

Oversight Board – Facebook’s supervisory board

The idea of setting up the Oversight Board emerged in 2018. In performing its duties, the Board will focus on hate speech, harassment, and people’s rights to privacy and personal safety and security.

I. Organisational structure

The Oversight Board is an independent and autonomous legal entity whose operation is financed from a USD 130 million fund provided by Facebook. It should be stressed, however, that the trust is fully independent of Facebook. The Board will consist of 40 experts from all over the world. Prospective members shall have different cultural and religious backgrounds, political views and attitudes to Facebook. The members will serve a fixed term of three years and can be re-elected for up to three terms. They are entitled to remuneration for their services. The Board has two organisational units: one consists of its own experts, and the other of advisors.

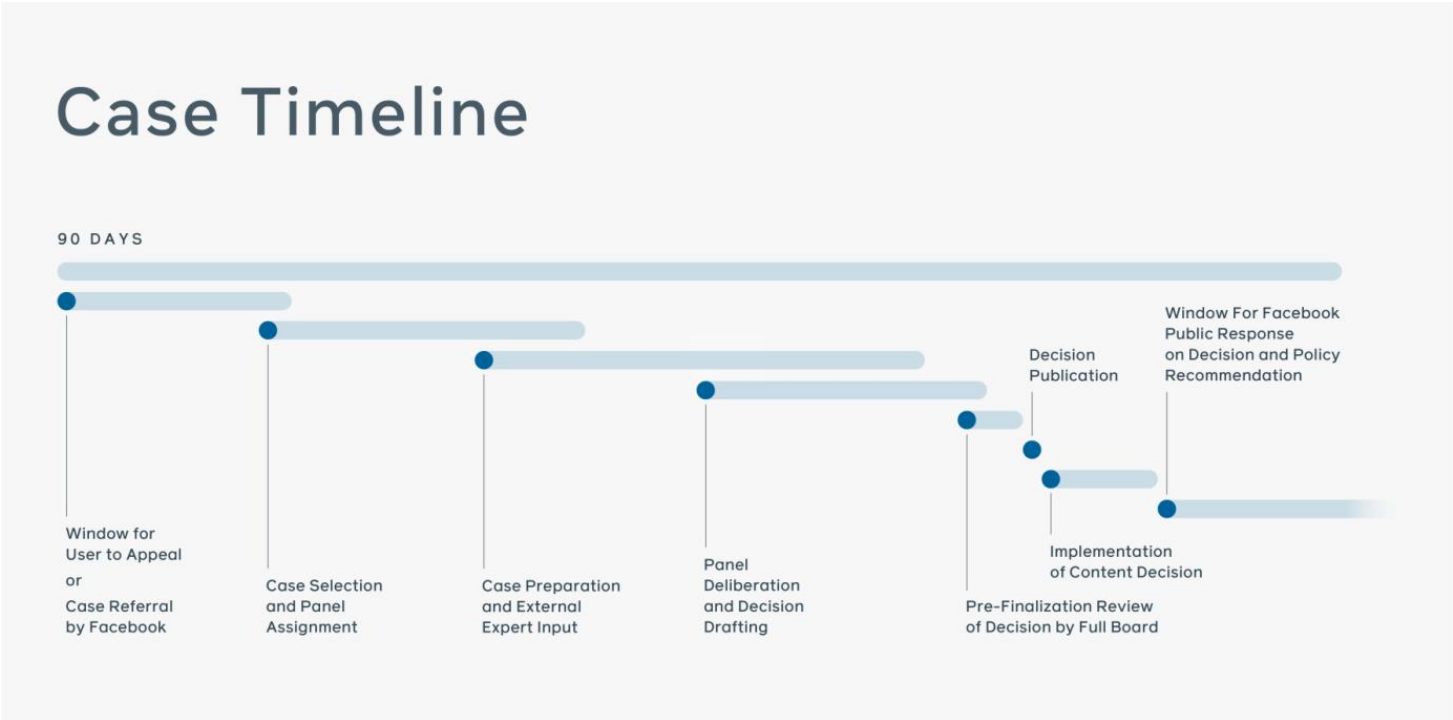
II. Operation and procedures

If Facebook users are of the opinion that the content posted by them has been removed from the digital platform unlawfully or without a cause, and have exhausted all available legal remedies, they may appeal against Facebook’s decision to the Oversight Board, as an independent supervisory body, within 15 days. The most complex and controversial matters may also be referred to the Board by Facebook itself. In such cases, the members of the Board will decide whether to address such matters.

The users concerned may voice their opinion primarily in writing. Facebook, however, does not rule out the possibility of hearing users in person by the members. Each issue or case will be assessed by a panel with rotating membership. Panel decisions will be reviewed by the full Board before finalization. A ‘selection committee’, in which Board members rotate every 3 months, will determine the issues to be addressed by the Board. The selection committee will consider aspects such as whether an issue potentially affects many users, whether it is essential to the continuation of public discussions, or whether it raises questions related to Facebook’s policies. The Board will have up to 90 days to decide on such issues.

If the Board overrules a content decision, the Board’s decision will be binding on both the user and Facebook, with the latter having to comply with the Board’s decision within 7 days. However, there are two exceptions to the above: when the content violates copyright, Facebook is not obliged to comply with the Board’s decision; and when the content concerns local law, the Board cannot take a decision.

Facebook may also request general guidance from the Board on certain matters, however, such guidance will not be binding on Facebook. Facebook may also request the Board to express opinion or draw up guidelines.



An Oversight Board to Review Facebook's Content Decisions

When reviewing content on Facebook, some decisions go to the core of how we balance safety and free expression. We believe these decisions are too consequential for Facebook to make alone. An oversight board will review these decisions.

What will the board do?

- Provide oversight of Facebook's content decisions
- Reverse Facebook's decisions when necessary
- Be an independent authority outside of Facebook



Who will be on the board?

A global group with expertise in diverse disciplines and a commitment to safety and free expression.

They will be obligated to the people who use Facebook—not Facebook the company.



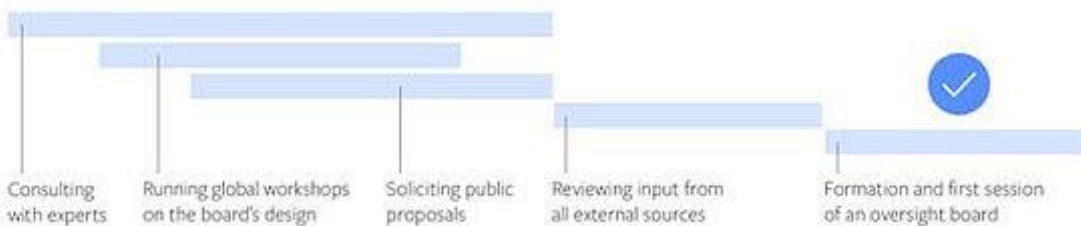
What issues will they discuss?

Our most difficult and contested decisions about taking down or leaving up content.

Some issues could be artistic expression, suspected hate speech or bullying.

How will the board be formed?

Facebook has begun consulting with experts, and will continue to provide updates through a multi-phased process in 2019.



How will the board and Facebook inform the public moving forward?

- Provide regular updates on the board's design
- Publish the charter and decision making process
- Announce all members
- Publish its decisions

facebook

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Implementation & Response

Oversight Board Decision

Facebook will bring together team members from across the company — including product, policy, operations, legal and others — to review the board's content decision and policy recommendation. Key steps we will take following the board's decision include:

Take action on the board's binding content decision

In cases where the board has overturned our decision, Facebook will take action to restore or remove the content within 7 days of the board's final decision.

Consider action at scale on identical content

Facebook will also determine the operational and technical feasibility of applying the board's decision to identical content with parallel context, which people may have posted elsewhere on the platform.

Assess the board's policy recommendations

Facebook will also analyze the board's policy recommendations and determine next steps. Considerations may include; applicability across regions, cultures and types of content and the status of other policies currently under development.

Facebook's Response

Facebook will respond publicly through the newsroom to the board's decisions and recommendations and will include information on:

- Whether we have implemented the board's binding content decision
- If we have applied that decision at scale to identical content with parallel context
- Our decision and next steps on the board's policy recommendation, including rationale

Members announced so far:

Afia Asantewaa Asare-Kyei

Evelyn Aswad

Endy Bayuni

Catalina Botero-Marino

Katherine Chen

Nihat Dad

Jamal Greene

Pamela Karlan

Tawakkol Karman

Maina Kiai

Sudhir Krishnaswamy

Ronaldo Lemos

Michael McConnell

Julie Owono

Emi Palmor

Alan Rusbridger

András Sajó

John Samples

Nicolas Suzor

Helle Thorning-Schmidt

 Oversight Board



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