

Twitter's Response to Abuse and Bigotry
Directed at Vice President Kamala Harris

Report

05-26-2022

PREPARED BY:

BOT SENTINEL INC.

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OVERVIEW

In January 2022, a group of preeminent Black women and women of color expressed their concerns to Bot Sentinel regarding the increasing abuse Vice President Kamala Harris received on Twitter, and how Twitter ignored their numerous reports about the abuse. The women felt Twitter wasn't taking the problem seriously, and they wanted to know why the abuse was allowed to continue. Several of them felt Twitter was purposely allowing the abuse to continue.

We set out to determine:

1. If Vice President Kamala Harris was the victim of abuse, hateful content, and targeted harassment on Twitter, and
2. If Twitter did indeed ignore abusive and problematic tweets.

Abusive and problematic tweets directed at Vice president Harris were prevalent during our investigation. From January 2022 through May 2022, we identified 4,265 problematic tweets calling Vice President Kamala Harris a "bitch," "whore," "hoe," "cunt," "slut," and "nigger."

For the reasons outlined in this report, we determined Vice President Harris was, in fact, a victim of rampant abuse, hateful content, and targeted harassment on Twitter. We also found that Twitter ignored 18 out of the 40 tweets we reported and only removed two tweets. Twitter notified us that 20 abusive and problematic tweets, including one threatening to kill VP Harris, didn't violate its safety policies.

*The tweets reported to Twitter were tweeted from January 2021 through May 2022. We used Twitter's reporting system for each tweet we reported.

INTRODUCTION

According to a 2018 [study](#) conducted by Amnesty International and Element AI, women of color, (black, Asian, Latinx and mixed-race women) were 34% more likely to be mentioned in abusive tweets than white women. Black women were particularly affected, being 84% more likely than white women to be mentioned in abusive tweets. This included all kinds of abuse - sexual and physical threats and misogyny, as well as racial slurs.

For the first 135 days of 2022, we identified 4,265 abusive and problematic tweets disparaging Vice president Kamala Harris. We observed accounts flagrantly using bigoted and obscene language, and we also observed accounts sharing manipulated photos depicting Vice President Harris in lewd sex acts.

Although most of the abusive and problematic tweets we identified violated Twitter's policies on abuse and hateful conduct, Twitter only removed two out of the 40 tweets we reported. Fully 95% of the tweets we reported were allowed to remain on the platform, including tweets calling Vice President Harris a "nigger" and "monkey."

We identified one tweet suggesting someone should assassinate Vice President Harris, and Twitter removed the tweet. However, Twitter didn't permanently suspend the account. We identified another tweet explicitly threatening Vice President Harris, and we received a response from Twitter stating the tweet didn't violate its safety policies.

NO VIOLATION

According to Twitter, 20 out of the 40 tweets we reported didn't violate their safety policies, including a tweet explicitly threatening to kill Vice President Harris and another tweet calling her a "naughty nigger" with manipulated photos attached.



@evilgirlboss

Replying to [@baldguyfag](#)

i m going to kill kamala harris

6:01 PM · Jan 14, 2022 · Twitter Web App



zero
@BuddhaCyberpunk

Kamala, you are a faggot cunt.

9:41 PM · Mar 8, 2022 · Twitter for Android



FuckTankZero
@JohnGar71651102

Kamala is a nigger Bitch

9:10 PM · Jan 6, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



MrBill 100
@MrBillSD

Replying to [@ClistonBrown](#)

Kamala is a dumb cunt

[Translate Tweet](#)

7:37 AM · Mar 22, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Rocky Matlock
@rocky_matlock

[@VP](#) stupid bitch

9:23 PM · Mar 10, 2022 · Twitter Web App



zach bager
@ZachBager

Kamala you are a naughty nigger



11:09 PM · Apr 23, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Daniel Brand
@swampdonkeydan

kamala harris is a dumb gludder slut

8:01 AM · Apr 17, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Reaper_Actual 13
@NachorTaco

Replying to [@NM_Husky_1776](#) and [@VP](#)

Wait thought it was Whore or Heels up Harris or KamelToe Harris. 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

9:53 PM · Dec 20, 2021 · Twitter for Android



Tracy
@Tracy15749194

Replying to [@VP](#) and [@KamalaHarris](#)

You're a stupid whore 🍆🍆🍆🍆

2:42 PM · Jan 22, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



don dodda
@rrjdot

[@VP](#) youre a whore

3:03 PM · Apr 25, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

NO VIOLATION - CONT.



Orion69x
@Orion69x

Replying to @daverich503 @SaltyBitch_52 and 16 others

"Electing" a slut as @VP didn't help women...

How Kamala slept her way to the top...she dated SF Mayor Willie Brown (married)...

=====

Former S.F. Mayor Willie Brown writes about dating Kamala Harris, appointing her to posts



war is a racket
@DingusHarvey

Right wing or left wing, we can all agree that Kamala Harris is a retarded cunt.

6:37 PM · Mar 27, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Jonathan Holifield
@JonathanHolifi7

Replying to @VP and @KamalaHarris

Come guzzling whore that's what you are don't Deny it we all know it

9:01 PM · May 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Jason Fell
@JasonFell22

Replying to @sayitnspinit

She is a disgusting cunt @VP

2:32 PM · May 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Infantry91
@Infantry1999

Replying to @VP @BaylorMBB and @ZagMBB

Go suck a cock you filthy whore!

9:32 AM · Apr 6, 2021 · Twitter for Android



E1
@CIREKCIR

Replying to @VP

Kamala, you ignorant slut.

[Translate Tweet](#)



The Shadow
@TomCrow58973737

Listen 2 the insane journalist explain how "Heels Up Harris", "Knee Pads Harris" is a straight up whore

Cindy B. @csbritt63 · Dec 22, 2021
She fought how??? 🤔🤔🤔🤔



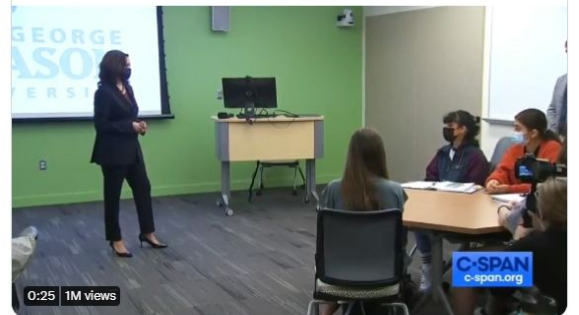
9:27 AM · Dec 22, 2021 · Twitter for Android



emj
@emj3_

I hope you die Kamala Harris

Amichai Stein @AmichaiStein1 · Sep 29, 2021
Student tells VP Harris that "Israel is doing ethnic genocide" - VP replied: "your voice, your perspective, your experience"



1:53 AM · Oct 2, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



Soliloquy
@Soliloquy7777

Kamala is the epitome of a back-alley slut.

"It's not who you know, it's who you blow."
-- Kamala (penis breath) Harris



Jenna Ellis @JennaEllisEsq · Apr 6
Kamala is the epitome of an elite oligarch.
conservativebrief.com/shred-61781/?u...

7:12 PM · Apr 6, 2022 · Twitter Web App



Greg J Smith
@GregJSmith3

Replying to @VP

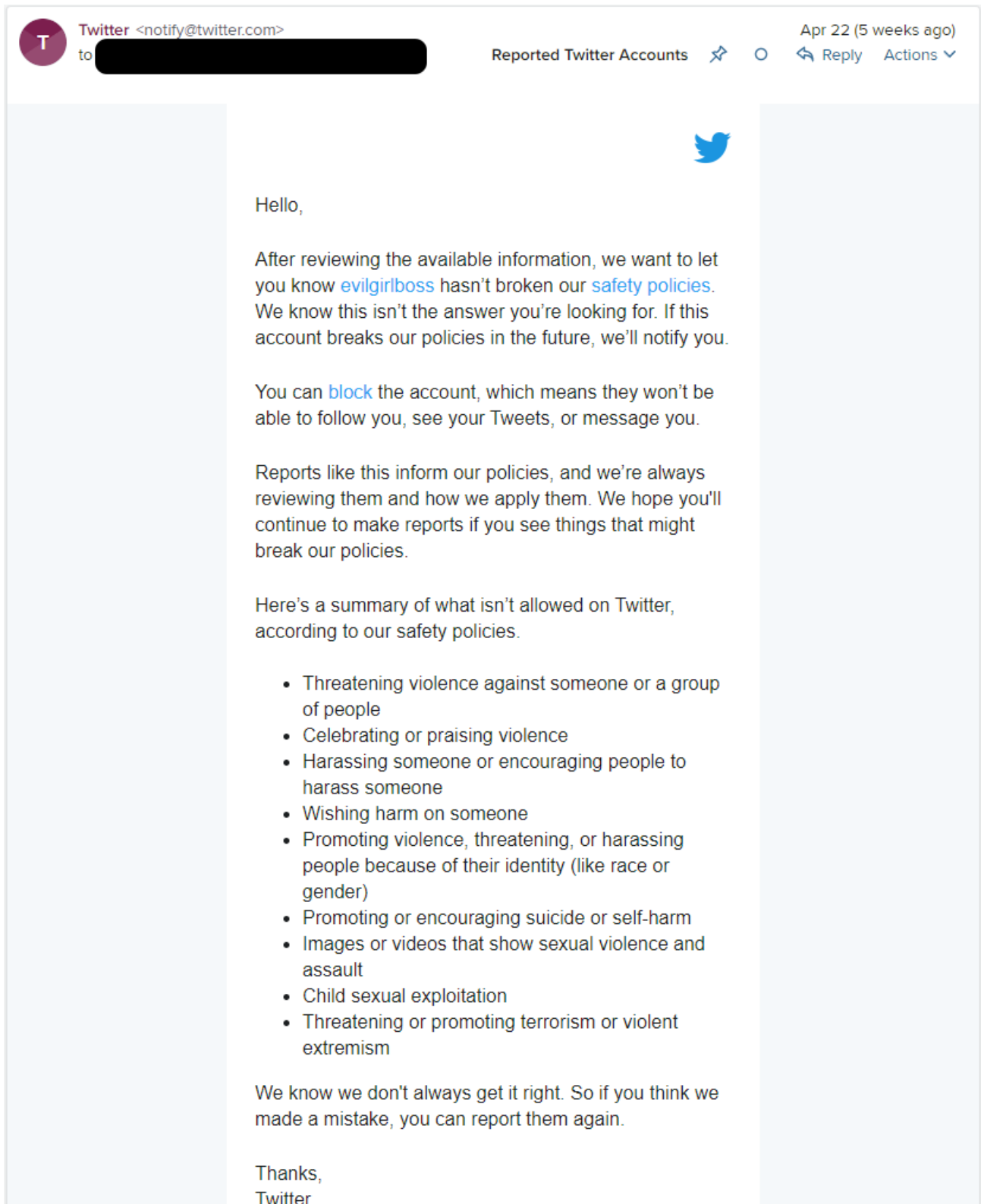
Dam nigger

10:01 AM · Apr 26, 2022 · Twitter for Android

TWITTER EMAILS

To reduce the number of pages in this report, we have uploaded a separate zip file containing 20 emails from Twitter stating the tweets we reported didn't violate their safety policies.

You can download the emails here: <https://botsentinel.com/reports/documents/kamala-harris/report-05-26-2022-emails-tweets.zip>



NO RESPONSE

Although we reported 40 random abusive and problematic tweets, we didn't receive a response from Twitter for 18 tweets, and Twitter didn't remove the tweets.



David Pittman
@pr0grammer

Replying to @sayitnspinit

It goes by heels up Harris, slut, gold digger, call girl, hooker, etc. What ever allows her to climb the ladder.

1:38 AM · Apr 13, 2022 · Twitter for Android



sex bible
@RubenLu92255240

Kamala is a nigger

6:29 AM · May 4, 2021 · Twitter for Android



Deport DACA Recipients First
@conservmillen1

Kamala Harris is a dumb fucking cunt.

11:35 AM · Mar 23, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



clayton bigsby
@clayton58043428

@VP fuck you nigger

8:45 PM · May 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Science Resurrected
@sciencesurect

Replying to @VP

Let's be clear: you sucked dick to move ahead. You're a whore.

9:31 PM · May 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Jonathan Holifield
@JonathanHolifi7

Replying to @VP and @KamalaHarris

Come guzzling whore that's what you are don't Deny it we all know it

9:01 PM · May 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Military in Control
@Marilyn78276212

Replying to @mollybee58 @MarkoSilberhand and 6 others

Is that why she earned the name heels up @Kamala she slept her way to DA. Just ask Billy Brown. #KamalalsATramp



11:54 PM · Jan 15, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



Frank Gerlach
@GerlachFrank

Kamala Harris is a street nigger

5:25 PM · Sep 9, 2021 · Twitter for Android



Digital Wilderness
@RyanGrone73

Replying to @VP

Eat shit you dirty bitch. The vaccines don't have anything to do with protecting anyone. They have to do with depopulation. You can shove your unsafe ineffective vaccine up your twat.

6:39 PM · Dec 29, 2021 · Twitter Web App



MYSTIR N3LzEN
@MaatR12

Replying to @VP

You belong in jail you dirty cunt

8:56 PM · Mar 7, 2021 · Twitter for Android

NO RESPONSE - CONT.



Angie Butcher
@AngieBu02579938



Replying to @thehill and @VP

What Tax bracket are you in DIRTY WHORE KAMALA?

10:24 AM · Oct 23, 2021 · Twitter for Android



Jimmy Loganson
@JimmyLoganson

Replying to @VP

Shut up cunt

1:21 PM · May 18, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



liltopx
@DwcGta

Replying to @VP

nigger

12:25 PM · Feb 10, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Lou Monatti
@satanicnwoinc

Replying to @VP

Shut the fuck up you stupid whore

4:55 PM · May 21, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Karen Henry
@KarenHenryTX

Replying to @VP

And you ma'am are an ant. You blew Willie. Imagine that you dirty whore.

9:28 PM · Mar 6, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Joe
@Joe30209622

And @VP fuck you monkey

12:31 AM · May 13, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Nycanes.
@Mh2724

Replying to @VP

Filthy slut

9:45 PM · May 29, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone



Flag This
@israel_israel19

Replying to @VP

Filthy dirty slut!

11:40 AM · Oct 16, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

REMOVED

Twitter removed two of the abusive and problematic tweets we reported, but Twitter didn't suspend the accounts. Fully 95% of the tweets we reported were allowed to remain on the platform.



Aysta
@Cloudlightsky



Replying to [@stealthymagne](#)

They should shoot Kamala and then use the 25th on Biden

7:25 PM · Jan 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App



ISEEKTHETRUTH
@ISEEKTHETRUTH4



Replying to [@SavageKC76](#) and [@vlb55jr](#)

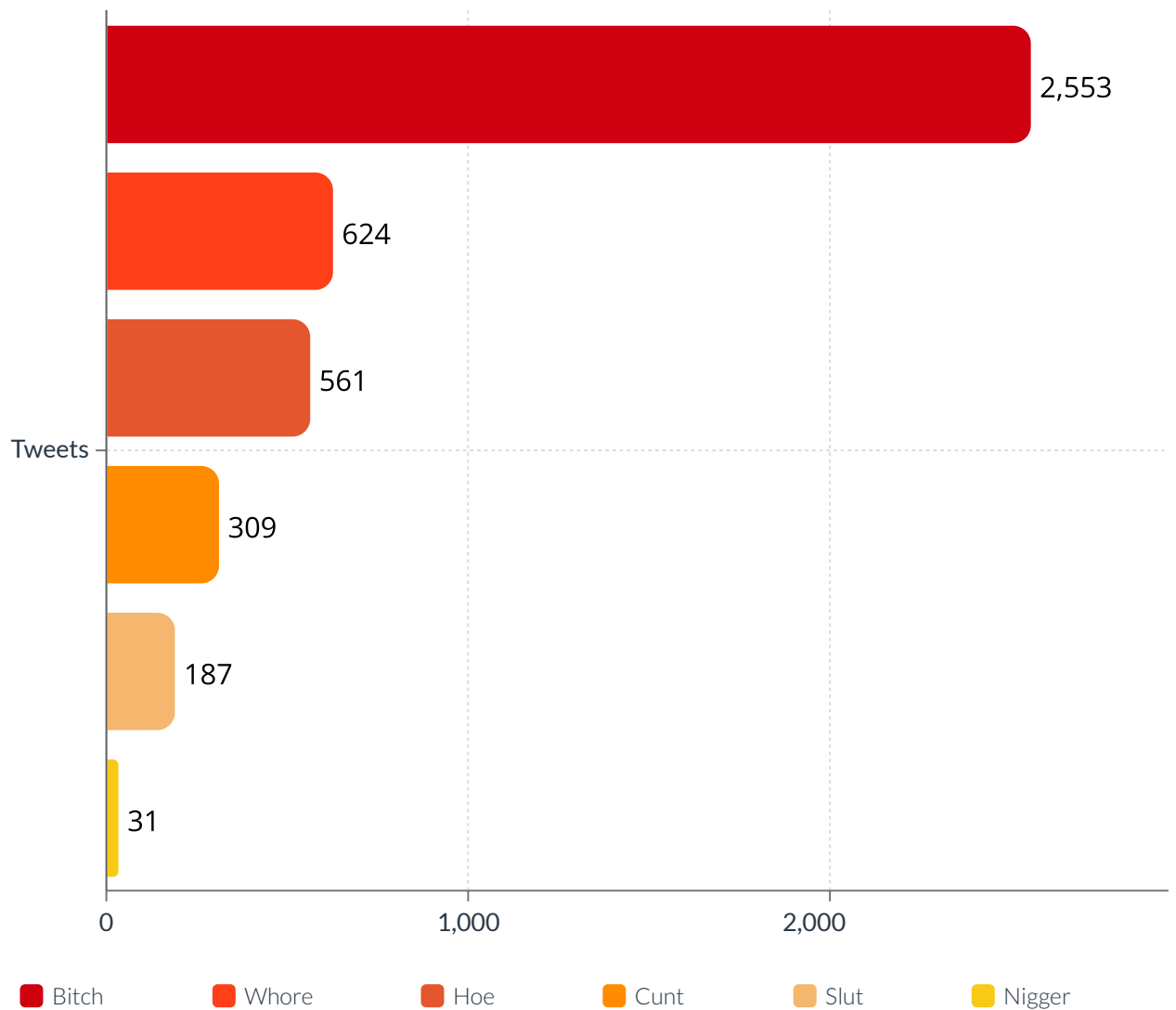
Come on, now, Heels up Harris isn't a slut. She's a full blown whore

12:53 PM · Nov 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

TWEET DATA

For the first 135 days of 2022, we identified 4,265 abusive and problematic tweets calling Vice President Kamala Harris a “bitch,” “whore,” “hoe,” “cunt,” “slut,” and “nigger.”

Abusive and Problematic Tweets



TWITTER RULES

Twitter accounts listed in this report are violating several Twitter rules, including but not limited to violence, abuse & harassment, hateful conduct, and synthetic & manipulated media.

Safety

Violence: You may not threaten violence against an individual or a group of people. We also prohibit the glorification of violence. Learn more about our [violent threat](#) and [glorification of violence](#) policies.

Terrorism/violent extremism: You may not threaten or promote terrorism or violent extremism. [Learn more](#).

Child sexual exploitation: We have zero tolerance for child sexual exploitation on Twitter. [Learn more](#).

Abuse/harassment: You may not engage in the targeted harassment of someone, or incite other people to do so. This includes wishing or hoping that someone experiences physical harm. [Learn more](#).

Hateful conduct: You may not promote violence against, threaten, or harass other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or serious disease. [Learn more](#).

Authenticity

Platform manipulation and spam: You may not use Twitter's services in a manner intended to artificially amplify or suppress information or engage in behavior that manipulates or disrupts people's experience on Twitter. [Learn more](#).

Civic Integrity: You may not use Twitter's services for the purpose of manipulating or interfering in elections or other civic processes. This includes posting or sharing content that may suppress participation or mislead people about when, where, or how to participate in a civic process. [Learn more](#).

Impersonation: You may not impersonate individuals, groups, or organizations in a manner that is intended to or does mislead, confuse, or deceive others. [Learn more](#).

Synthetic and manipulated media: You may not deceptively share synthetic or manipulated media that are likely to cause harm. In addition, we may label Tweets containing synthetic and manipulated media to help people understand their authenticity and to provide additional context. [Learn more](#).

CONCLUSION

Abuse, hateful content, and targeted harassment are significant problems on Twitter. Although Twitter does offer tools to mitigate abuse and harassment, we found its tools and reporting system to be severely deficient.

For example, Twitter allows users to block accounts, but accounts that have been blocked can still interact with users replying to the victim. So, although the victim can't see the abusive replies, anyone replying to the victim can still see them.

Twitter also allows users to hide abusive replies, but the feature falls short of its intended purpose. Anyone can still see replies hidden by the victim by clicking the "view hidden replies" icon.

Users can also limit who can reply to tweets, but this feature is lacking because Twitter gives users only three options: "everyone, people you follow, and only you."

We found the concept behind Twitter's "safety mode" to be promising, but unfortunately, none of the English-based accounts we used for testing and reporting had "safety mode" available.

Besides the ineffective "anti-abuse" features, we found reporting accounts cumbersome, and Twitter often kept users in the dark about accounts they reported. When Twitter replies to a complaint, it's most often to notify the user the account didn't violate Twitter's policies.

It's our opinion that Twitter isn't adequately enforcing its policies on abuse and hateful conduct. Tweets that Twitter should remove based on its safety policies are allowed to remain on the platform with little to no recourse for the victims. Moreover, not only isn't Twitter enforcing its rules, we believe Twitter isn't giving users the proper tools to mitigate abuse, hateful content, and targeted harassment.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Enforce the current rules and policies.
2. Allow users to delete replies. We understand some users will abuse the feature, but the most effective way to mitigate abusive and problematic replies is by giving users more control over who is replying to them. A “delete replies” feature should also include a way to delete replies from accounts that reply to you and then quickly block you so you don’t see their tweets but others replying can. A simple “delete all replies from accounts that blocked you” can solve the issue.
3. Add additional options for who can reply to tweets, such as:
 - a) Accounts created over x number of days ago
 - b) Accounts with an avatar
 - c) Accounts that haven’t had their account locked for abuse/harassment in the last x number of days
4. Revamp the reporting system. A reporting portal where users can check the status of their reports would be a tremendous improvement over the current system. Also, add the ability to report accounts evading suspension.

ABOUT BOT SENTINEL

Bot Sentinel Inc. is a research firm comprising data scientists, machine learning engineers, and researchers specializing in identifying and understanding disinformation and targeted attacks on social media platforms. Our mission is to detect, analyze, and effectively expose threats using machine learning/artificial intelligence, HUMINT (Human Intelligence), and other various methods and technologies.

The name Bot Sentinel means autonomous guard. In other words, we are using a good "bot" to help identify and guard against inauthentic accounts and toxic trolls. Bot Sentinel doesn't just classify automated accounts aka bads bots, we developed Bot Sentinel to classify several types of accounts including accounts operated by human beings.

Our free platform and tools help expose ongoing threats while helping to protect our users from targeted attacks. The platform we provide also allows journalists and other experts to conduct their own research using the free tools and data we offer.

Over 30 news outlets and publications have cited our research and data, and approximately 100,000 active users use our free platform and tools each month.

Press inquiries: press@botsentinel.com