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Terminating Website Services Fails to Disrupt Extremist Communication Online

Despite mainstream social media companies' efforts to remove hate speech from their platforms, white supremacist extremists (WSEs) continue to find outlets on the Internet to post their extremist content and openly communicate with and recruit others. WSEs have migrated to uncensored platforms, such as Gab, 8chan, and Telegram after social media companies including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube began removing explicit posts and problematic accounts over the last several years.

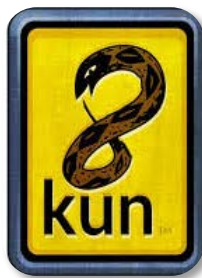
- In August, [Cloudflare](#)¹ terminated the services they provided to 8chan—an uncensored discussion board—after the mass shooting in El Paso, citing 8chan's tolerance for hate speech and violence associated with WSEs and other hate groups. After Cloudflare banned 8chan, the board reappeared as "8kun," supported by a Russian website hosting provider.
- In October 2018, Gab—a website that promotes itself as "a social network championing free speech, individual liberty and the free flow of information online," was temporarily taken offline after Robert Bowers posted his intent to attack the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. However, it is again accessible online and continues to serve as a platform for WSEs to spread their ideology and [rhetoric](#).
- After the deadly August 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, multiple providers terminated their services for the Daily Stormer—a US-based WSE message board that espouses white nationalist and neo-Nazi ideologies. While the site's founder, Andrew Anglin, procured another website hosting provider to support the Daily Stormer, financial complications resulted in the Stormer's subsequent termination.

Social Media Companies: Removal of WSE Content

The terms of service for Facebook, Twitter, Google, and Reddit specifically prohibit explicit hate speech—restrictions that have led some hate groups to move to alternative, fringe platforms. However, subtle forms of negative content—such as the use of memes and coded language—remain online, eluding the automated content moderation tools that these sites employ.



Gab's Logo



8kun's logo



Telegram's Logo

The NTIC encourages the public to report [signs](#) of extremist content or threatening rhetoric, in any form, to local authorities through the [iWatchDC](#) platform.

¹ A website infrastructure—primarily seen as a website security company—that provides a variety of services to sites, including content delivery network services.