

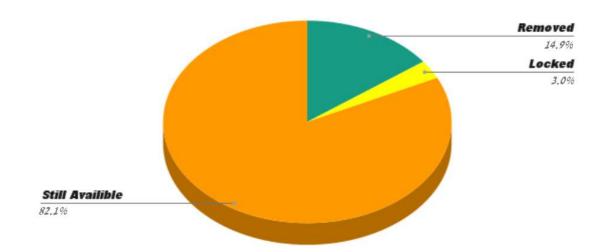
FOA Report: Antisemitism on the social platform VKontakte

VK (VKontakte; Russian: BKohtákte, meaning InContact) is a Russian online social media and social networking service based in Saint Petersburg. VK is available in multiple languages and is used predominantly by Russian-speaking users. It allows users to send messages to each other publicly or privately; create groups, public pages, and events; share and tag images, audio, and video and play browser-based games. According to *SimilarWeb*, VK is the 14th most visited website in the world. As of August 2018, VK had at least 500 million accounts. It is the most popular website in Russia.

AS opposed to other social media platforms, the rules for VK are unclear and vague. While some of the antisemitic content reported was removed, similar antisemitic contents remained. Even though VK users share some of the most disturbing antisemitic remarks, it takes little to zero action regarding reported content compared to other platforms.

Therefore, it is an important network in which antisemitism and hatred should be monitored, and content should be reported to the platform and removed as much as possible. In 2021, we detected 370 instances of antisemitism (as defined by IHRA) on the social network. At the time of this report, 82.1% of the cases monitored and reported are still visible. In total, 55 cases were removed from the platform (14.9%). 3% (11 posts) were blocked for comments.





Most of the content was in Russian, and a few were written in German, English, and Hungarian. A significant portion of the content found can be considered classic antisemitism, while some of the content included Holocaust denial, Nazi theories and worship of fascism, incitement to violence, blood libels, and conspiracy theories against Jews. One of the leading conspiracy theories is that Covid-19 is spread by Jews who seek to take over Russia and control the world.

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Content that was not removed:



The Jews control the World Health Organization and their scheme is to eradicate humanity





"If you want to live- expel the Jews"



Лохокост. Еврейки танцуют в концлагере Весте... 84 views



Holocaust denial- This post claims that the Holocaust never happened and shows Jewish women dance in the concentration camp of Westerbork





A promise to avenge the Jews for the defeat of the Nazis in WWII.





Jews control the media and use it to control the world.



A post against Russia's anti-discrimination laws legislated recently (282), claiming that this was done by the Jews who already control the Russian government.



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Removed content:





3

22

• 19

A picture of an oven with the caption 'we need more Jews'





АГЕНТ МОССАДА?НА ПЕРСПЕКТИВУ?! ИЗРАИЛЬСКАЯ ИЗЛЮБЛЕННАЯ ТЕМА ГОЕВ ПИЩЕЫМ ЯДОМ ТРАВИТЬ, ЗАЛАМЫВАЯ ЦЕНЫ И ЧЕРЕЗ ЖСМДИ НАРОД ЛОШАРИТЬ О ПОЛЬЗЕ ПИТАНИЯ !ТОЛЬКО ВОТ ПОЛЬЗА ДЛЯ КОГО?





Александр Киселев, основатель Welldon... tass.ru

A post claiming that the Jews poison food for the non- Jews.



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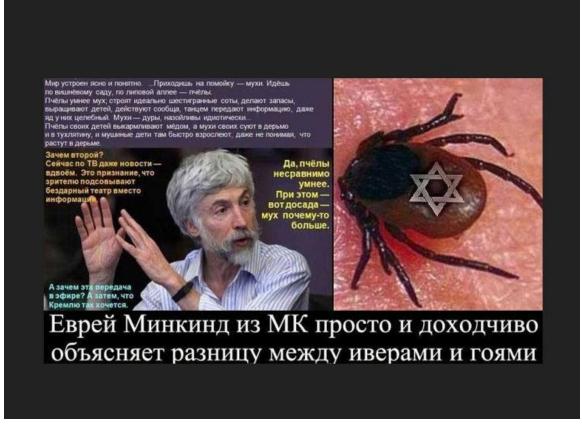


Какая разница между жидом и пиццей?- Пицца не орет в печке.



'The difference between Jews and pizza is that pizza doesn't scream in the oven'





A post against Jews with the photo of a leech compared to Jews