prove minimal observation but rather a demanding interest. (See Table 3 below under YouTube Violated Policies)

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



For over twenty years, platforms have been the hub for cyber-criminal activity, utilizing the platforms as free “office space.” Scammers take advantage of the sites to teach and carry out their “hustle.” Romance scammers use social media to teach scams, sell innocent people’s photos, personal information, fraudulent government cards and documents, and promote money laundering tactics. Online scamming is a multi-billion-dollar industry. AARS’s research was conducted amongst two of the largest social media platforms online, Facebook and YouTube. AARS targeted Facebook due to the previous research they [AARS] had completed on fraudulent accounts upon their platforms and continued awareness of the criminal activity. Due to the history of providing and allowing “How To” films, YouTube became the second focus with the investigation geared toward the possibility of YouTube housing videos that instruct how to scam individuals and or how to create fake accounts.

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

FACEBOOK RESEARCH

Facebook is the front-runner of social media platforms. To date, there are roughly 2.85 billion accounts upon their platform. A significant number of accounts are fake, duplicates, or belong to those who have since passed away. In those numbers, there are also organized crime groups that have created their business upon Facebook's platform. As mentioned in the "Account Numbers" section, in order to gather the evidence to prove criminal activity continues to exist upon the platform, a fake account was created. Upon admission to twenty-four organized crime group accounts, screen shots were taken to show the intent to cause harm (financially, emotionally, psychologically) upon their users. The avenues taken for this intent were through money laundering, teaching of deceitful acts (fake video calls, edited signs, sales of bogus government forms) selling of innocent men and women's personal information such as identification cards, personal phone numbers, photos, etc., as well as selling scripts with the commitment of scamming innocent people. Once desired screen shots were collected, all twenty-four Facebook accounts were reported. Results will be shared later in the report.

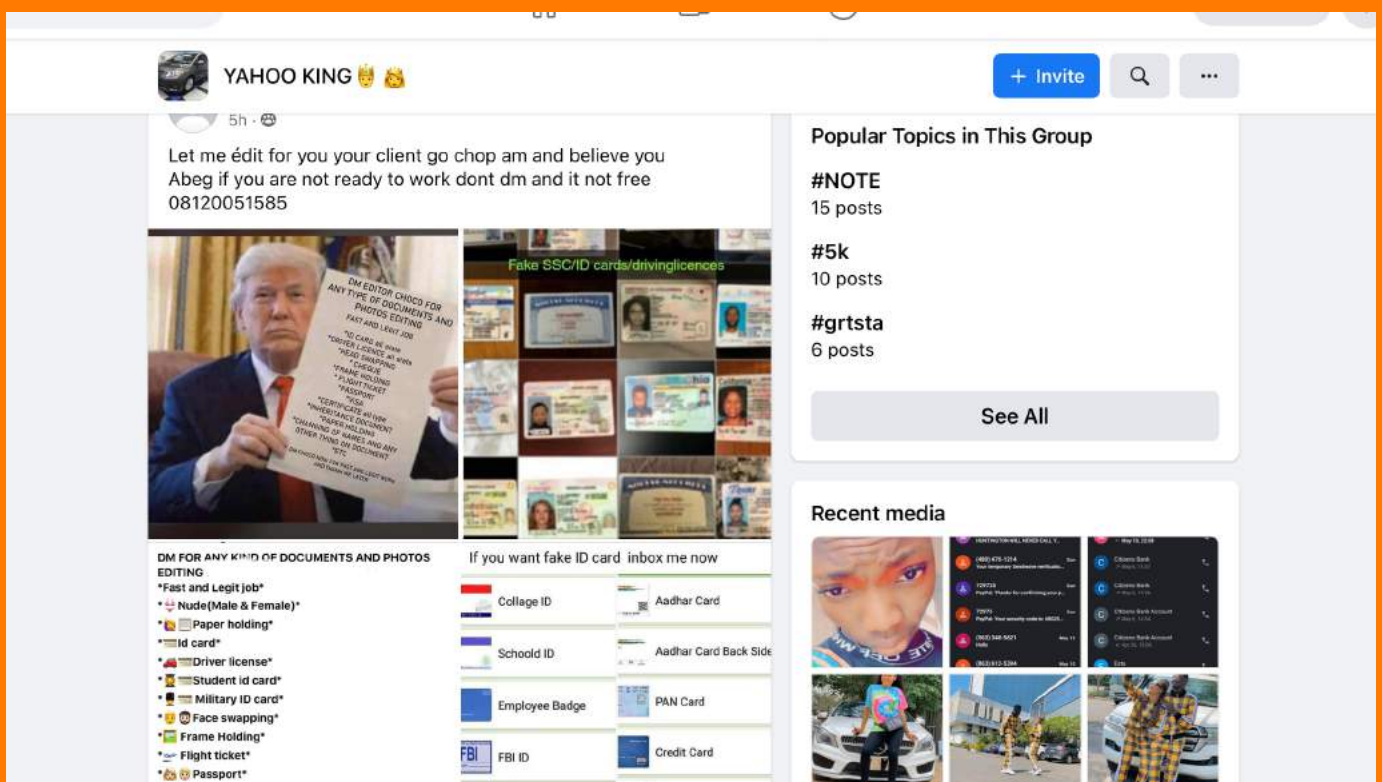
FACEBOOK'S VIOLATED COMMUNITY STANDARDS

The criteria were reviewed carefully before reporting to prove the accounts went against Facebook's "Community Standards". After verification, the concluding factor showed that twenty-four of the twenty-four accounts violated five different Facebook Community Standards. The infringing includes sections: 5. Fraud and Deception, 10. Human Exploitation, 11. Privacy Violation and Image Privacy Rights, 18. Cybersecurity, and 19. Inauthentic Behavior.

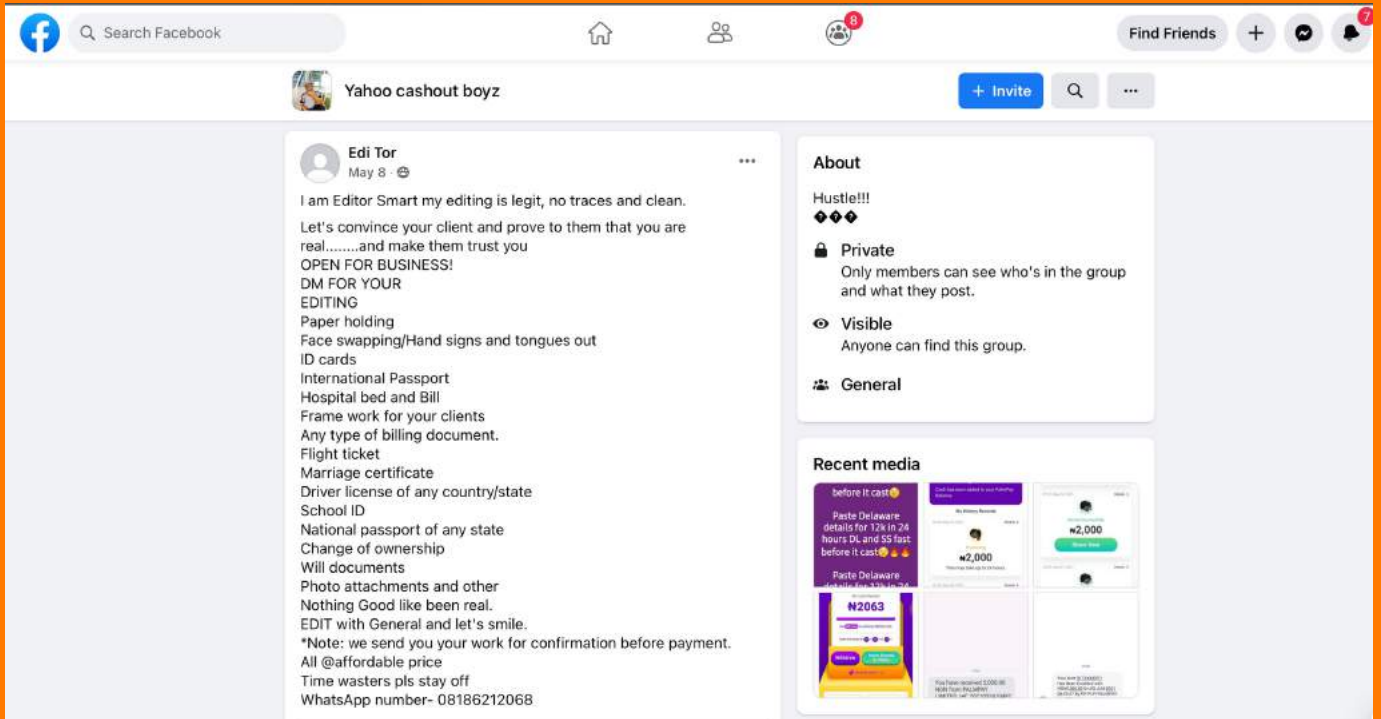
PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SECTION 5. FRAUD AND DECEPTION

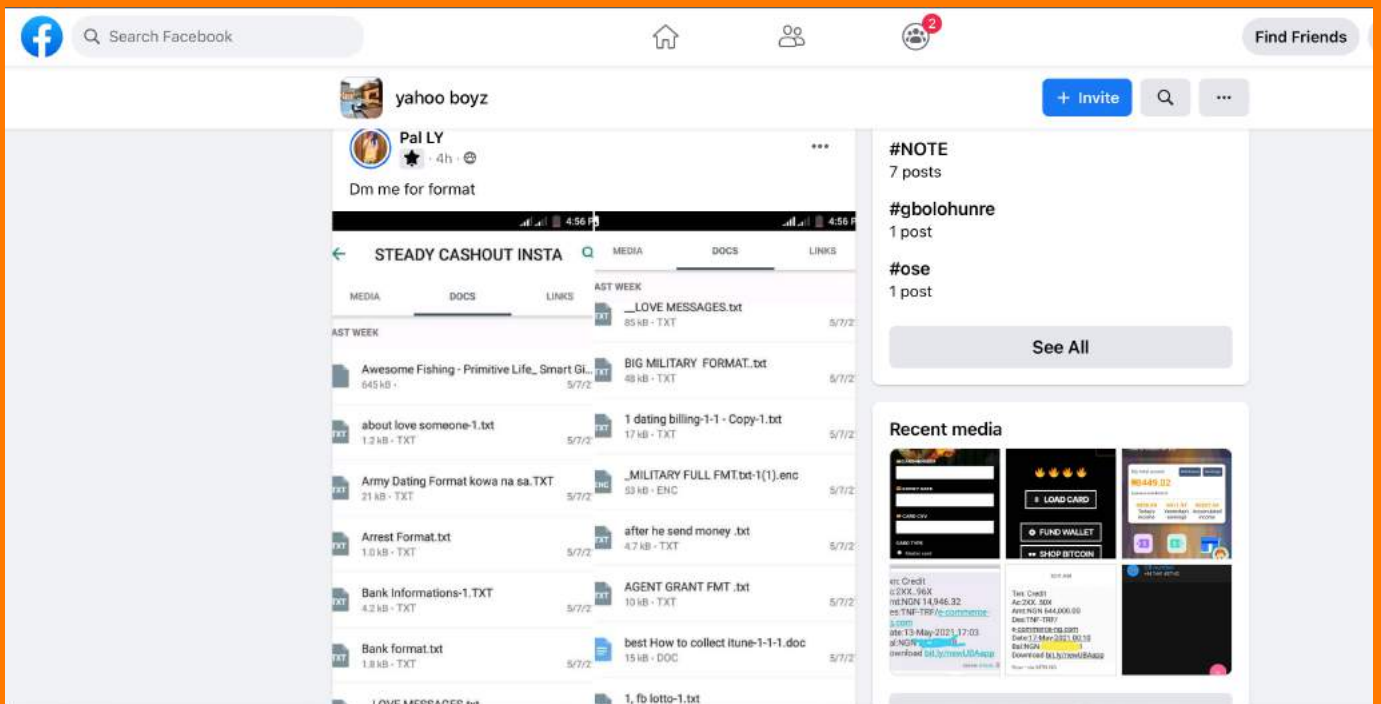
According to Facebook's Community Standards in Section 5. Under Fraud and Deception, it states, "In an effort to prevent fraudulent activity that can harm people or businesses, we remove content that purposefully deceives, willfully misrepresents or otherwise defrauds or exploits others for money or property. This includes content that seeks to coordinate or promote these activities using our services." (Facebook Community Standards, Section 5.) It also stated, "We allow people to raise awareness and educate others as well as condemn these activities." (Facebook Community Standards, Section 5) Under the "Do not post" rules in Section 5., Facebook included money/cash flips or money muling (money laundering), inauthentic identity scams, romance or impersonation scams along with several others. The photos are examples of the violations taken from the accounts reported.



PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

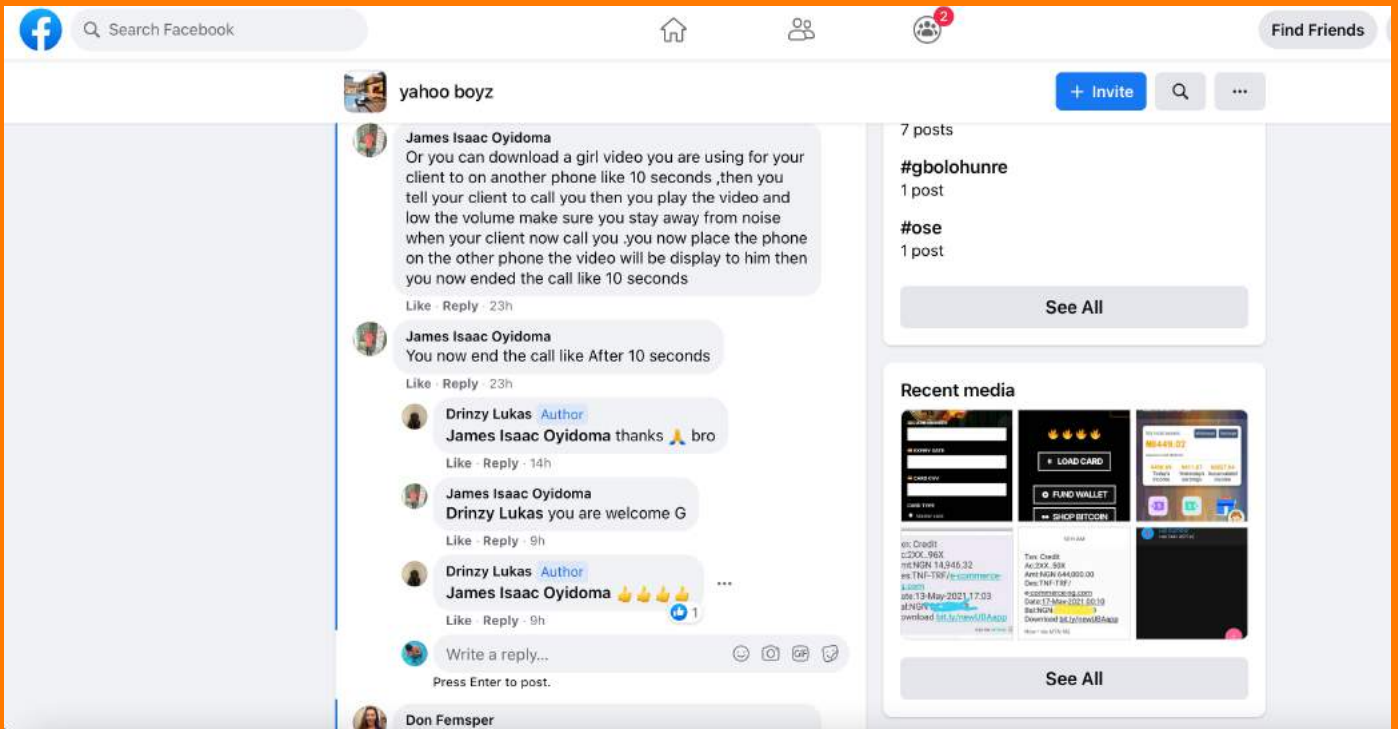


FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: Yahoo cashout
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/705812183442578>

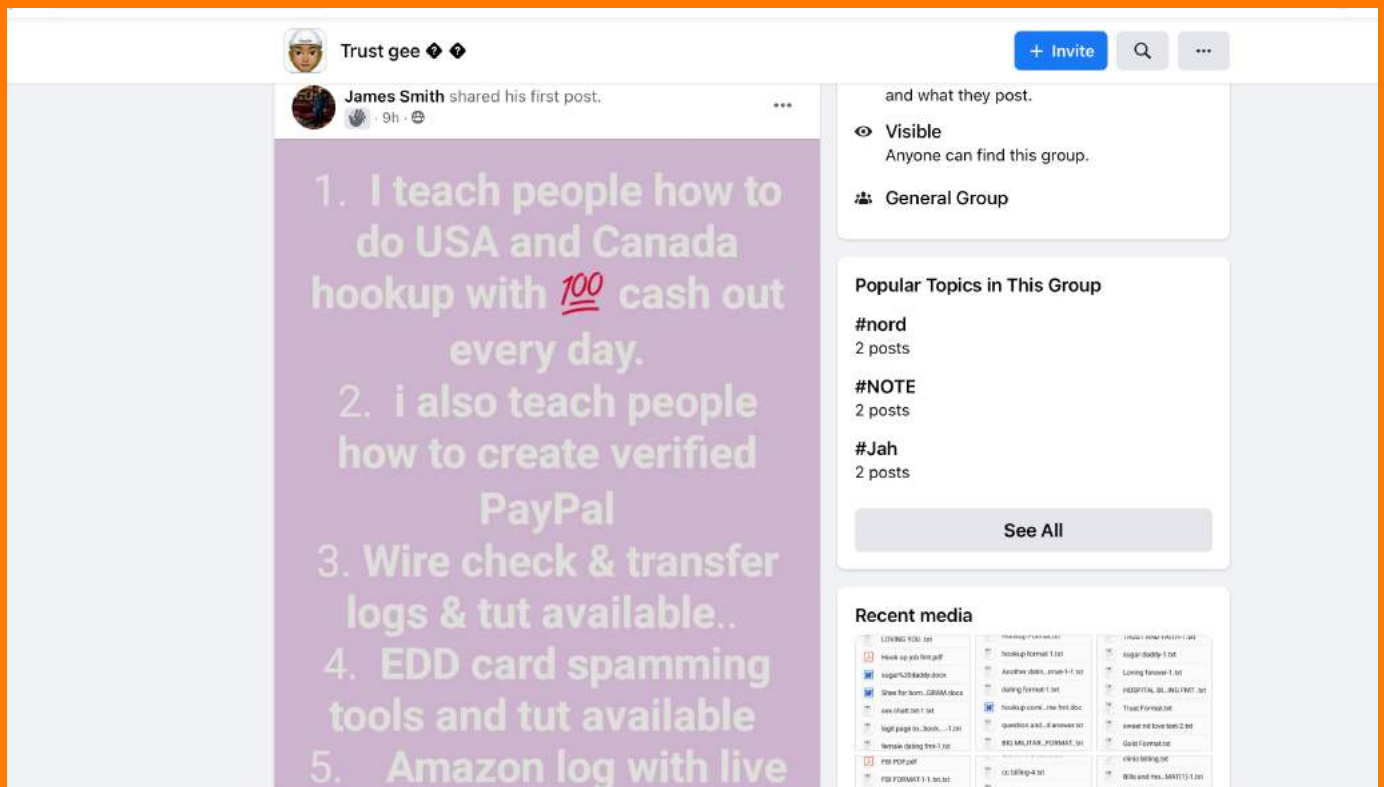


FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: yahoo boyz
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2027844890654324>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: yahoo boyz
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2027844890654324>



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: Trust gee ??
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/220840906355396>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SECTION 10. HUMAN EXPLOITATION

Per Facebooks Community Standards under Section 10. Human Exploitation states, “In an effort to disrupt and prevent harm, we remove content that facilitates or coordinates the exploitation of humans, including human trafficking.” The standards also add “It is the exploitation of humans in order to force them to engage in commercial sex, labor or other activities against their will. It relies on deception, force and coercion, and degrades humans by depriving them of their freedom while economically or materially benefiting others.” (Facebook Community Standards, Section 10.)

The wording takes a broad approach to the exploitation of human beings. The examples are photos of people who have been scammed, and those whose pictures were stolen and sold upon the Facebook platform to aid in romance scams (AKA identity theft victims). Scammers not only post photos of victims being marketed as “sure clients” for other scammers to con but also of those they sell to lure potential clients/victims. The victims are unaware that their photos, identification cards, and contact information are being sold and shared on the Facebook platform. All photographs below have been edited with a black circle or square to keep all faces and personal information anonymous. The first screenshot contains stolen photographs used to build fake accounts, one belonging to business professional Anthony Dohrmann. Mr. Dohrmann’s photos have been used repeatedly as a tool to entice victims into a romance scam. In a Public Service Announcement [A Victims tale in 2020](#), created by Mr. Dohrmann and colleagues to help bring awareness of romance scams, he stated, “My likeness, my image is being used and abused and leveraged and exploited to rob people of millions and millions of dollars.”

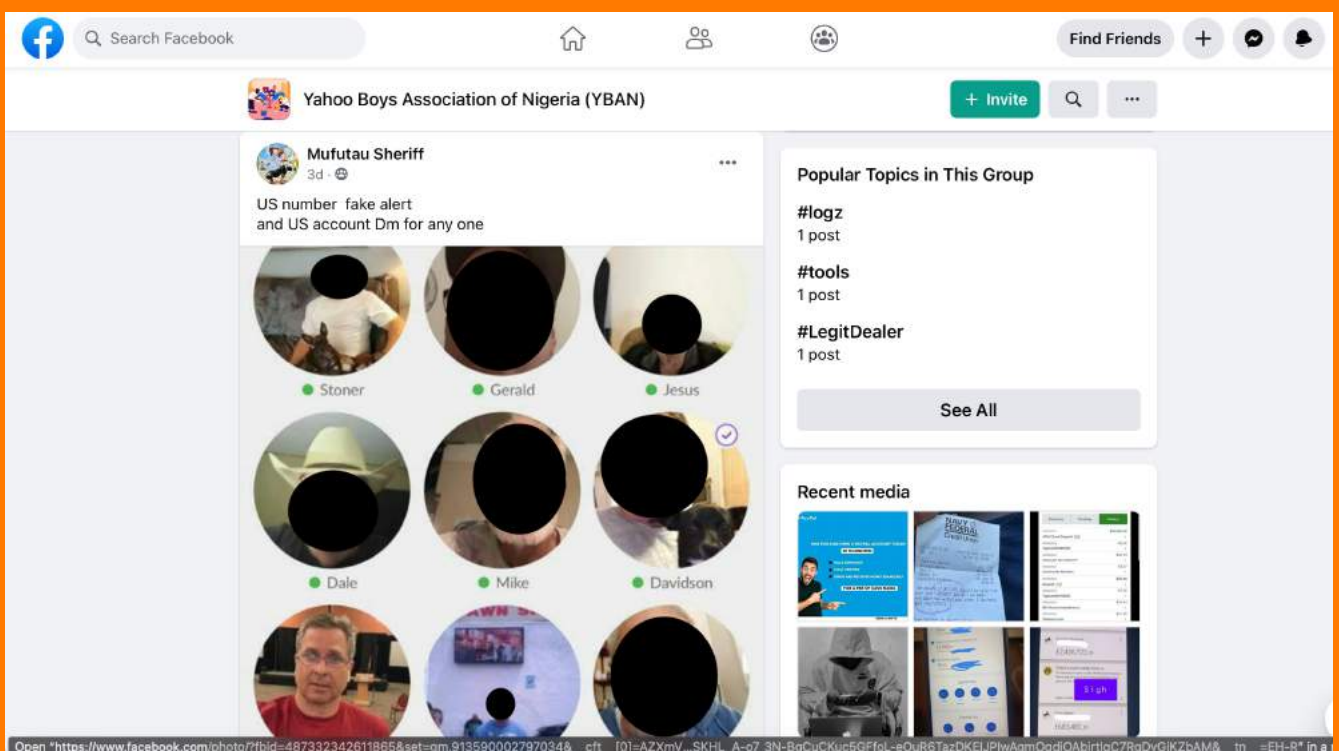
The second photo show’s a woman holding up her driver’s license next to her face. The anonymous woman’s name and address appeared clearly in the photograph. AARS made contact with the identity theft victim given the information posted by scammers. She informed AARS...

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



I needed such a photo for identification purposes around the same time as the data breach that leaked my information. I have been in contact with law enforcement, had to freeze my credit and have been in constant contact with banks and credit cards to let them know that I did not apply for things.” She also stated “I have gotten contacted by several men and I have confirmed that my identity was stolen. It’s literally been a nightmare. It’s on another public scammer page too. And some people have been using it on a dating app to scam men. I hate it. I was only using this to verify identity once, as I always use a unique photo. But my info was in a data breach and now it’s everywhere. I’ve done seemingly all I can do, but that doesn’t stop it from circulating.

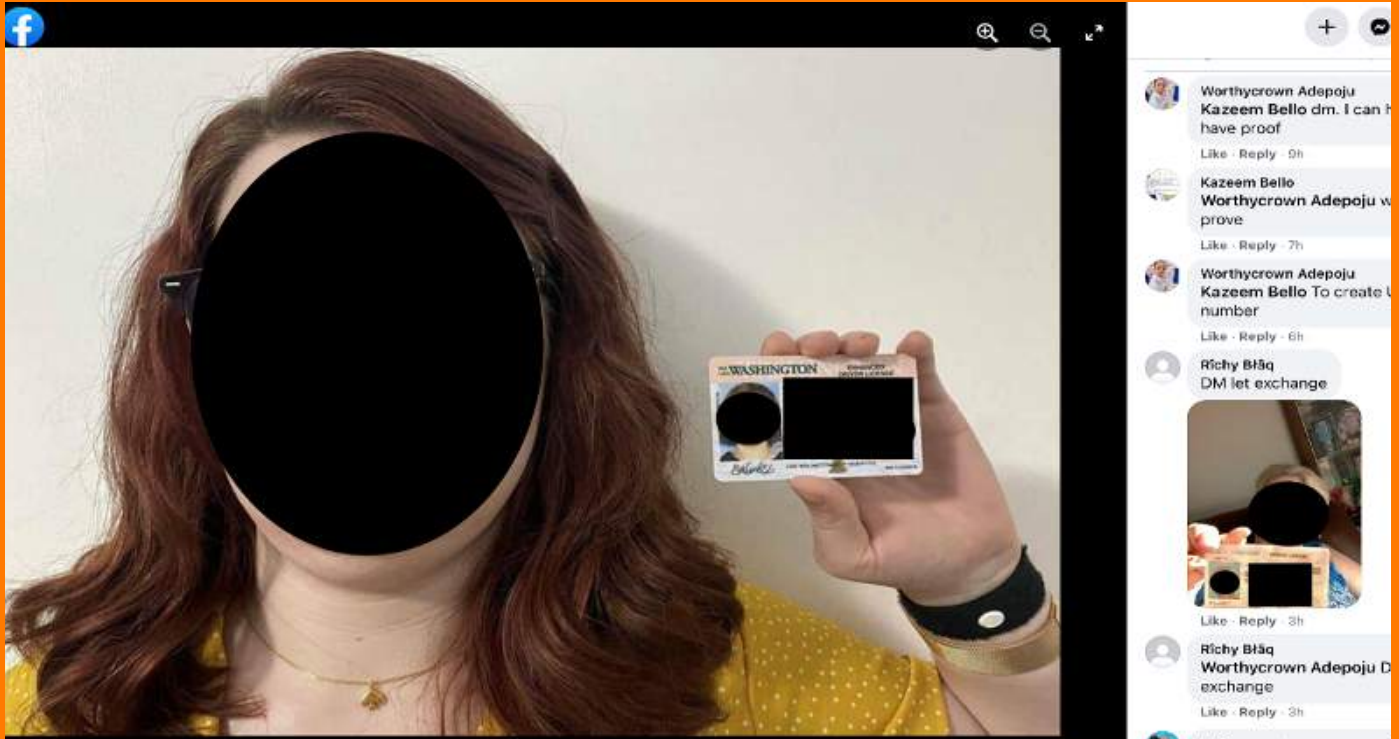
- Anonymous



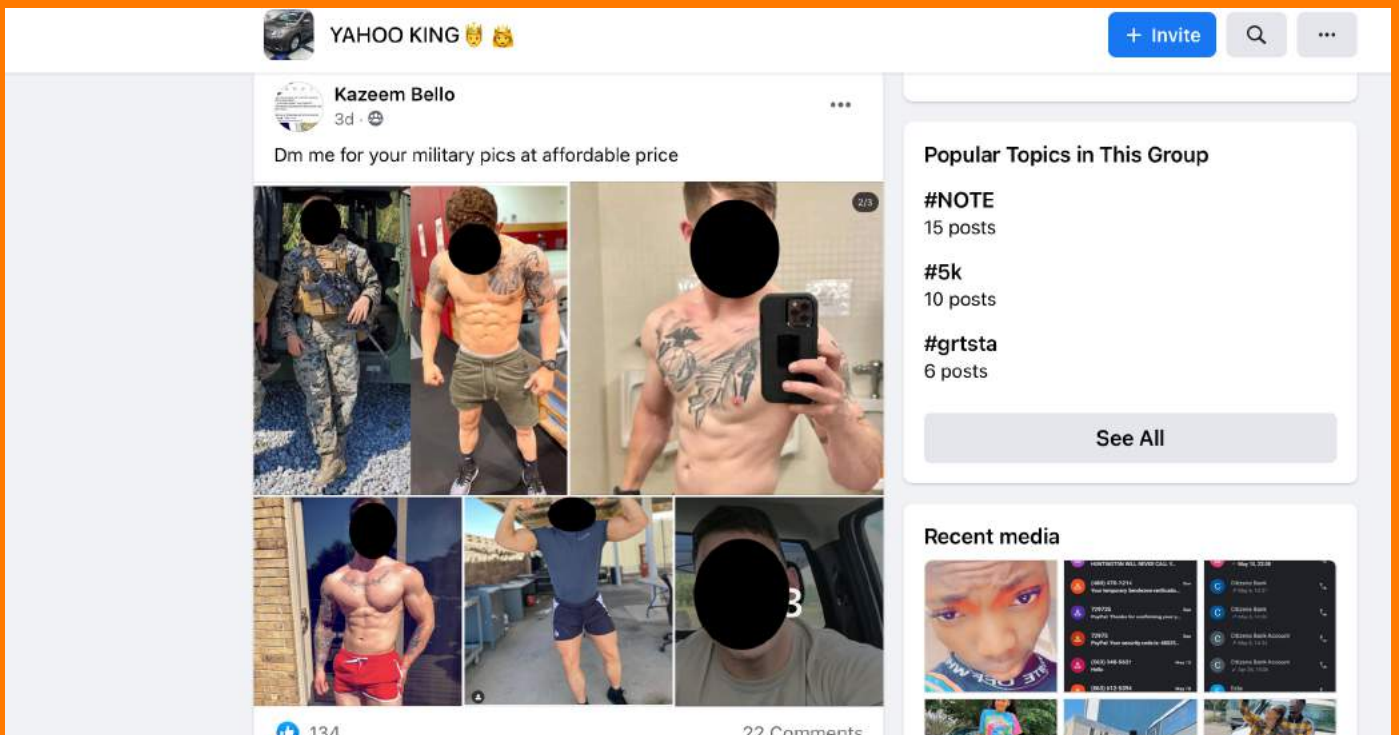
Open "https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=487332342611885&set=om.913590002797034&_ft_t=101=A2XmV...SKHL_A=7_3N-BnCuCKuc5GFof-eOuR6TazDKElJPlwAqmOadiOAbirtloC7RoDyGfKZbAM&...tn...=EH-R" in a

FACEBOOK ACCOUNT:: Yahoo Boys Association of Nigerian (YBAN)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/865122610977107/>
notif_id=1620125477882517¬if_t=group_r2j_approved&ref=notif

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

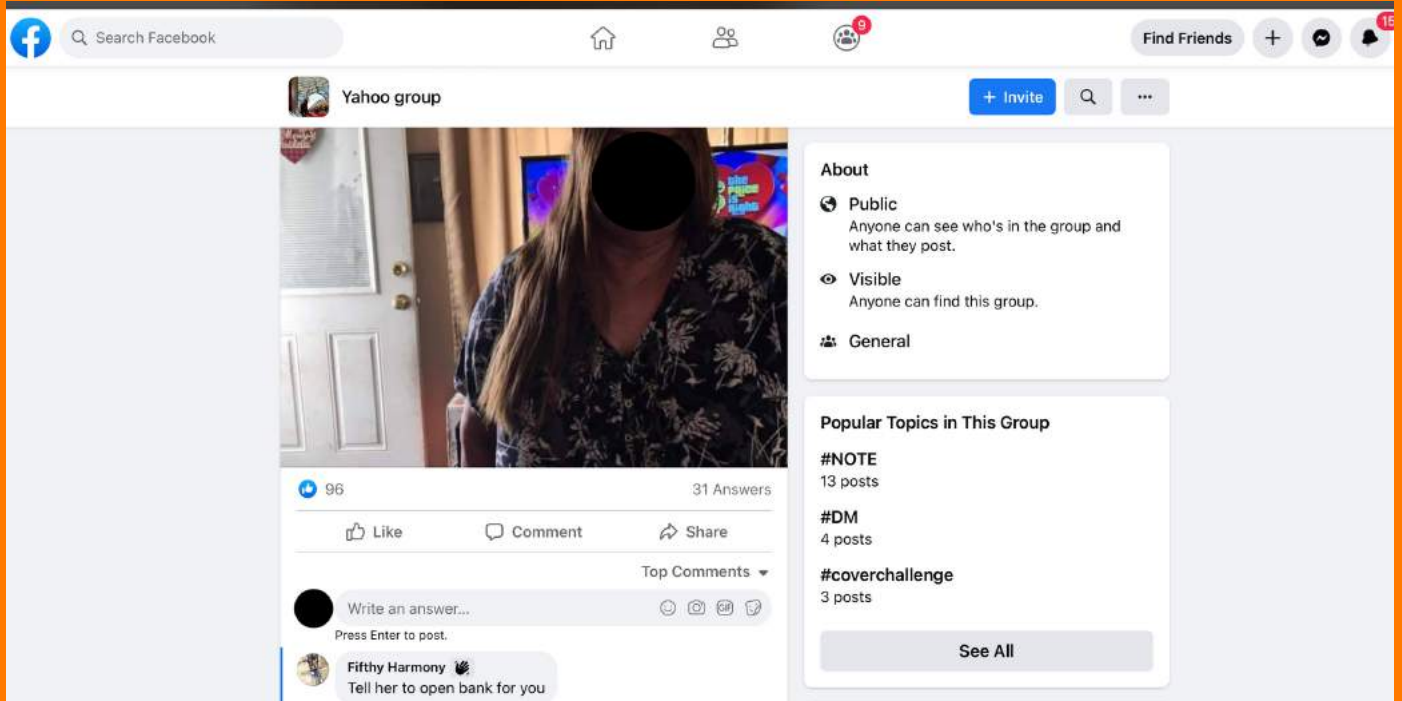


<https://www.facebook.com/groups/351553802930299/?ref=share>



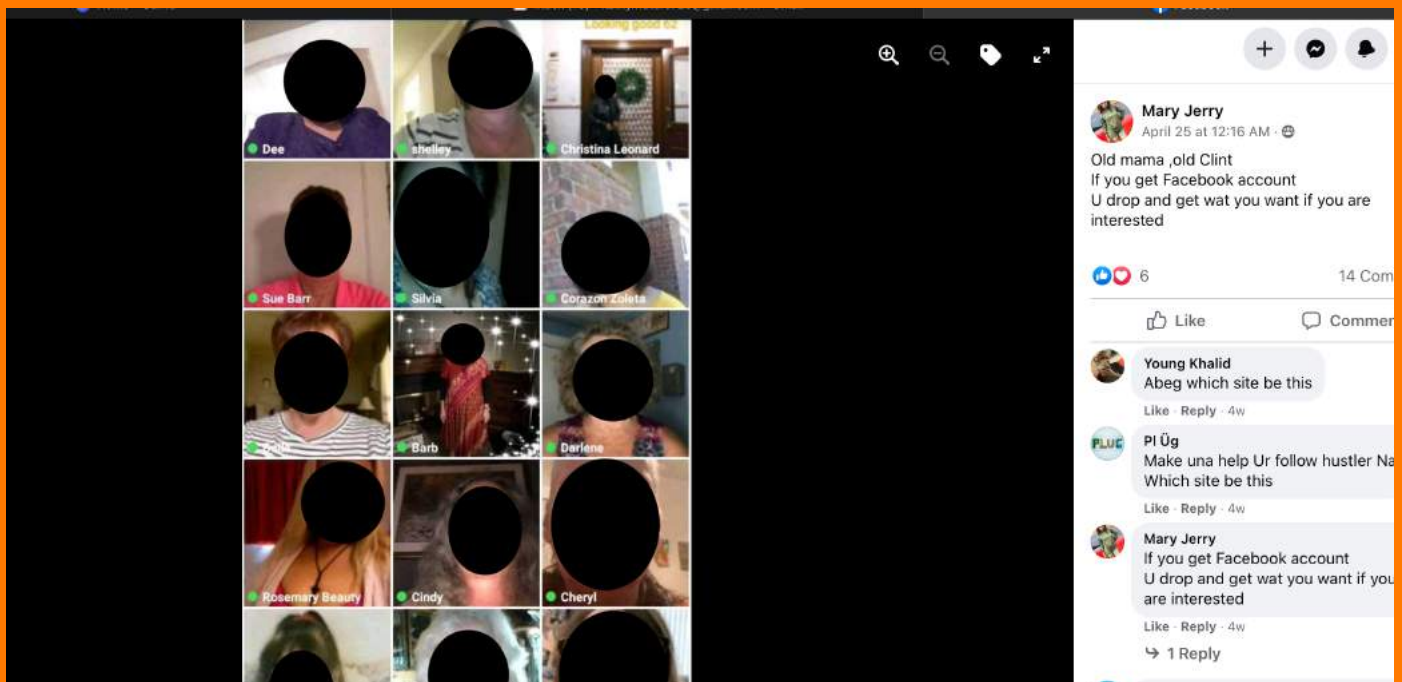
FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: YAHOO KING
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5475629912508317>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: Yahoo group

https://www.facebook.com/groups/404181360666227/?notif_id=1620239708055353¬if_t=group_r2j_approved&ref=notif



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: yahoo boyz

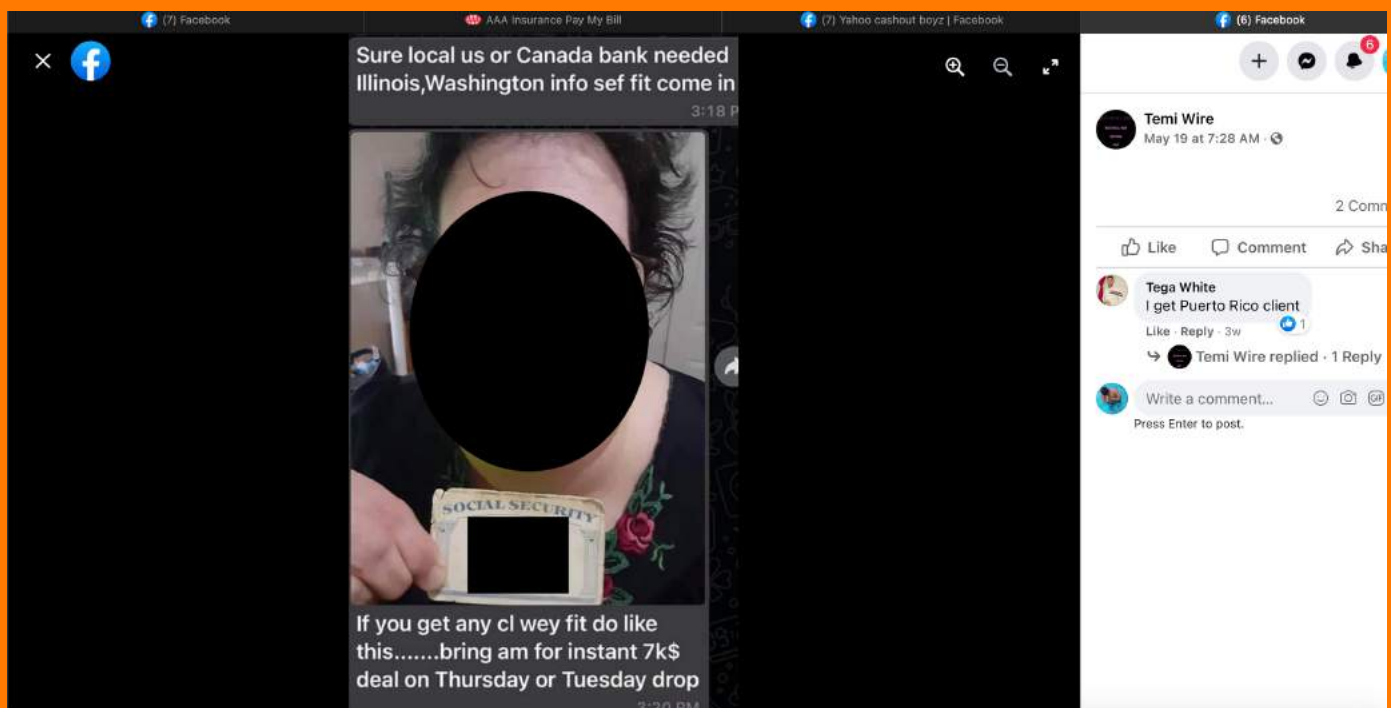
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2027844890654324>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

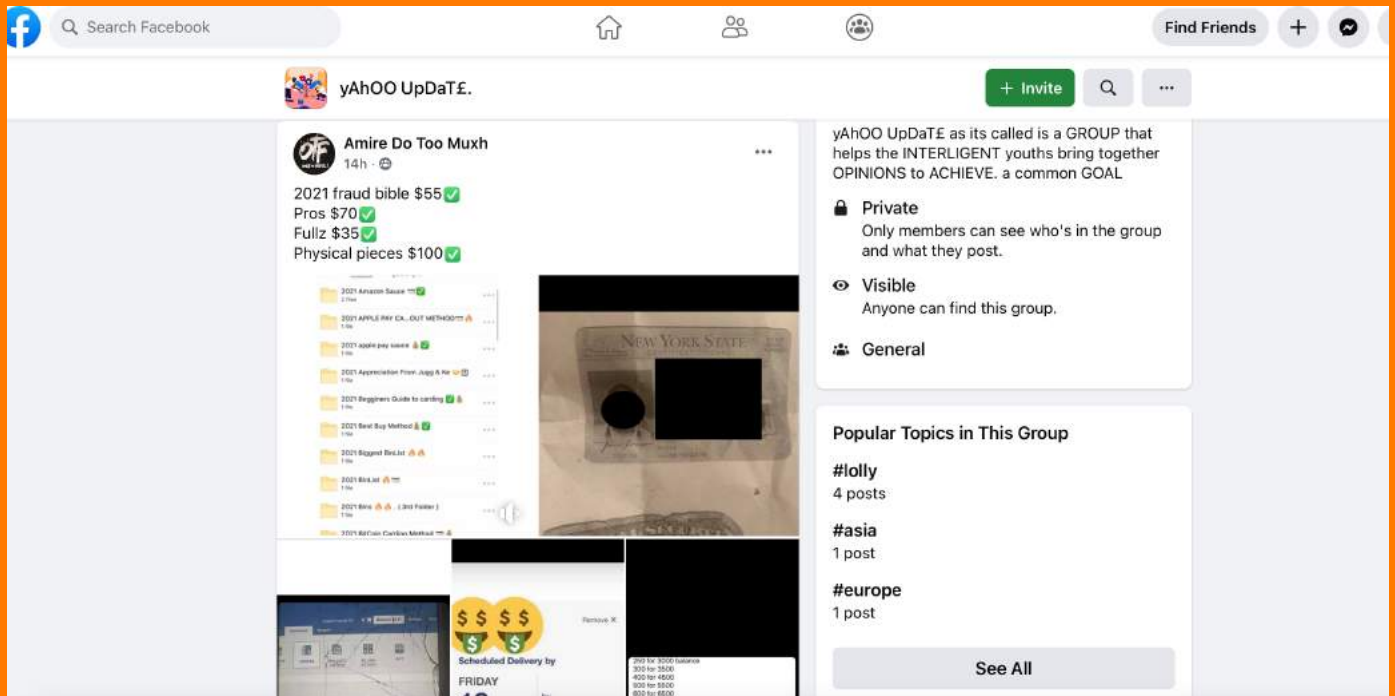
SECTION 11. PRIVACY VIOLATION AND IMAGE PRIVACY RIGHTS

The photos posted above clearly demonstrate violations of Facebook's Community Standards, Section 10 . As the Community Standards state for Section 11. Privacy Violation and Image Privacy Rights, "Privacy and protection of personal information are fundamentally important values of Facebook. We work hard to safeguard your personal identity and information, and we do not allow people to post personal or confidential information about yourself or of others. We remove content that shares, offers, or solicits personally identifiable information or other private information that could lead to physical or financial harm, including financial, residential and medical information, as well as private information obtained from illegals sources." (Facebook Community Standards, Section 11.)

Below, you will see how the Yahoo Boy gang has breached Section 11. of the Community Standards. Facebook allows the information to be publicly displayed. On behalf of victim privacy, AARS included the block-out markings, which contained victim's faces and government identification.



PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: yAhOO UpDaTE

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1059448144501640/?notif_id=1620538896795848¬if_t=group_r2j_approved&ref=notif

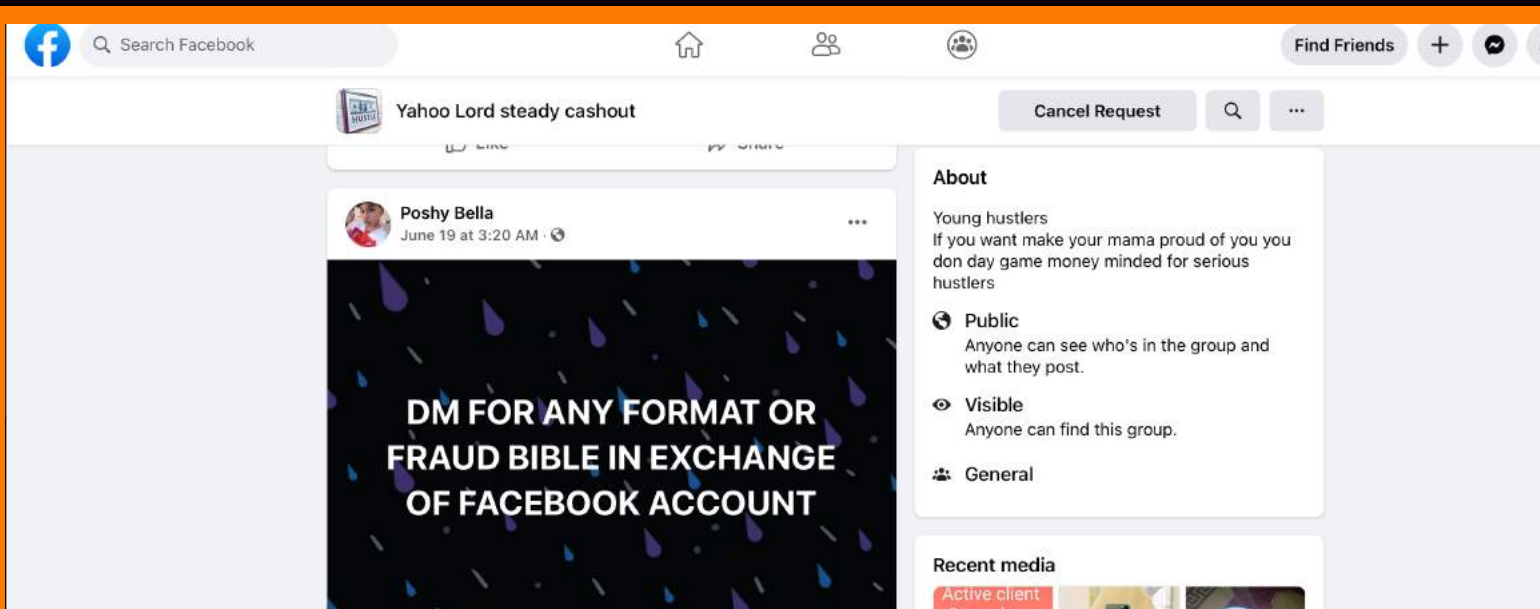
PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SECTION 18. CYBERSECURITY

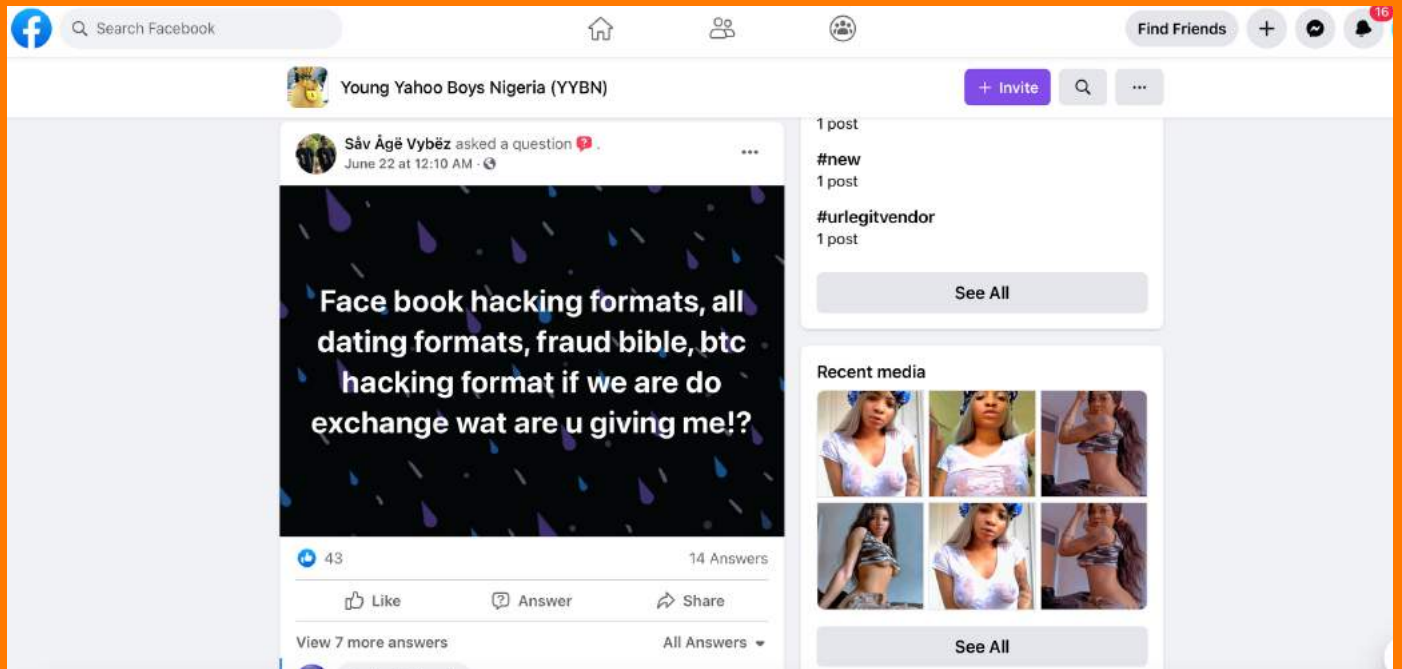
“We recognize that the safety of our users includes the security of their personal information, accounts, profiles and other Facebook entities they may manage, as well as our products and services more broadly. Attempts to gather sensitive personal information or engage in unauthorized access by deceptive or invasive methods are harmful to the authentic, open and safe atmosphere that we want to foster. Therefore, we do not allow attempts to gather sensitive user information or engage in unauthorized access through the abuse of our platform, products, or services.” (Facebook Community Standards, Section 18)

AARS found the policy rationale for section 18., Cybersecurity, again significantly broad. However, under the “Do Not” section, the verbiage encourages users not to “attempt to compromise user accounts, profiles, or other Facebook entities, abuse our products or services, gather sensitive information through deceptive means, or attempt to engage in unauthorized access.” The standard also mentions, “attempting to obtain, acquire or request another users’ s login credential or other sensitive information through deceptive means”. (Facebook Community Standards, Section 18.) The photos below are more examples how Facebook standards are violated within their platform. The Facebook platform is considered a scammer’s work queue.

Obtaining an established Facebook account through sales or hacking makes the recognition of the account being fake less evident to the Facebook reporting system, hence continuing the scammers to proceed with their “work”/scam.

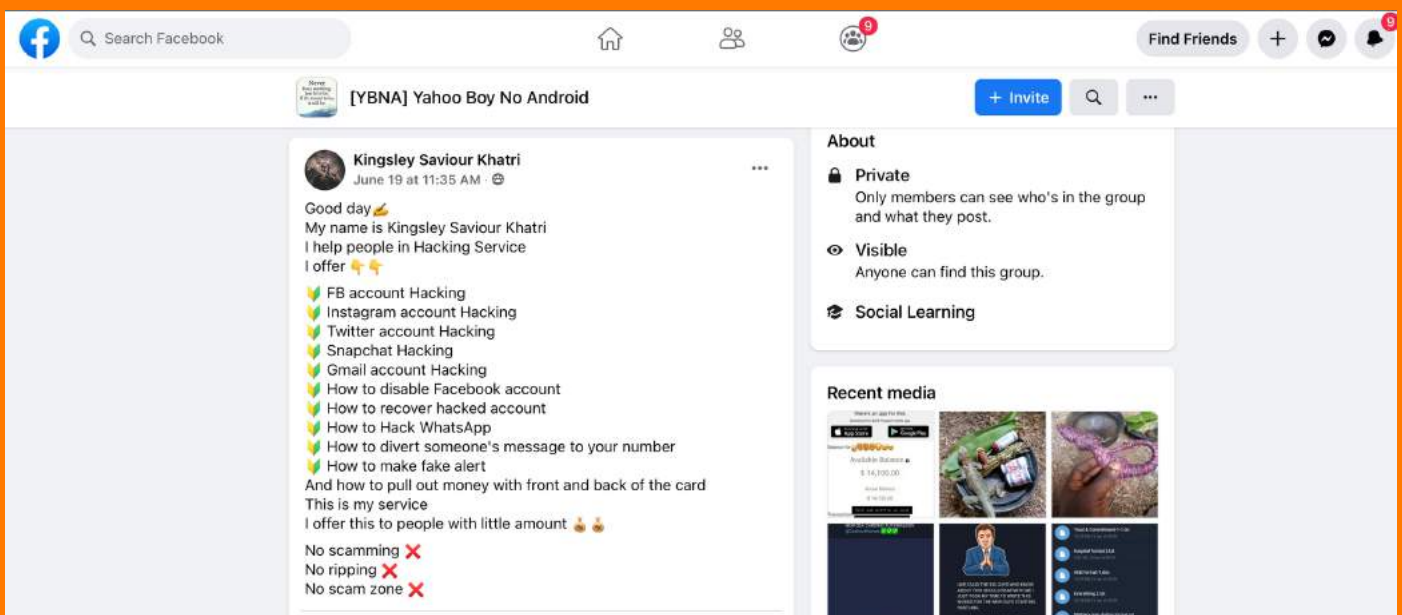


PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: Young Yahoo Boys Nigeria (YYBN)

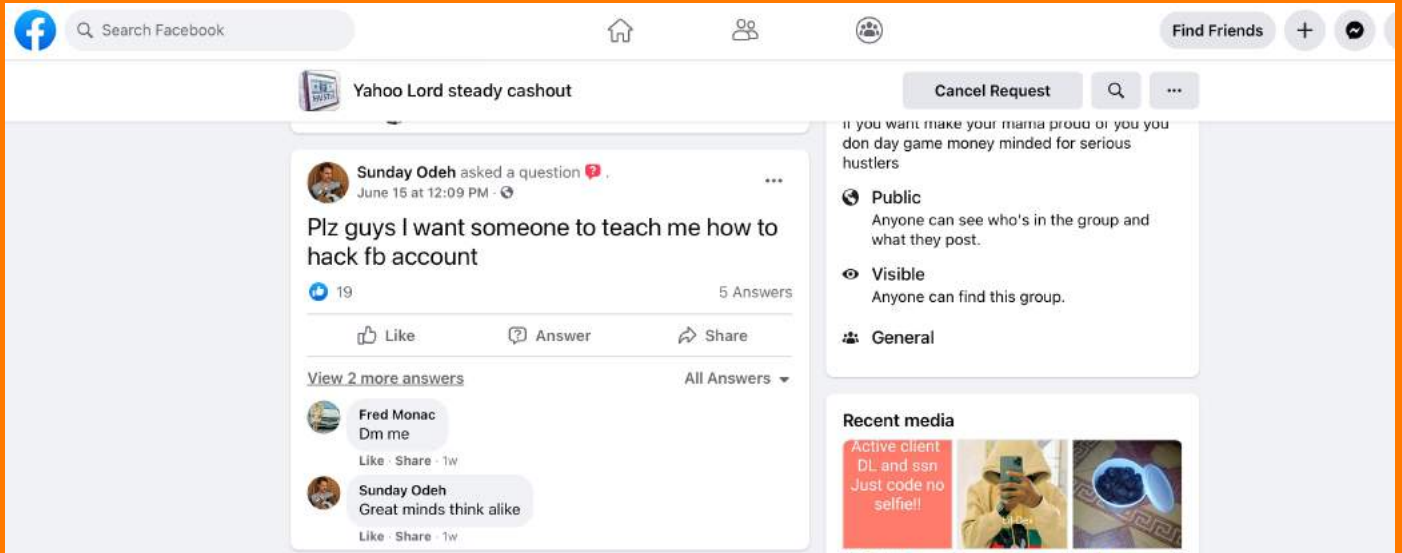
https://www.facebook.com/groups/559970994893764/?notif_id=1620100796406592¬if_t=group_r2j_approved&ref=notif



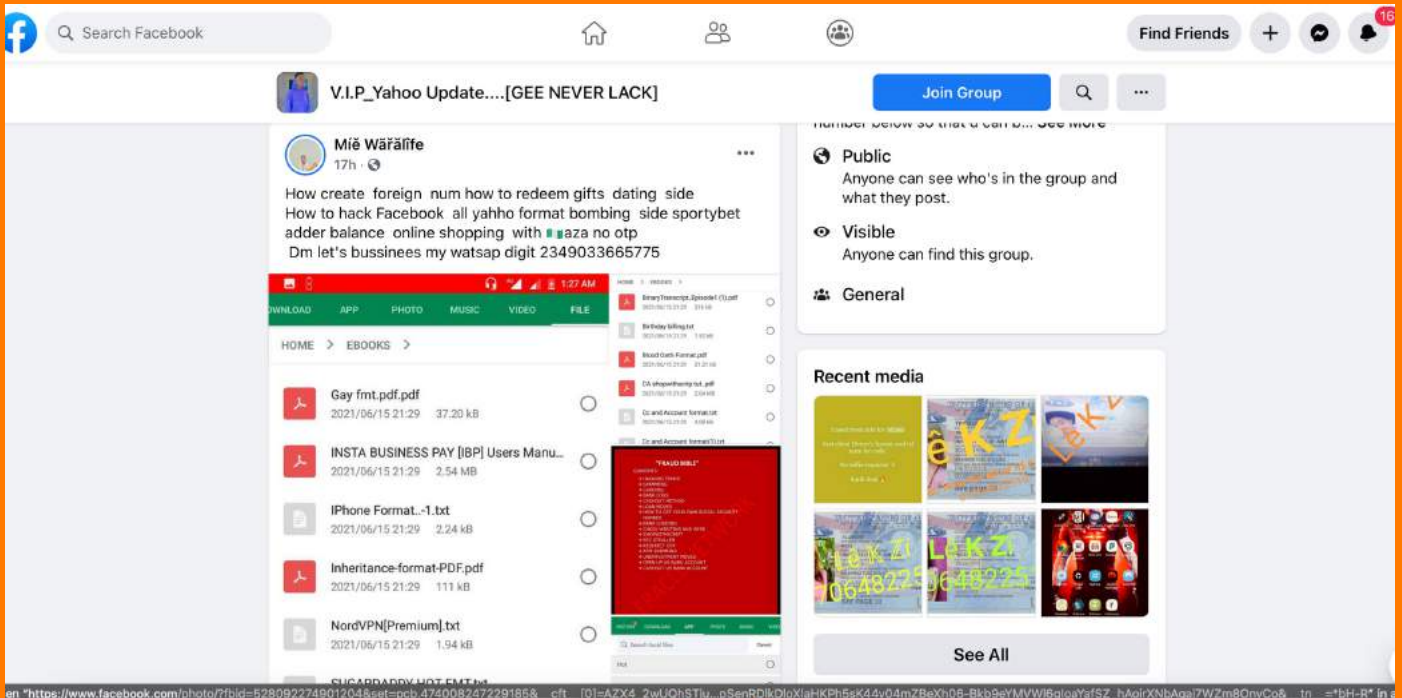
FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: [YBNA] Yahoo Boy No Android

https://www.facebook.com/groups/341232267062370/?notif_id=1620221646791241¬if_t=group_r2j_approved&ref=notif

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: Yahoo Lord steady cashout
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1341994286159493>



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT: V.I.P_Yahoo Update....[GEE NEVER LACK]
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/441155607181116>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SECTION 19. INAUTHENTIC BEHAVIOR

The final Community Standard that appeared to be violated amongst the reported groups was Section 19. Inauthentic Behavior. Inauthenticity was the focus of AARS's previous Facebook research, the initial report presented in 2018. The study revealed the inconsistency of fake reported accounts removed and their lack thereof. AARS's reports indicated that only 30% of accounts reported that were created erroneously were removed. They were leaving 70% of the fake accounts active. Per Facebook's Community Standards it states, "In line with our commitment to authenticity, we do not allow people to misrepresent themselves on Facebook, use fake accounts, artificially boost popularity of content or engage in behaviors designed to enable other violations under our Community Standards. This policy is intended to protect the security of user accounts and our services, and create a space where people can trust the people and communities they interact with." (Facebook Community Standards, Section 19.) As a guideline for members of what not to do, Facebook has provided their "Do not" list. The recommendation provided by Facebook, again, shows guilt of infringement.

"Engage in or claim to engage in inauthentic behavior which is defined as the use of Facebook or Instagram assets (account pages, Groups, or Events.) to mislead people or Facebook

-About the identity, purpose or origin of the entity that they represent." (Facebook Community Standards, Section 19)

Four examples provided to show the violations amongst Section 19. The gentlemen mentioned above, Anthony Dohrmann, the Co-Founder of AARS, Retired, Colonel. Bryan Denny, singer and entertainer Jim Newman, and author Kevin Snook, are victims of identity theft and have had their photos stolen and used thousands of times across all platforms, Facebook being a significant contributor. The following images may contain the real person's account, a fake account upon the platform, and the reporting result. Two of the men's authentic accounts have been verified through Facebook (Anthony Dohrmann and Jim Newman) and include the recognizable blue checkmark next to their name. Ms. Kathy Waters, Co-Founder of AARS, reported a total of 4 accounts, one of which was reported twice (Col. Denny). All accounts reported as a "fake account" and one also reported as "pretending to be someone I know". All four accounts reported as a "fake account" were found to be within Facebooks Community Standards approximately one hour after the initial report, along with the one reported as "pretending to be someone I know".

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



Mr. Anthony Dohrmann

Anthony Dohrmann is a known business executive and CEO of Electronic Caregiver (ECG). Mr. Dohrmann's photos have been the likes to many and used in romance scams for several years. Scammers have created thousands of accounts, resulting in hundreds of thousands of victims conned and exceeding a half a million-dollar loss. Due to Mr. Dohrmann's prestigious occupational presence, Facebook has recognized his account as "belonging to a public figure" with the issuance of the verifying blue Checkmark next to his name (see photo below). An account reported pretending to be someone whose primary account is verified by Facebook's own verification system; the process should leave no question as to whose account is authentic. Below you will find the outcome of the reported fake account (Anthony Dohrman) along with the options Facebook recommends as a conclusion to the concern. An appeal to Facebook's decision was not an option, but blocking the account or deleting Facebook's final decision, was.

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

VERIFIED ACCOUNT



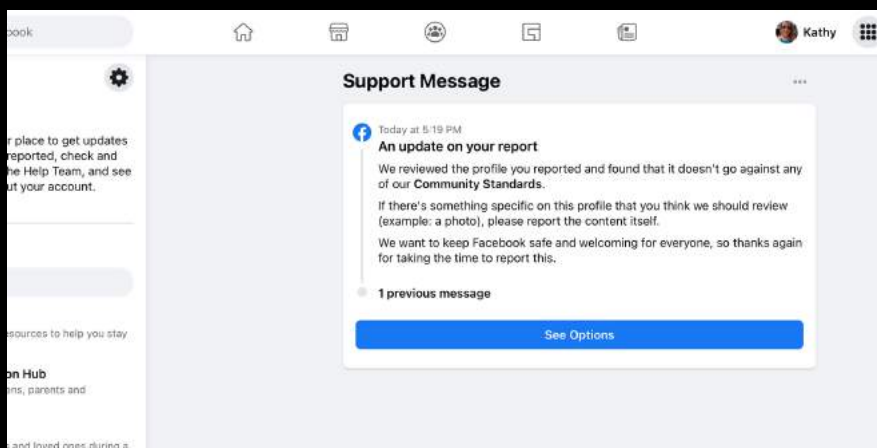
<https://www.facebook.com/ADohrmannOfficial>

FAKE ACCOUNT

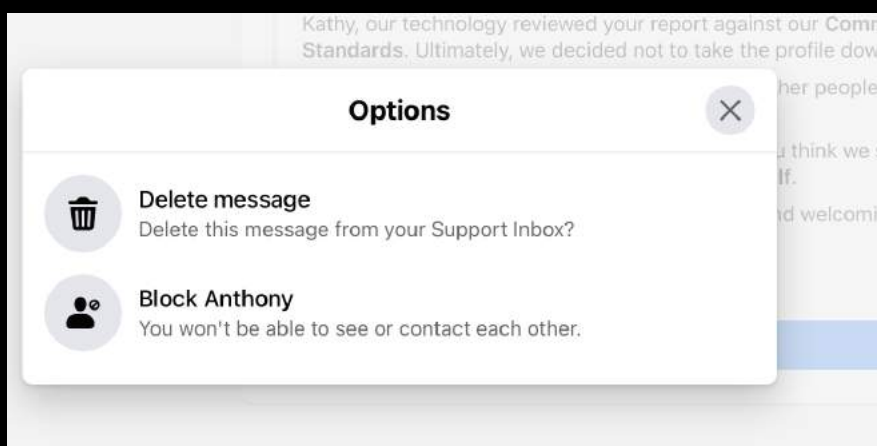


<https://www.facebook.com/muhammedoma.rashidat>

REPORTING OUTCOME



OPTIONS POST OUTCOME



PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Colonel Bryan Denny (Ret.)

Col. Bryan Denny (Ret.) is Co-Founder of AARS. He and other co-founder of AARS, Kathy Waters, have located over 3,000+ accounts created to portray Col. Denny and scam the innocent. AARS has documented over half a million in financial losses alone from scam survivors of fake Bryan Denny accounts and one noted suicide.

Fake account John Denny was found and reported as a “fake” account according to Facebook Standards. Ms. Waters also reported the fraudulent account as “pretending to be someone”, that someone being her friend. When reporting, the replicated identity theft victim must be added as which friend is being simulated. After providing this information, Facebook felt that using Col. Denny’s photo, and the last name did not portray Col. Denny and found the account within Facebook’s Community Standards. Facebook reached out to Col. Denny via email and Facebook messenger to provide their findings (see photo below).

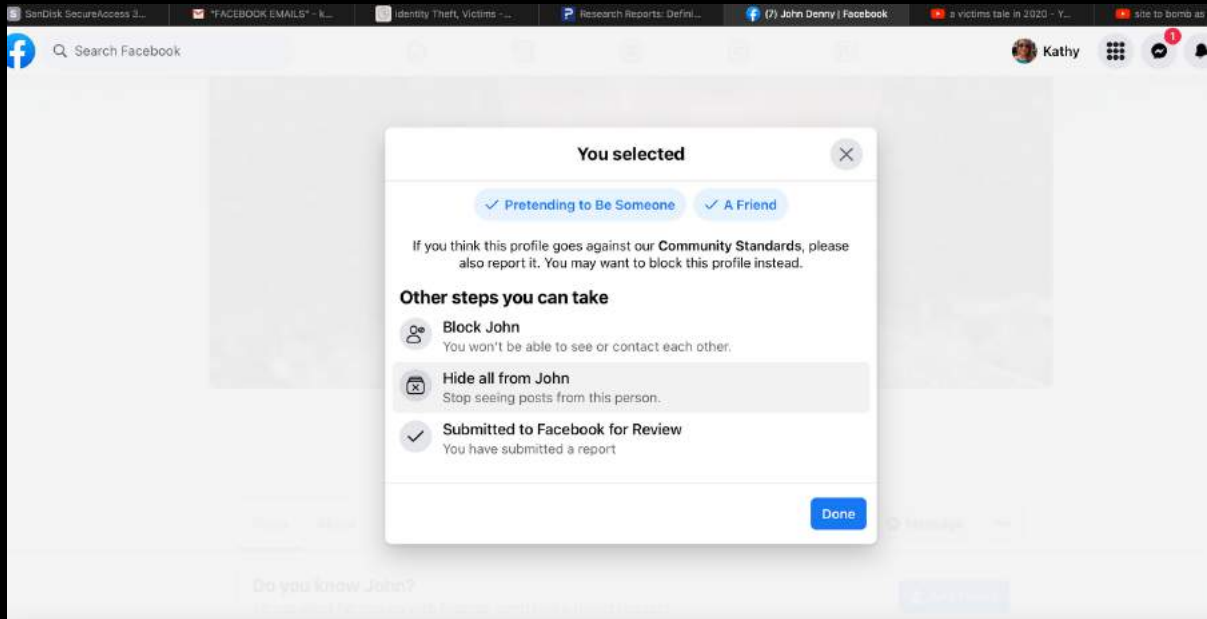
FAKE ACCOUNT



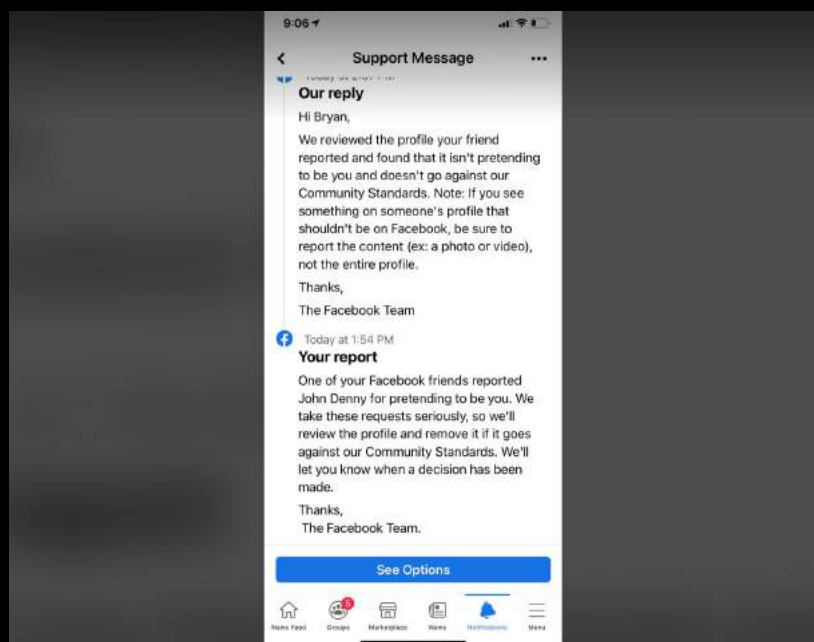
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069867645836>

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

REPORTING CONFIRMATION



REPORTING OUTCOME

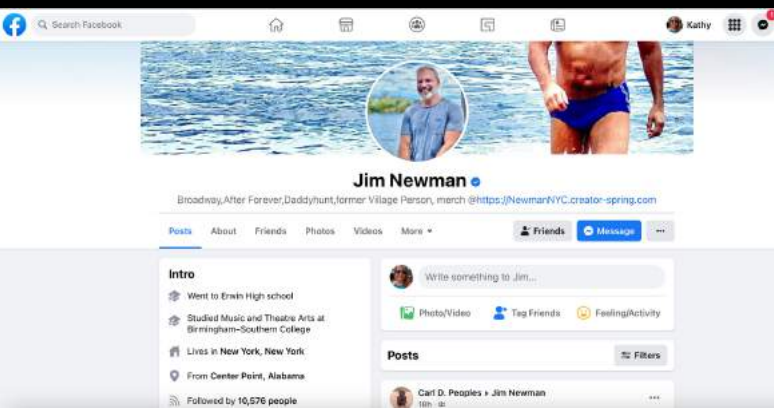


PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Jim Newman

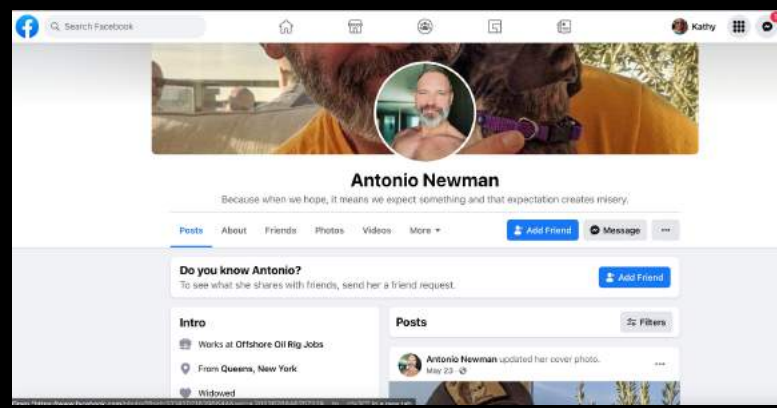
Mr. Jim Newman is not a new face to the performing world. He is best known as the cowboy in the music group The Village People and continues to remain in the eyes of entertainment. Mr. Newman's Facebook account, like Mr. Dohrmann's, is also Facebook verified. A blue checkmark can be located next to the verified account holder's name. Mr. Newman has also been a victim of identity theft, where he has seen his face used on several accounts that he, too, never created. The outcome of the report is not new to Mr. Newman, and it came as no surprise that the fake account (Antonio Newman) resulted as within Facebook's "Community Standards."

VERIFIED ACCOUNT



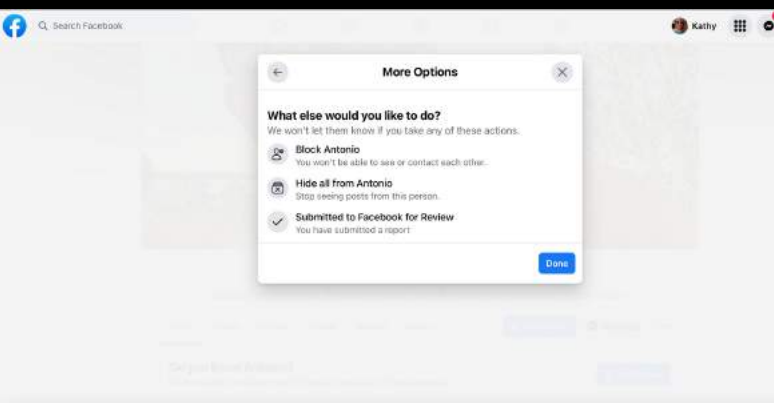
<https://www.facebook.com/newmannyc>

FAKE ACCOUNT

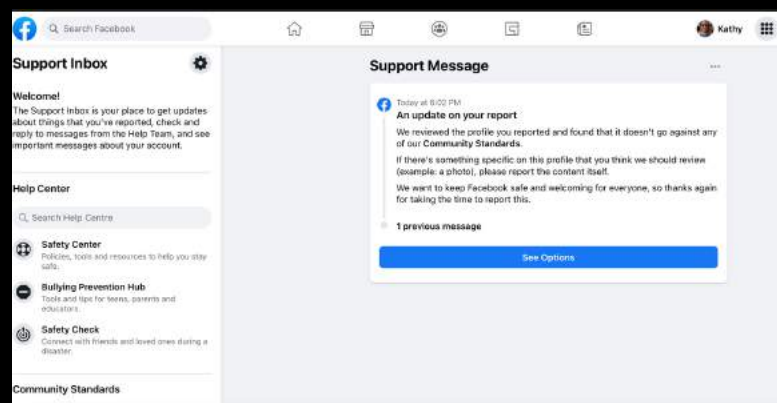


<https://www.facebook.com/nkurfi.bashnaf.3>

REPORT CONFIRMED



REPORTING OUTCOME



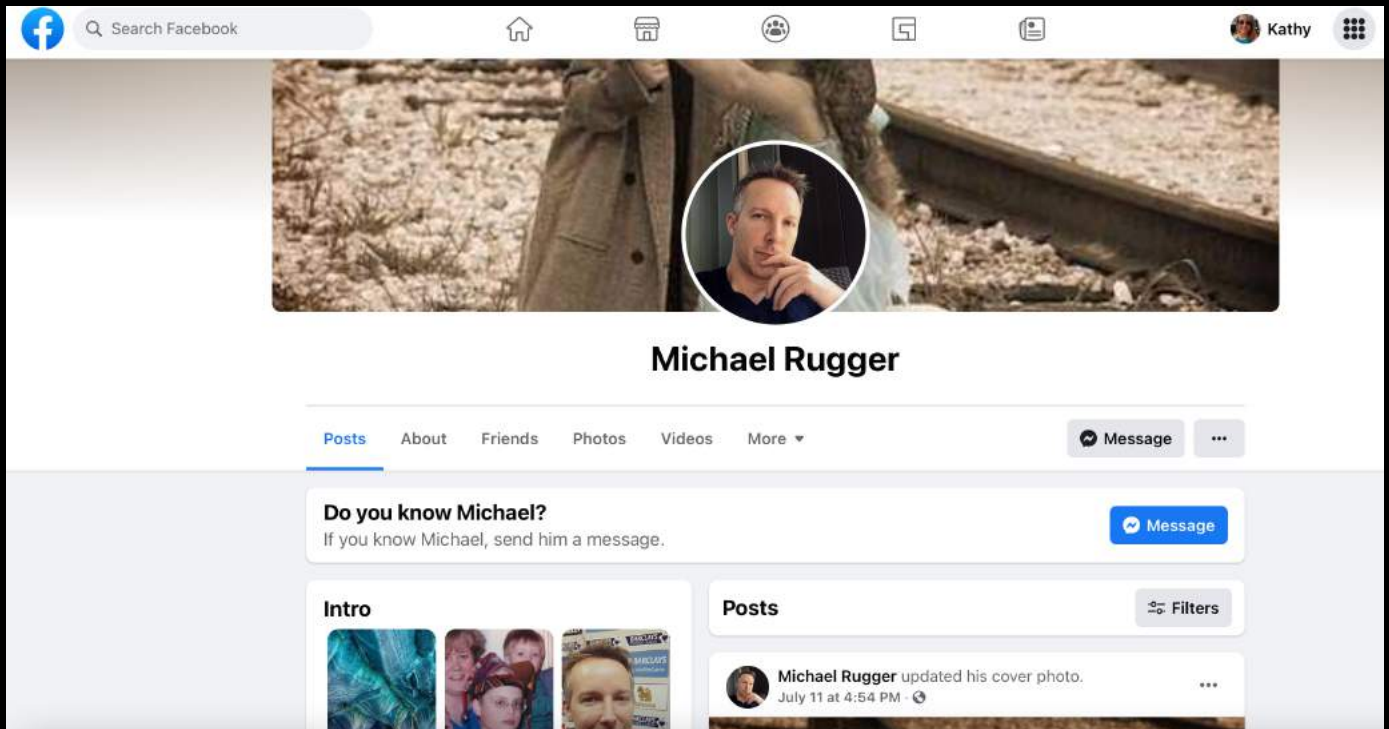
PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Kevin Snook

Author Kevin Snook is found throughout the Facebook site, and not in a positive way. As indicated in the photo below, Mr. Snook created a small sample of the fake accounts he documented and reported. In addition to the post, he went on to state, "I have reported to Facebook over 3,000 fake profiles. Facebook claims to have 2.8 billion active users. If 3,000 of them are me then the real scam is Facebook's accounting. Perhaps that's why they don't take action on this even though they have the technology to do so."

Like the accounts Mr. Snook reported, the fake Kevin Snook account (AKA Michael Rugger) remained under the falsification that the account shows no wrong doing and is within Facebook's Community Standards.

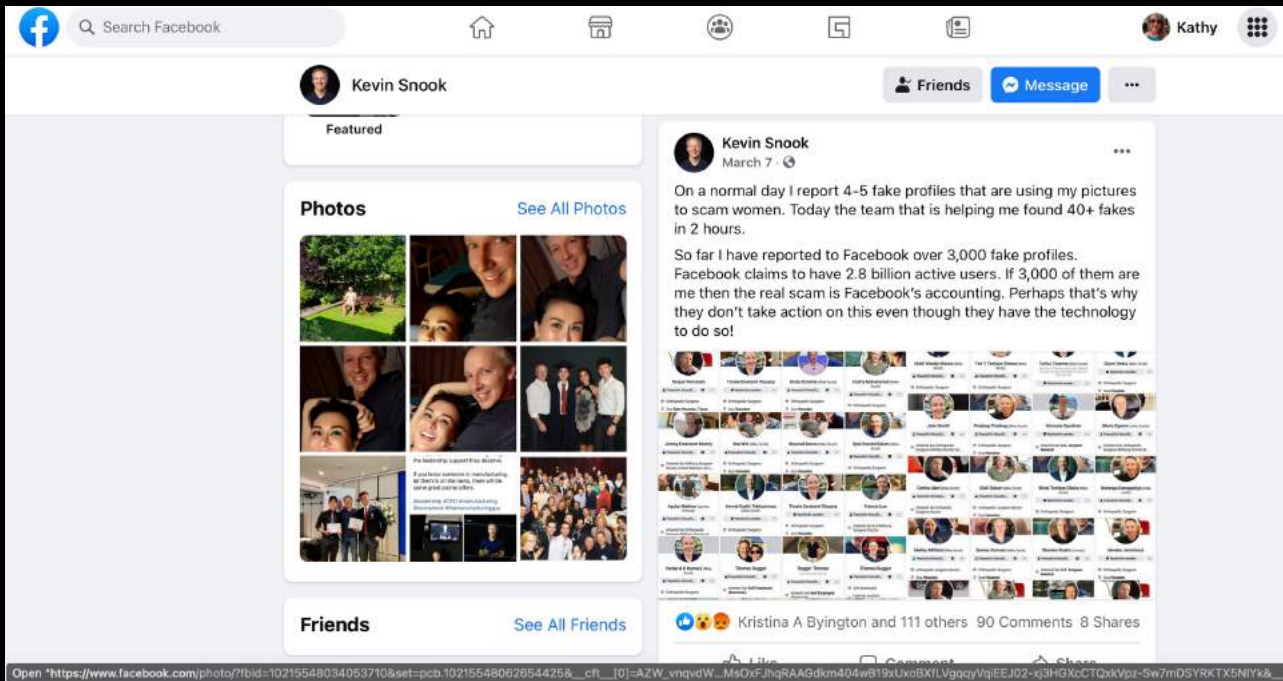
FAKE ACCOUNT



<https://www.facebook.com/michael.rugger.0>

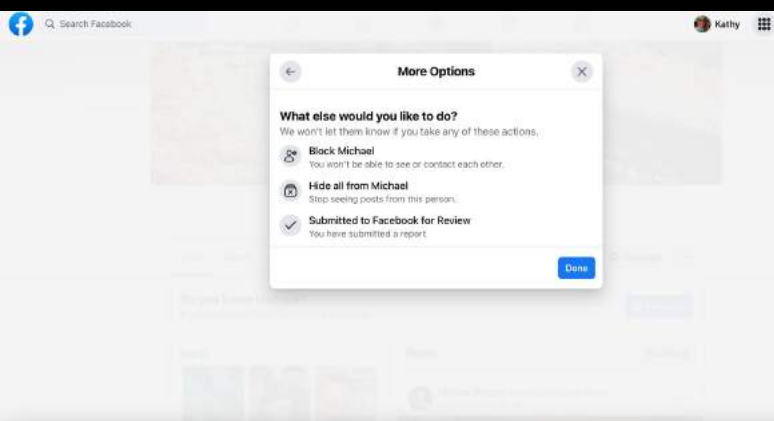
PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Mr. SNOOK'S POST ON FAKE ACCOUNTS

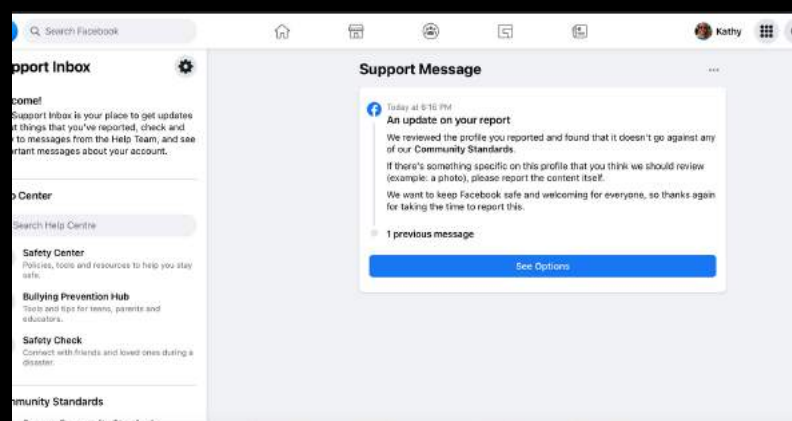


<https://www.facebook.com/KevSnook>

REPORT CONFIRMATION



REPORTING OUTCOME



As a reminder, AARS was also able to create an erroneous account to collect all data in this report, violating Section 19. of Facebook's Community Standards. If Facebook followed its principles, Ariyo Musa's account would never have come to fruition, and this report would cease to exist. Ariyo Musa's account remains active and counted as an authentic account.

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

YOUTUBE RESEARCH

Another platform used in educating the public on everything from cooking, hair care, home improvements, and now “how to scam” is the giant tech company YouTube. For nearly fifteen years, YouTube has provided a platform that has allowed people to create and post video content. According to the tech giant, YouTube currently has 2+ billion users, consisting of 100 different countries in 80 other languages (YouTube About, July 22, 2021, www.youtube.com). Similar to Facebook, YouTube is utilized as a “business office” for the scammer population. Where else can you promote your “product” for free, pay zero rent, and reach a global audience? YouTube was not created to provide a service focusing on causing harm to their viewers but to allow those providing content a safe place to post without content restriction. Over the years YouTube has found itself in several lawsuits on the content allowed. The research AARS conducted shows the platform’s ability, or lack thereof, to recognize criminal activity upon their site once reported and the time it takes to remove the unscrupulous content.

Similar to the research prepared on Facebook, AARS searched YouTube’s site for “Yahoo groups” and “scamming online.” Twelve videos were collected for data. AARS found it important to see how long these accounts have been active, how many viewers and followers each video had, and what actions the big tech company took after reporting each account as “scams or fraud”.

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

On June 28, 2021 twelve accounts were found under the searches “Yahoo groups” and “scamming online”. Of the twelve, 4 videos were posted in 2019, 4 in 2020, and 4 in 2021. Each video contained a tutorial of how to commit fraud online. Some of the blatant titles included, “How to Convince People to give you Money Easily”, “How to Become a Successful Yahoo”, “Yahoo Tips-How to Get Sure Client, “How to Make Fake Video Call on Hangouts and “Dating Format for Yahoo Boys”. On each video there is an option to leave a comment. Below are a few examples collected from the videos researched.

**"THANKS BRO.I GET NEW CLIENT NOW FROM USA
BUT I DONT KNOW HOW TO DO BUT K TELL HIM
THAT IM A WOMAN LIVING IN TORONTO AND I
DONT KNOW HOW TO DO THE REST.I SPEAK
FRENCH SO FORGIVE MY ENGLISH.HOPE YOU
PEOPLE CAN HELP"**

- AYAHO DODJI FODJAGBO

**"BRO HOW DO I GET SPAMMERS WHO SELL HACK
DATING ACCOUNT LIKE MATCH,POF,EHARMONY
AND MORE"**

- SERWAA BEATRICE

**"WAIT, IS THIS VIDEO EVEN LEGAL ON YOUTUBE?,
HOW COME IT HASN'T BEEN BANNED."**

- SAMUEL LIONEL

**"CAN ANYONE TELL ME A GOOD WEBSITE TO
TRANSFER MONEY FROM ONES BANK ACCOUNT
TRUE HIS DEBIT CARD WITHOUT HIM/HER
KNOWING..... IF ANY ONE TELL ME EXCEPT
30PERCENT OF DE MONEY"**

-MICHAEL CYPRIAN

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

YOUTUBE VIOLATED POLICIES

AARS reviewed YouTube's policies and noted the following as violated within the reported videos.

According to YouTube's policy of what is not acceptable for "Spam, deceptive practices, & scams policies" states:

"Contest offering cash gifts, "get rich quick" schemes, or pyramid schemes (sending money without tangible product in a pyramid structure" (YouTube Policies, Youtube.com)

YouTube's "Harmful or dangerous content policies" also fit into the definition of focused cybercrime. The first violation under this section is "Hacking," stating the definition as:

"Demonstrating how to use computers or information technology with the intent to steal credential, compromise personal data or cause serious harm to others such as (but not limited to) hacking into social media accounts." (YouTube Policies, Youtube.com)

The third violation the videos contained was under "Instructional theft or cheating" which states:

"Showing viewers how to steal tangible goods or promoting dishonest behavior." (YouTube Policies, Youtube.com)

.....

AARS reported each account on June 28, 2021, and as of July 25, 2021, all remain active upon the YouTube platform. Video views increased along with the number of subscribers since the start of the research. Table 3 below provides the YouTube data.

PLATFORM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY



TABLE 3

YOUTUBE ACCOUNTS of "HOW TO" SCAM							
NAME OF GROUP OR PAGE	URL OF CHANNEL	SUBSCRIBERS	REPORTED	# OF VIEWS	ACTIVE/REMOVED	7/28/2021 SUBSCRIBERS	7/28/2021 # OF VIEWS
Mario's Media1 "How To Get Client" Created 11/3/2020	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3x0kZuiwhM&t=48s	1.6k	6/28/21	17,657	Active 7/25/2021	1.78k	21,112
Mario's Media1 "Site to bomb Clients." Created 3/22/2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m2XZtuTWLM&t=2s	"	6/28/21	5772	Active 7/25/2021	"	18,976
Mario's Media1 "Dating format for Yahoo boys" Created 12/1/2020	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A2pfTORMWw&t=53s	"	6/28/21	1,533	Active 7/25/2021	"	1,662
Mario's Media1 "how To Get Client On Facebook" Created 12/8/2020	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo-shby_SE&t=38s	"	6/28/21	11,696	Active 7/25/2021	"	13,550
Smart Lazy Hustler "Yahoo Dating Format A-Z" Created 6/29/2019	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jijGz3QMGDU&t=10s	23.3k	6/28/21	162,505	Active 7/25/2021	23.4k	173,191
Smart Lazy Hustler "5 Popular local Scams" Created 9/4/2019	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXDjsIDAQ2I&t=259s	"	6/28/21	10,260	Active 7/25/2021	"	10,611
Smart Laxy Hustler "How to Convice people to give you money easily" Created 7/2/2019	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdq0MsUmzxk	"	6/28/21	12,327	Active 7/25/2021	"	12,951
Yahoo Format "How to become a successful Yahoo" 2021 Created 1/31/2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqkQUip7wZ3U&t=284s	1.36k	6/28/21	7,149	Active 7/25/2021	1.66k	9,772
online HK "Yahoo Tips-How to get sure client" Created 2/1/2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGYWC3YHnrM	430	6/28/21	1,212	Active 7/25/2021	506	2,369
Slooreviews "How to make fake video call on hangout" Created 9/14/2019	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-3gT_G6iMk	16.8k	6/28/21	110,435	Active 7/25/2021	17.4	114,545
online Hk "The greatest yahoo format" Created 12/5/2020	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjcaXWtNt24	462	6/28/21	2700	Active 7/25/2021	506	3,425
Nano k Tech "How to bill a client for Yahoo Boys" Created 3/14/2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ritkaoul2vY	113	6/28/21	2,197	Active 7/25/2021	142	3,196

REPORTING RESULTS

AARS research provided evidence that Facebook and YouTube undoubtedly did not follow their community standards. After the taking of screenshots, and URL's documented, AARS reported each account for platform violation against the company's standards. The following information explains the reporting method and its outcome. (See Table 4 for list of reported accounts URL's and active status)



FACEBOOK REPORTING RESULTS

On the dates ranging from June 27, 2021, to June 29, 2021, Kathy Waters, Co-Founder of AARS, reported Twenty-four accounts that presented with posts indicating actions of criminal activity and violations of Facebooks Community Standards. The reporting process was as follows.

Step 1. Click on the three small dots located on the reported accounts "main" page

Step 2. Click "Report Group"

Step 3. Click "Unauthorized Sales" or related option

Step 4. Click Done

As of July 15, 2021, Facebook found fifteen of the reported accounts "Within Community Standards" and nine with zero response; however, they remained active. It is concluding that all twenty-four accounts violating multiple Facebook Community Standards (according to Facebook definitions) continue to provide services that appear to be acceptable to Facebook, Inc. That is a 100% failure rate for violation recognition.

REPORTING RESULTS

TABLE 4

FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS WITH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY		
NAME OF GROUP OR PAGE	URL OF GROUP	ACTIVE/REMOVED
Legit_Yahoo_Hustle_Updates (PAGE)	https://www.facebook.com/legityahohustleupdates	Remained (6/29/2021)
Trust gee ? ? (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/220840906355396	Remained (6/27/2021)
YAHOO KING (GROUP) *NAME CHANGE TO The UNSTOPABLE	https://www.facebook.com/groups/5475629912508317	No Response/ Remain Active
Yahoyy Billing formats. (GROUP) *NAME CHANGE TO Funny gengs	https://www.facebook.com/groups/3940277509336485	No Response/ Remain Active
yahoo boyz (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/814160179139484	Remained (6/27/2021)
Yahoo boys (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/131170898909787	Remained (6/27/2021)
Cash Out Boiz (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/3876786999032319	Remained (6/27/2021)
Yahoo cashout boyz. (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/705812183442578	Remained (6/29/2021)
Yahoo update \$ \$ cashout \$ \$ (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/856307495104196	Remained (6/27/2021)
Legit Yahoo's update drops (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/839705206840914/?notif_id=1620098415106791&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	Remained (6/27/2021)
yahoo plus.	https://www.facebook.com/groups/241960797425480/?notif_id=1620156355779224&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
Yahoo boys (GROUP) *Name Change Fb fame	https://www.facebook.com/groups/184916683303258/?notif_id=1620108141598550&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	Remained (6/27/2021)
Yahoo group. (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/404181360666227/?notif_id=1620239708055353&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
Young Yahoo Boys Nigeria. (GROUP)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/559970994893764/?notif_id=1620100796406592&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
Yahoo Boys Association of Nigeria (YBAN)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/865122610977107/?notif_id=1620125477882517&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
Gee Boys update	https://www.facebook.com/groups/216536426620943/?notif_id=1620419830043521&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	Remained (6/27/2021)
Yahoo boyZ update (NEW)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/475638460265623/?notif_id=16205129123159542&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
yAhOO UpDaTE	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1059448144501640/?notif_id=1620538886795848&notif_t=group_r2i_approved&ref=notif	No Response/ Remain Active
Yahoo Lord steady cashout	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1341994286159493	Remained (6/27/2021)
V.I.P_Yahoo Update [GEE NEVER LACK]	https://www.facebook.com/groups/441155607181116	No Response/ Remain Active
Yahoo boys online update	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1137583564927346	FB removed some content and left the site up (6/27/2021)
Yahoo update and format	https://www.facebook.com/groups/486872922644108	Remained (6/27/2021)

REPORTING RESULTS

YOUTUBE REPORTING RESULTS

Twelve videos found in violation to YouTube's company standards. All twelve videos reported on June 28, 2021, under the title "Spam or Misleading" following a requested detailed description under "scams or fraud". As of July 25, 2021, all remain active. Follow-up from YouTube on the reported accounts never occurred. You may find the violating videos under their URL in Table 4 above.

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON REPORTING RESULTS

There are several hypotheses as to why the fake and crime-promoting accounts remain upon the platforms once reported against their Community Standards. Is the technology for safety not as accurate as Facebook and YouTube claim? The two Big Tech companies report to advertisers. What is the probability that their accuracy in determining what is not within Community Standards is near to precise since their reporting process is not? If the technology is as mighty as claimed, is Facebook and YouTube keeping their criminal-based accounts alive as a "boost" to the active account numbers they report to advertisers? Are the advertisers being misled by Big Tech? Are they honestly and openly made aware of the amount of fake and crime-promoting accounts that lie upon the sites?

The results found are alarming to every platform user and affect billions upon social media. Every account reported (those promoting criminal acts; and those run by bad actors (Fake)), remained active. Let us also not forget the numbers of viewers, followers and subscribers that continue to rise and not fall, showing a demand for the criminal information being provided and allowed. During the 2018 congressional hearing on the Cambridge Analytica breach, Mark Zuckerberg, Co-founder, and CEO of Facebook Inc., pledged, "By the end of this year we're going to have more than 20,000 people working on security and content review, working across all these things. So, when content gets flagged to us, we have those- those people look at it. And, if it violates our policies, then we take it down." (Mark Zuckerberg, 2018 Privacy and Protection Hearings) The results of this report took Mr. Zuckerberg's assurance along with his Community Standards and stamped it as empty promises.

AARS GOALS



ADVOCATING AGAINST ROMANCE SCAMMERS

AARS GOALS

Every hour, if not minute, of every day, AARS is contacted by a new identity theft or romance scammed victim. The stories are often similar, the feeling of loss very real, and the deceit debilitating for all involved. The goal is straightforward showing the true ways of the internet today. How significantly little is being done to keep our platforms safe. The crime is allowed to occur online with little to no responsibility. Giving victims a voice, giving them the podium, hoping that they are given the justice they deserve one day. The media has presented an array of mishaps that have occurred upon online platforms. We hear of the scammed, but we never hear how those committing the crime are conducting their business on the same sites that claim they have thousands of employees that only focus on the safety of their platform. Online crime reports are nothing new to platforms, but this report shows the proof of awareness from the largest big tech company, the acknowledgment of the crimes published, and not one action done to remove the criminal activity from their site post reporting. Scammers have no intention of discontinuing the online crime, and after our research, there are no signs of the social media platforms wanting it [online romance scams] stopped. Crime should not just be illegal in “real life.” An accessory is an accessory and should also go for online criminal activity.

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