



1901 West Carroll Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 329-6299

Jeff Bezos
Chief Executive Officer
Amazon

January 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Bezos:

Well before last week's violent insurrection, Amazon played a critical role in the propagation of white supremacist and fascist movements, both domestically and abroad. For years, understanding the danger that Amazon's support played in nurturing these movements, organizations like ours have called on you to cut off your support. You have failed to do so. Last week, we saw the disastrous consequences of your corporation's failure to prevent white supremacists, fascists, and their enablers from using your platforms to spread misinformation, delegitimize the democratic process, recruit followers, raise money, and plan the first successful invasion of the U.S. Capitol in more than 200 years.

White supremacist and alt-right groups rely on Amazon Web Services (AWS) to host their websites.¹ Because of Amazon, white supremacist and fascist organizations are able to generate revenue by selling white supremacist, misogynist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and anti-LGBTQ merchandise and propaganda and by streaming "hatecore" music on Amazon's platforms.² Amazon's self-publishing arm, Kindle Direct Publishing, has provided the infrastructure to racist and violent ideologues looking to validate and disseminate their views widely.³ Amazon creates further funding streams for hate groups by enabling their customers to designate a portion of the proceeds from their purchases to be donated to those hate groups through the AmazonSmile program.⁴ Amazon's cooperation with ICE, the

¹ *Delivering Hate: How Amazon's Platforms Are Used to Spread White Supremacy, Anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia*. Action Center on Race and the Economy and the Partnership for Working Families. Jul 2018. 15. <https://acrecampaigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DeliveringHate-Jul2018.pdf>.

² *Ibid*, 1-2.

³ Kofman, Ava, Francis Tseng, and Moira Wegel. "The Hate Store: Amazon's Self-Publishing Arm Is a Haven for White Supremacists." *ProPublica*. 07 Apr 2020. <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-hate-store-amazons-self-publishing-arm-is-a-haven-for-white-supremacists>.

⁴ Bhatti, Saqib, Molly Gott, and Jessica Quiason. *Fanning the Flames: How Big Tech, Wall Street, and Right-Wing Media Corporations Were Complicit in the Christchurch Mosque Shootings and Continue to Enable Anti-Muslim Violence and Bigotry*. Crescendo, Action Center on Race and the Economy, and the Public Accountability Initiative. Oct 2019. 14. <https://acrecampaigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FanningtheFlames-Oct2019.pdf>.

Department of Homeland Security,⁵ and law enforcement agencies⁶ helps fuel the humanitarian crisis at the border and the surveillance, criminalization, and brutalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color across the country.

Your decision to remove Parler, the social networking app white supremacists and fascists have been using to plan further attacks,⁷ from AWS in light of last week's insurrection goes to show how strong a role you could play in fighting right-wing violence if you would put democratic interests above profits.

The January 6th attack could mark the beginning of a new era of bolder and more commonplace racist and antidemocratic violence in our politics. The seditionists who led last week's insurrection are actively planning further armed demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol and all 50 state capitols in the days leading up to the Presidential Inauguration next week.⁸ If you fail to act, the world will hold you responsible for any further acts of violence or treason.

We demand that you:

- Act swiftly and decisively to remove the websites of all white supremacist hate groups and the campaign websites of all politicians who incited, enabled, or supported last week's insurrection from Amazon Web Services;
- Adopt and proactively enforce policies to prevent vendors from selling, publishing, or streaming white supremacist, misogynist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and anti-LGBTQ merchandise, propaganda, or music on Amazon's platforms; and
- Stop donating money to hate groups through AmazonSmile.

Amazon's reckless support of racist, fascist movements has helped bring our democracy to the brink. Due to the dire urgency of the situation you helped create, we request you respond within 24 hours to Saqib Bhatti from the Action Center on Race and the Economy.

Regards,

Action Center on Race and the Economy
Athena
350 Butte County
Aubin Pictures
Call to Action CO

⁵ Paul, Kari. "Protestors demand Amazon break ties with Ice and Homeland Security." *The Guardian*. 11 Jul 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jul/11/amazon-ice-protest-immigrant-tech>.

⁶ Harwell, Drew. "Doorbell-camera firm Ring has partnered with 400 police forces, extending surveillance concerns." *Washington Post*. 28 Aug 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/08/28/doorbell-camera-firm-ring-has-partnered-with-police-forces-extending-surveillance-reach/>.

⁷ Fung, Brian. "Parler has now been booted by Amazon, Apple and Google." *CNN*. 11 Jan 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/09/tech/parler-suspended-apple-app-store/index.html>.

⁸ Cohen, Zachary and Whitney Wild. "FBI warns 'armed protests' being planned at all 50 state capitols and in Washington DC." *CNN*. 12 Jan 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/11/politics/fbi-bulletin-armed-protests-state-us-capitol/index.html>.

Catholic Network US
Center for Popular Democracy
Color Of Change
Communications Workers of America
Hedge Clippers
Jobs With Justice
LittleSis
Make the Road New York
MediaJustice
MPower Change
New York Communities for Change
Partnership for Working Families
PRBB Foundation
Rapid Shift Network
Resource Generation
Sagner Family Foundation
Science for the People – Twin Cities
Seeding Sovereignty
Solidaire Action Fund
Stardust
Strong Economy for All Coalition
Summer Fund II
Survivors Know
Take on Wall Street
UltraViolet
United People Project