

Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Tara Hopkins,
Head of Public Policy EMEA
Instagram
By email

12 July 2021

Dear Tara Hopkins

Racist abuse on Instagram

I am attaching screenshots of a series of appalling racist comments left on the Instagram posts of England footballers Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho. As you can see, many of these comments have been up for more than 15 hours and will have been seen by thousands of young people across the country who are following their heroes online after the tournament.

This vile racism is a clear breach of Instagram's community standards and many of these comments amount to hate speech. The Home Affairs Committee has been raising these issues with social media companies for years and yet, still, companies like Facebook and Instagram are playing catch-up when it comes to moderating and removing hateful and harmful content on their platforms.

Why have these highly visible examples of racism not been taken down after 15 hours? It was disturbingly easy to find these examples of clear racist abuse that would also be visible to children and young people following their heroes, and which had gone unidentified by Instagram for hours. I simply cannot understand why so many posts that are easy for everyone to find have gone for so long without action by Instagram.

What action has Instagram taken swiftly and proactively to find and remove this poisonous content from its platforms? How many members of staff have been tasked with monitoring these profiles and moderating content during the tournament and following the final? Why, when this issue had been so publicly highlighted was it not possible for Instagram to find and remove all these racist posts today?

Please reply to these questions by Tuesday 20 July.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Cooper MP

Cc Tom Gault, Public Policy Manager EMEA, Instagram



Comments

— View 270 replies



madtrex300 U CANT SCORE A PEN FOR YOUR LIFE MATE

16h 458 likes Reply

— View 248 replies



ja.5211 Ffs it had to be the black players missing
😂😂

16h 627 likes Reply

— View 536 replies



tejasterps2.0 Change your name to Marcus Trashford after that penalty 🗑️ 🤡

16h 988 likes Reply

— View 519 replies



hypexxfifa11 I hate u

16h 427 likes Reply

— View 432 replies



patrickfuckdig these comments disgust me smh
some people are stupid.. this aint easy for you bu
keep working hard and always remember positiv



Comments

15h 687 likes Reply

—— View 14 replies



bradleydevine @instagram Watch the racial abuse roll in and no real consequences taken. This is your app, quit acting powerless. #instagram

15h 462 likes Reply

—— View 7 replies



seyed.6059 black skin

15h 135 likes Reply

—— View 196 replies



dyl.0424 Your fucking shit lad retire fella

15h 113 likes Reply

—— View 156 replies



just.dwy  Keep yea head up lad

15h 168 likes Reply



cora_maddock If you are against racism and hate try and report as many racist and hate comments as you can no one deserves all this



Comments

— View 193 replies



ja.5211 Had to be the black players missing 🤔

16h 433 likes Reply

— View 293 replies



nsf_2k We should have never subbed you on

16h 98 likes Reply

— View 55 replies



ender1312_ 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

16h 215 likes Reply

— View 113 replies



ann7_717 Ur just like rashford ur not good as well and im pretty sure our club man. United will suffer bc of u and him...

15h 12 likes Reply

— View 22 replies



thecatisfathugo123 Leave the country and go play for germany



Comments



arianna.ciuffolina Hellooo I'm from Italy, I enjoy watching the game a lot you all played well!! Penalties are mostly about luck and they definitely don't show your worth and your efforts so whatever happen is totally okay. Haters are always gonna let jealousy take over them, but you have to focus on what you're achieving!! Keep it going!!

10h 290 likes Reply

— View 7 replies



em2busy report all the racist comments !!

10h 183 likes Reply

— View 3 replies



corna.20147 Go to Africa

10h 67 likes Reply

— View 100 replies



katebeckinsale    

10h 80 likes Reply

— View 2 replies



christiancalabroo THIS IS FROM ITALY, ENOUGH WITH THE RACISM!!!!



Comments

just for the penalty. imagine the pressure with you almost not playing a minute in the Euros and then you got subbed in for pens just to make the pen. Its like if u miss this, ur whole Euros was just Shit Then making a teenager taking the last pen that has never tooke a proffesional pen in his life and gets to take the most important of them all. Joke

12h 206 likes Reply

—— View 1 reply



jack.greene380 Nigga

12h 108 likes Reply

—— View 142 replies



braidan_govan u england fans are embarrassing

12h 476 likes Reply

—— View 19 replies



danmonkey77 Reporting racism is becoming a sport in itself tonight! Absolutely disgraceful amount of it. These players are humans too. Losing in football does not give people the right to abuse!

12h 279 likes Reply



zairuletheworld And that's why England will never



Comments

for a country that won't start such rises crimes against innocent people. HE'S ONLY 19. It's all BLM, Mental health, and safety until it's Euros and England loses the match.

10h 1,187 likes Reply

— View 42 replies



katebeckinsale    

10h 310 likes Reply

— View 12 replies



_31.dollm As a Italian fan I will say it doesn't matter at all. My boy please don't hear them they even attacked us Italians today.

10h 507 likes Reply

— View 17 replies



risingtidefx_ Nigga lost   

10h 192 likes Reply

— View 347 replies



justin_the_amazing_ Bukayo mate, you are literally a year older than I and you're taking penalties for England while I am sitting here playing Minecraft on a laptop. You've