

Twitter needs to work harder to protect all its users, not just the President of the United States.

When the news broke that Donald Trump had contracted Covid-19 earlier this month it felt like a long time coming. While he isn't the first world leader to get the disease, his infection meant a lot more considering how badly he has handled the pandemic. His constant downplaying of the severity and refusal to follow proper procedures has undeniably cost lives and so to some, his positive test felt like karma.

When the world found out, Twitter was immediately flooded with thousands of people expressing joy at Trump's misfortune. Many even went as far as to hope for his death. People were grappling with whether or not he deserved humanity when he himself hasn't shown any and used the social media platform as their outlet.

Though some of the comments that were gaining traction were intended as a joke, some were serious enough that Twitter officials took action. They sent out a tweet [saying that](#) "tweets that wish or hope for death, serious bodily harm or fatal disease against *anyone* are not allowed and will need to be removed."

Although this response was warranted, many, including House Representative [Alexandria Ocasio Cortez](#), have been quick to call out the hypocrisy. She has been very open about the *constant* hate she receives online, yet Twitter has done little to nothing to protect her in the way they have Trump. Rashida Tlaib, also a House Representative, [weighed in](#) too, criticising the platform for not taking *their* death threats seriously enough.

Replies to the tweet by the company show that it is not just high-profile people that share this frustration. Thousands and thousands of people have shared links to, and screenshots of, content and accounts still on the platform despite being reported.

It couldn't be more obvious that Twitter users have, for a long time, been angry at this inaction and it's clear why. For years CEO Jack Dorsey has been called out for this exact thing. In a 2019 HuffPost Q&A, he was asked outright that if Trump were to ask each of his followers to murder one journalist would he be removed. Dorsey's response was "we'd certainly talk about it".

Much of the content that doesn't get taken down is targeted abuse towards women, especially woman of colour, and tweets that fall under the umbrella of white supremacy. While it can be understood that there isn't a simple solution to banning this content – as outlined in an [article](#) by The Verge – the platform could start by banning repeat offenders. It was only this July that former KKK leader David Duke's account was suspended. Others like him remain able to tweet without consequences.

As a platform, Twitter needs to do more to ensure the safety and wellbeing of **all** its users, not just ones who happen to run a country. It's as simple as that. Repeatedly we have seen them fail, or flat out refuse, to remove harmful content directed at users. This needs to change. They cannot pick and choose when and for whom they want to enforce their own rules and regulations.