

📢 The Children's Union has red-carded YouTube

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California

Hi Susan and Sundar,

Our team has reviewed your recent activity, and unfortunately, we think it places **children in danger**. We have put **YouTube**, and its parent company **Google**, on the Children's Union 'Company Red List'.



You are here ↑

We know this might be disappointing, but it's important to us that the world is a safe place for all children.

If a company's actions deliberately or negligently compromise the welfare of children, we may first move them to our Amber List. The persistent nature of YouTube's manipulation of information against the interests of children, based on official policies that mandate such misinformation, means you move directly to the **Red List**.

If you think we've made a mistake, you can appeal and we'll take another look. Keep reading for more details.

How your policies endanger children

Science, like truth, is not fixed or certain. That would make it dogma. Both are processes that move us, often falteringly, towards greater enlightenment. Both are predicated on the free exchange of information and ideas.

Let's take a topical example of how **YouTube** inhibits this process.

YouTube states it does not allow content that spreads medical misinformation that contradicts local health authorities or the World Health Organization (WHO) medical information about covid-19.

This policy is overtly against the process of scientific discovery and the pursuit of truth, while protecting official dogma, set by those in power. It is a policy borrowed from the Dark Ages. Nothing could be more damaging to the pursuit of truth than assigning it to those with power.

All actions involve a judgement of risk and benefit based on the availability and reliability of information. By restricting the information available to people, and mischaracterising the remaining information as more certain than it is, **YouTube** is directly compromising the ability of medical professionals to form professional judgements, and for ordinary people to offer informed consent. In so doing, it is directly risking lives.

In fact, your policy is so prescriptive on the topic of covid that your list of 'misinformation' is rife with internal contradictions, disproven conjecture and servile deference to badly ageing policies.

You might observe that several items YouTube labels as misinformation, such as 'claims that Covid-19 vaccines are not effective in preventing *the spread* of Covid-19' [my emphasis] have become widely and officially acknowledged (if not necessarily advertised) by many local health authorities. This stipulation would therefore appear to be in contravention of your own policies.

Such are the entanglements of positioning oneself as an arbiter of truth.

How your actions endanger children

The catalogue of YouTube's actions that directly compromise the welfare of children will take years to unravel and should be the subject of an internationally co-ordinated legal investigation. For now, I will share a few recent examples from just the last few weeks at the Children's Union, to illustrate the absurdity of your position and the damage to lives that your worthless policies inflict.

- Gagging a respected paediatrician

Dr Ros Jones is a retired paediatrician. She devoted her whole career to helping sick and vulnerable children. She is now devoting most of her retirement to helping keep children safe, by holding authorities to account with regards to covid policies that may harm children.



In a podcast with the Children's Union last summer, Dr Jones gave a balanced, expert, and evidence-based analysis of the potential impact to children of various covid policies, including lockdowns, mask wearing and vaccination. She drew few hard-and-fast conclusions. Rather, it was a masterclass in how a reasoned and well-intentioned person, with expertise from a lifetime of professional and vocational endeavour in a relevant domain, attempts to make sense of the world, so that others can reflect on it, challenge it, and perhaps move us further along the path of progress.

Emerging data demonstrates that many of her concerns at the time were more than valid. And yet this month, YouTube suddenly decided to ban this video-podcast (Don't worry you can still watch it on Odysee – a new video sharing platform.)

- Censoring world-leading scientists

Another example. On February 23rd, the Children's Union held a press conference in London on behalf of the Children's Covid Vaccine Advisory Council. At the session, world-leading experts presented testimony and the latest international evidence regarding the risk-benefit of covid vaccines for children.

Members of the Council who gave presentations included the aforementioned Dr Ros Jones; Professor Angus Dalgleish, a world-leading expert on vaccine development and immunotherapy; Dr David Livermore, the former Director of Public Health England's anti-microbial resistance monitoring and reference laboratory; Dr Claire Craig, a consultant pathologist; and Dr Liz Evans, a retired Doctor and expert in medical ethics. The press conference also included testimony from a vaccine injured young man.

We made a film available of the press conference. Within days, for posting the video, several of our supporters were issued with a warning – and at least one was issued with a 30-day ban – by YouTube.

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The censorship process is very sanitized these days. Your censors will often be thousands of miles away. They refer to 'policies' and send out automated boilerplate warnings. But what you are actually doing is no different to putting your hand over the mouth of medical experts – people who have spent their whole careers trying to save lives – gagging them just when they are raising the alarm on behalf of children's safety.

If you think that's ok, then let's strip away your technology and consider this: you are at Davos, being interviewed on a panel alongside a doctor or professor – someone that's a real expert on the topic – but you don't like what they are saying. Do you put your hand over their mouth to shut them up, Susan?

How about you, Sundar? Is that something you would do?

Let's be clear. It's something you *are* doing – from the comfort of your office.

By stripping away the technology, it is easier to see the true nature of your 'policy'.

Your intellectual error costs lives

You might still think that the risk of allowing misinformation to persist is too great. You are wrong for several reasons.

Firstly, as **YouTube** has so laughably demonstrated, even an internet colossus is entirely incapable of determining even an internally coherent 'truth'. Its overt deference to authority is surely proof that it simply does not know.

Secondly, in this complex, ever-changing world, the truth about anything that matters is not fixed or certain, and by pretending it is, **YouTube** strangles our best mechanism for dealing with an uncertain future: experimentation with new ideas and solutions. A perfect example is your *proscription* of any discussion of any remedy for covid other than a tiny number of state-sanctioned novel pharmaceuticals.

Thirdly, as you have amply demonstrated, people and organisations can be very stupid. But as a species, we are nevertheless successful, so long as we are allowed to think, act and exchange ideas freely. That's because, in a complex world, solutions to big problems do not emerge from bureaucracies, but from the trial and error of an entire species. Most strategies will fail, but a successful strategy will replicate rapidly. For this reason, we are much less vulnerable to misinformation than to controlled information.

Ivermectin is a perfect example of this. How many lives have been needlessly lost because of your continued censorship of this remedy, discovered by doctors who were saving lives on the ground? It's starting to look like blood on your keyboard.

Fourthly, by presenting things as more certain than they are, and censoring alternative views, **YouTube** and **Google** have become the largest source of misinformation on the planet.



For those in power, misinformation is dangerous because it can erode trust, and a trusting populace is much easier to control. But the unquestioning trust and deference to authority that you promote has a destabilising effect on society because it negates judgement, discernment and ethical decision-making. Total trust is a condition indistinguishable from blind faith, and anyone that wants people to be like that, wants slaves.

What to do next

We want to help YouTube – as your parent company famously put it – to not be *evil* and, perhaps, one day rehabilitate as a responsible corporate citizen.

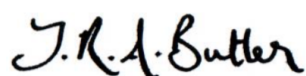
This will require, among other things, a far-reaching cultural change, a thorough disentanglement from commercial conflicts of interest and a full account of your past misconduct. Such things take time. But there are remedies you can make without delay.

- Review and revise all your policies on the basis that your organisation has no reliable mechanism for distinguishing fact from fiction.
- And that, even if it did, doing so would do more harm than good.
- Reinstate all footage removed on the basis of your foolish presumption of knowledge.
- Advise all existing YouTube users to migrate to a rival platform (we use Odysee, it seems to work well), until you have your house in order.
- Tender your resignations.

You must not be trusted in a position of power again, but by leaving now, there is a chance your organisations may survive the damage inflicted by your foolish policies.

Once you are able to confirm all four actions are in place, we will consider YouTube's potential rehabilitation on our traffic light system of child safety.

Yours sincerely,



Ross Butler
Founder

The Children's Union

