## **Common Sense**

## Tracking Big-Tech Attacks

February 12, 2021

Instagram is further restricting what users may say in direct messages, and the company will eject any user who utters hate speech. Instagram will also provide information about account holders to UK police.

But what is hate speech?

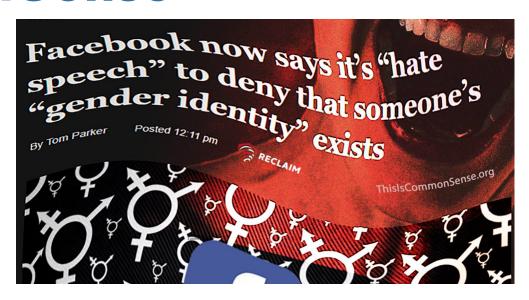
Nasty utterances that we'd all agree are hateful. Sure. But it also appears to be disagreeing with someone about "gender identity" or supporting

governments and their private-sector allies — the big-tech hall monitors now dropping all pretense of providing neutral forums — act to smother discussion and dissent on the net.

Melania Trump. In other words, "hate speech" is whatever offends the authoritarian sensibilities of whoever operates the delete-account button at the social-media giants.

A lot of this has been happening lately.

YouTube has deleted the YouTube channel of



LifeSiteNews, a Christian news outlet.

YouTube and Facebook have banned a documentary about pandemic policies called "Planet Lockdown," and GoFundMe has cancelled a fundraising campaign for the film.

China will start accrediting reporters based on their social media histories, and it will penalize companies who employ unaccredited reporters. "Citizen journalists" (people with cell phones) will also have to be accredited.

Every day, tyrannical governments and their private-sector allies — the big-tech hall monitors now dropping all pretense of providing neutral forums — act to smother discussion and dissent on the net. In self-defense, we need to know about these anti-speech efforts. But keeping track is a big job.

Fortunately, ReclaimTheNet is doing this big job for us. Its regular e-letter (subscribe here) reprints the latest stories published on their website.

This job *has* to be outsourced, as far as I am concerned. Were I to report on all of it here, I wouldn't be able to talk about anything else.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.