

# WestwoodMUNC II



“Fake News” Crisis  
Facebook Board of Directors

Greetings WestwoodMUNC II Delegates,

My name is Smita Chatterjee and I am currently a senior at Westwood High School. I joined Model United Nations in my sophomore year and have participated in several conferences including Brown University, Dartmouth College, and BC High. I am looking forward to giving delegates exciting and dynamic crises to work through. If you have any questions feel free to email me at [18schatterjee@wpsstudents.org](mailto:18schatterjee@wpsstudents.org) at any point.

I will be the Crisis Director for the Facebook Board of Directors Crisis Committee. This committee is centered around one of our biggest modern day influencers: social media. While we continue to reap the benefits of such rapidly expanding globalization, with it brings a new issue. How do we monitor breaches to our privacy and secure our personal safety on the internet? How can we ensure our national cybersecurity stays closed off from outside influence? After the maelstrom of the 2016 election, it has become even more apparent that our democratic process has been infiltrated. As delegates of this committee, members of the Facebook Board of Directors, it is your responsibility to determine where the lines of social networking should be drawn and what role social media will continue to play in major world events. Consider what your background is and what your motivations will be in this committee. I look forward to seeing how these issues expand and how you, as a delegate, will work to resolve these crises.

Smita Chatterjee  
Director of Facebook BoD and Brentance Crisis  
Westwood High School Class of 2018

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Jess Muzzi and I will be acting as your Chair for the Facebook Board of Directors during the “Fake News” crisis. I am currently a junior at Westwood High and I have been involved in Model UN since the beginning of my freshman year. Model UN has always been a pleasant distraction from school and sports, and acts as an outlet for my love of debate. I hope to make this committee and your experience here at WestwoodMUNC II as enjoyable and memorable as it can be.

My name is Philip Bligh and I will be the Co-Chair for the “Fake News” crisis. I am also a junior at Westwood High School, and I have been part of Westwood’s Model UN club since my freshman year. Outside of Model UN, I run cross country and track year-round. I look forward to being involved this conference, and I hope that this committee engages all delegates interested in pursuing a viable solution.

As all of you are crucial members of big-name social media companies, you are expected to keep in mind the core values and goals of your respective company. This committee does not address the long debated question of “did Russia really meddle in the 2016 United States Presidential Election?” but instead grapples with the question of “to what extent should social media get involved when it comes to foreign interference?” We hope that as you research the topic, you come to find it as intriguing as we do.

Each delegate is expected to take a leading role in deciding the direction our committee takes. Therefore, you are each strongly encouraged to research not only your position, but the position of your peers; there is a direct correlation between your experience here at Westwood MUNCII and your preparation. Feel free to reach out to us or Crisis if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jess Muzzi  
Westwood High School ‘19  
[19jmuzzi@wpsstudents.org](mailto:19jmuzzi@wpsstudents.org)

Phil Bligh  
Westwood High School ‘19  
[19pbligh@wpsstudents.org](mailto:19pbligh@wpsstudents.org)

Delegates,

Since Westwood MUNCII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is important for newcomers to the format to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional General Assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they are run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that instead of a Speakers’ List, the chair will set the speaking time and the topic at the beginning of the first committee session. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. It is encouraged that the first motion be a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point for seeing who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, moving into voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair by raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers.

III. Directives:

Delegates **do not** work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of *directives* that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take.

VI. Personal Directives & Portfolio Powers

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass *personal directives* depending on their “portfolio powers.” Portfolio powers are special privileges that are specific to a position, which will either be assigned in the Background Guide or at the start of committee. These powers can range anywhere from allocating funds for military development to taking military action and carrying out assassinations.

These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning taking as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. Delegates with the ability to spend money will be updated on their budget at the beginning of each committee session. Budgets will not increase unless that individual is specifically allocated additional funding by the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is **strongly** recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your character
- Outline your character's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chair no later than **11:59 pm on Sunday April 22** so that they have adequate time to read them.

Once again, please feel free to email your chair or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCII Staff

***IMPORTANT!!!!***

THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE  
SET ON FEB. 17, 2018. THAT  
MEANS THAT WE WILL  
DISREGARD ANY NEW  
INFORMATION THAT  
COMES THROUGH THE  
NEWS AFTER THE 17th OF  
FEBRUARY 2018. *IF YOU  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE  
DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH  
OUT. [19jmuzzi@wpsstudents.org](mailto:19jmuzzi@wpsstudents.org)  
[19pbligh@wpsstudents.org](mailto:19pbligh@wpsstudents.org)*

## I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Since the creation of the United States government, interference from foreign governments has been a constant fear and threat to American democracy. Even when creating the Constitution, the Founding Fathers believed that European powers would attempt to take advantage of their new “experiment,” leading to the addition of the Title of Nobility clause (also known as the Emoluments clause). This clause attempted to prevent foreign parties from using bribery or other means to interfere with the Republican character of the government. Notable figures such as Alexander Hamilton vehemently supported the implementation of this policy, even admitting that the United States Government was “too easy an inlet to foreign corruption.”<sup>1</sup> The fears of the Founding Fathers continued into the 20th century, and were strongest leading up to World War II. In 1938, Congress passed the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) in an attempt to label German propaganda: this act informed the United States Government, as well as American citizens, whether an informative source came from a foreign group or individual.<sup>2</sup> Although it is clear that a fear of foreign influence in the United States’ political process has been prominent, the rise of social media in the 21st century created entirely new issues and home and abroad.

Social media holds an immense power over the global population and has become a part of everyday life for billions of humans - by the year 2020 it is predicted that there will be 2.95 billion social media users worldwide.<sup>3</sup> Influential social media platforms include Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube. In recent years, the world of politics has utilized the power and influence of social media to share political commentary, demonstrate support or opposition for leaders, and even shift the public opinion on controversial issues through falsehoods. A political journalist in Ukraine, Mustafa Nayem, managed to rally supporters through Twitter, the action eventually contributing to the removal of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich.<sup>4</sup> The Alternative for Germany Party recently won 12.6% of parliament seats in a German election, partially by spreading falsehoods about immigrants on social media --such as the idea that immigrants get more benefits than native Germans.<sup>5</sup> Russia has become notorious for their controversial acts over social media, from government controlled news agencies spreading fake article, to a poll stating that conservative candidate François Fillon was leading the French Election, to bots feeding lies to influence voters (one out five political messages on Twitter related to the 2016 US Election was generated by a bot).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Hamilton, "The Federalist No. 22," *The Federalist #22*, December 14, 1787, , accessed November 28, 2017, <http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa22.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Lily Rothman. "Russian Hacks in US Election Not First Foreign Interference." *Time*. December 17, 2016. Accessed March 07, 2018. <http://time.com/4604464/foreign-interference-history/>.

<sup>3</sup> Kyle Gordon. "Topic: Social Media Statistics." *www.statista.com*. Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.statista.com/topics/1164/social-networks/>.

<sup>4</sup> "How the world was trolled." *The Economist*, November 4, 2017, 19-22.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*

## II. BACKGROUND ON EVENTS RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE

Campaigning for the 2016 US presidential election began when Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump announced their candidacies on April 12, and June 16 of 2015 respectively. It is around this time that the Russian government supposedly began their interference with the election. During September of 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) contacted the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and informed them that one of their computers had been compromised by Russian hackers; although one of the DNC's technicians scanned the system, nothing suspicious was found. About two months later, the FBI reached out once again, and the DNC claimed that the IT technicians "failed to pass along the message that the system had been breached."<sup>7</sup> On March 19th of 2016, John Podesta received a phishing email from Google stating that his email had been compromised, and that he needed to immediately change his password. This email allowed Russian hackers to access thousands of confidential emails; these were then posted to WikiLeaks, and the US Intelligence Committee deemed GRU (a Russian intelligence agency) responsible for this hacking<sup>8</sup>. On October 6th of 2016, DCLeaks--a collection of 'hacktivists'--published a series of documents stolen from



Capricia Marshall; however, DCLeaks was discovered to be linked back to GRU.<sup>9</sup> DCLeaks came to prominence through Facebook posts, most notably through an American citizen named Melvin Redick who wrote the post pictured on the left.

Melvin Redick was later discovered to be a fake account created by the Russian government, with his profile picture having been borrowed from a Brazilian man's profile.<sup>10</sup> This is not the only case of Russian interference with American social media: it was recently discovered that a Russian agency

that was connected to the Kremlin bought about \$100,000 in ads that discussed and promoted divisive issues during and after the American election campaign, as well as many fake accounts on Twitter that promoted anti-Clinton ideas.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup>"2016 Presidential Campaign Hacking Fast Facts." CNN. February 21, 2018. Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2016/12/26/us/2016-presidential-campaign-hacking-fast-facts/index.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Miles Parks, Keith Tamara, Madeline Garcia, and Abigail Censky. "2016 Under Scrutiny: A Timeline Of Russia Connections." NPR. October 31, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.npr.org/2017/10/31/537926933/2016-under-scrutiny-a-timeline-of-russia-connections>.

<sup>9</sup> Scott Shane. "The Fake Americans Russia Created to Influence the Election." The New York Times. September 07, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/us/politics/russia-facebook-twitter-election.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

### III. CURRENT SITUATION

In the recent 2016 presidential election, it is reported that Russian influences reached 126,000,000 users on Facebook, posted 136,000 messages on Twitter, and uploaded more than 1,000 videos onto Youtube (owned by Google). This committee will meet to discuss the extent of Russia's meddling through social media, and decide if a plan needs to be created in order to change policies before the 2020 presidential election.

**As a committee, it is not your job to determine whether or not Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential election: instead, it is your duty to determine whether or not Facebook and other social media have an obligation to prevent foreign interference.**

#### A. DISPUTES

1. A blogger named Guccifer 2.0 claims that he, not GRU, conducted the DNC hack all alone. In order to prove his claim, he posted internal DNC memos as well as research about Trump.<sup>12</sup> President Trump, on the other hand, suggests the theory that the DNC initiated the hack in order to distract the public from the Clinton Email Scandal.<sup>13</sup>
2. President Putin recently expressed his displeasure with the accusations that Russia meddled with the 2016, saying that it is simply "fake news fueled by Russophobic hysteria."<sup>14</sup> In response, President Trump has expressed his support of Putin: "Every time [Putin] sees me he says, 'I didn't do that,' and I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it."<sup>15</sup>

### IV. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is it in the best interest of these social media companies to address the issue of foreign interference? If so, what can they do to stop it?

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<sup>12</sup> Pete Williams. "Supreme Court to determine whether police can track you with your cellphone." NBCNews.com. November 24, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/supreme-court-determine-whether-police-can-track-you-your-cell-n823626>.

<sup>13</sup> Eric Bradner. "Trump: DNC hacked itself." CNN. June 15, 2016. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.cnn.com/2016/06/15/politics/dnc-hack-donald-trump/>.

<sup>14</sup> Andrew Higgins. "Why Putin's Foes Deplore U.S. Fixation on Election Meddling." The New York Times. November 23, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/23/world/europe/russia-vladimir-putin-liberals.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>.

<sup>15</sup> Julie Hirschfeld Davis. "Trump Says Putin 'Means It' About Not Meddling." The New York Times. November 11, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/11/world/asia/trump-putin-election.html>.

2. Should Facebook even be considered a news source? What should Facebook be considered?
3. Is Facebook an open platform to anyone who pays for advertisements? Where should Facebook draw a line, if any?

## Positions

1. **Sheryl Sandberg\* (Chief Operating Officer)**- Acting as the Chief Operating Officer for Facebook, Sandberg oversees all business operations. Sandberg is a prominent advocate for women in the workplace. She graduated summa cum laude from Harvard, receiving her MBA with highest distinction from Harvard Business<sup>16</sup>.
2. **Dave Wehner (Chief Financial Officer)**- As Chief Financial Officer, Wehner oversees the finances, facilities, and information technology teams for Facebook since 2012. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Georgetown University and his MS in Applied Physics from Stanford.
3. **Mike Schroepfer (Chief Technology Officer)**- Being in charge of Facebook's speed, creativity, and exploration, Schroepfer builds products and services in order to support the wide user base Facebook has. Before joining the FB Family in 2013, Schroepfer was the VP of Engineering at Mozilla Corporation, where he oversaw the product development process for Mozilla. He has both a bachelor's and master's degree from Stanford in computer science.
4. **Chris Cox (Chief Product Officer)**- Cox is in charge of developing Facebook and its features in order to help better the user interface-- he even helped build the first version of Facebook's News Feed feature. In addition to being Chief Product Officer, Cox is also the director of human resources, and is therefore in charge of managing Facebook's culture and the maintenance of the company's values. He has a bachelor's degree in symbolic systems, coupled with a concentration in A.I. from Stanford.
5. **Marc Andreessen\* (Co-Founder, General Partner of Andreessen Horowitz)**- Andreessen has served on the Facebook Board since 2008. Before he joined the Facebook Family, he was a General Partner of Andreessen Horowitz (a venture capital firm), and additionally worked for Opware Inc, Netscape Communications Corporations. He also is currently a member of the Ebay Board of Directors.
6. **Erskine B. Bowles\* (Senior Advisor)**- Bowles has been on the Facebook Board since 2011, and has also worked for Carousel Capital LLC, Forstmann Little & Co., as well as Morgan Stanley. In addition to working for other investment firms, he served as the White House Chief of Staff from 1997- 98, as well as having served on Barack Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in 2010. He has a B.S in business from University of North Carolina and an MBA from Columbia University Graduate School of Business.
7. **David Marcus (VP Messaging Products)**- Marcus, the past president of PayPal, became the VP of Facebook Messaging Products in 2014. While working for PayPal, he helped the company launch its mobile card reader, PayPal Here. He has recently been hired by Bitcoin Exchange.
8. **Susan Desmond-Hellmann\* (Chief Executive Officer of The Gates Foundation)**- Before joining the FB Family, Susan Desmond-Hellmann was Chancellor of the UCSF-- the first woman to do so. Desmond-Hellmann has been a part of the Facebook Board since 2013. She was named

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<sup>16</sup>"Governance Documents." Facebook - Corporate Governance. Accessed February 03, 2018.  
<https://investor.fb.com/corporate-governance/?section=committees>.

Healthcare Businesswomen's Association Woman of the Year in 2006, and is the first head of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation without a personal connection to the Gates' or having formerly worked at Microsoft.

9. **Reed Hastings\* (CEO and Chairman of Netflix)**- As well as serving as a member of the Facebook Board of Directors since 2011, Hastings acts as the CEO of Netflix and is a member of many non-profit organizations. He has also served on the board of Microsoft from 2007 to 2012. During the 2016 presidential election, Hastings supported Hillary Clinton.<sup>17</sup>
10. **Jan Koum\* (Co-Founder and CEO of WhatsApp)**- Koum, as well as being co-founder and CEO of WhatsApp, is responsible for WhatsApp's design and interface. WhatsApp was bought out by Facebook in 2014. Koum was born in Kiev, Ukraine-- which was originally part of the Soviet Union-- and immigrated to California in 1992. He used to be part of a group of hackers, w00w00, where he met founders of Napster, Shawn Fanning and Jordan Ritter.<sup>18</sup>
11. **Peter A. Thiel\* (Co-Founder of PayPal)**- Thiel has been a part of the Facebook Board since 2005, and co-founded Paypal. He was the first outside investor in Facebook in 2004 when he made an angel investment.<sup>19</sup> Thiel is a known Libertarian and Republican, having contributed donations to Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Nancy Johnson, and Susan Collins. For the 2016 election, he originally supported Carly Fiorina, but threw his support behind Donald Trump after she dropped out. He holds a German, New Zealand, and American citizenships.
12. **Vanessa Chan (Head-Media Relations)**- Chan's job seems deceptively easy: just make Facebook look good in the media. However, with the increase in accusations that Facebook should have done more when it came to the ads Russia was buying during the 2016 elections.<sup>20</sup> Chan is proficient at navigating Facebook's PR, which is what makes her great at her job.
13. **Marne Levine (VP Global Public Policy)**- Levine worked for Bill Clinton and for the Obama administration, and is also a member of the Lean In board (a Facebook non-profit created by Sandberg in order to aid in the empowerment of women). She is also a director of Women for Women International.
14. **Sundar Pichai (CEO of Google)**- Pichai was originally the Product Chief of Google, but soon rose to become the CEO. He is the man that drew criticism and media attention due to the "Google Memo"-- a situation where he fired an employee that published a ten-page manifesto criticising

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<sup>17</sup>Louis Nelson, Jack Shafer, Gwenda Blair, Edward-Isaac Dove, and Michael Kruse. "Hillary Clinton racks up business endorsements." POLITICO. June 23, 2016. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2016/06/business-leaders-endorse-hillary-clinton-224706>.

<sup>18</sup> Steve O'Hear. "Inside The Billion-Dollar Hacker Club." TechCrunch. March 03, 2014. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://beta.techcrunch.com/2014/03/02/w00w00/>.

<sup>19</sup> Graeme Wearden. "Shareholder trading values Facebook at more than \$33bn." The Guardian. August 25, 2010.

Accessed March 07, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2010/aug/25/facebook-value-flotation>.

<sup>20</sup> Susan Page and Julia Fair. "USA TODAY Poll: Facebook faulted for not doing more on Russian ads in 2016 race." USA Today. October 03, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/10/03/usa-today-poll-facebook-faulted-not-doing-more-russian-ads-2016-race/722306001/>.

Google's employment policies and diversity.<sup>21</sup> Keep in mind that Youtube falls under the jurisdiction of Google, so Pichai (as well as Porat) will additionally represent Youtube. Youtube's relevance to the topic of fake news can be accessed [here](#).

15. **Ruth Porat (CFO Google)**- Porat is known as the "most powerful woman on Wall Street," and for good reason.<sup>22</sup> Once she moved from being CFO at Morgan Stanley to becoming part of the Google Family, "Ruth Vader" helped raise Google shares by more than 70%, making it the most valued company only second to Apple Inc.<sup>23</sup> She has also publicly defended Google's pay practices since the Google Memo scandal.
16. **Jack Dorsey (CEO of Twitter)**- Dorsey is a computer programmer, founder and CEO of Twitter. In addition, he also founded Square (similar to PayPal). He is known as one of the "world's most eligible bachelors,"<sup>24</sup> however he has been reported to suggest that his only relationships are with Twitter and with Square.<sup>25</sup> Twitter, as you hopefully all know, is one of the platforms of choice for the President of the United States, Donald Trump, and has been accused of containing 'Fake News.'
17. **Jeff Bezos (CEO of Amazon)**- Forget Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos is *the* world's richest man, with a net worth clocking in at around \$104.4 billion.<sup>26</sup> In addition to owning Amazon, Bezos also has stock in the Washington Post, a site to have been claimed to be festering with Fake News by President Trump. Bezos used this site in order to completely examine Trump during his campaign.<sup>27</sup>
18. **Jonah Peretti (CEO of BuzzFeed)**- Jonah Peretti is not only the CEO of BuzzFeed, but also a co-founder of the Huffington Post alongside Ariana Huffington. During an interview with The Drum, Peretti stated that "traditional news businesses which are 'opportunistically' attacking

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<sup>21</sup> Liz Elting. "The Google Manifesto Is Part Of A Much Bigger Problem." Forbes. August 17, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lizelting/2017/08/14/the-google-manifesto-is-part-of-a-much-bigger-problem/#3494089f39b8>.

<sup>22</sup>Jena McGregor. "Google names Ruth Porat its next finance chief." The Washington Post. March 24, 2015. Accessed March 07, 2018.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2015/03/24/google-names-ruth-porat-morgan-stanleys-cfo-to-be-its-next-finance-chief/?utm\\_term=.bfb503d4b537](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-leadership/wp/2015/03/24/google-names-ruth-porat-morgan-stanleys-cfo-to-be-its-next-finance-chief/?utm_term=.bfb503d4b537).

<sup>23</sup> Christina Austin "Ruth Porat." Fortune. September 21, 2017. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<http://fortune.com/most-powerful-women/ruth-porat-10/>.

<sup>24</sup>Edwin Durgy. "The World's 12 Most Eligible Billionaire Bachelors." Forbes. September 17, 2013. Accessed March 07, 2018.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/edwindurgy/2013/03/06/the-worlds-12-most-eligible-billionaire-bachelors/#a5bf52330de7>.

<sup>25</sup>Stephanie Dube Dwilson. "Jack Dorsey: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know." Heavy.com. October 11, 2015. Accessed March 09, 2018.

<http://heavy.com/tech/2015/09/jack-dorsey-twitter-ceo-founder-interim-square-status-girlfriend-kate-greer-wife-children-biz-stone-net-worth/>.

<sup>26</sup>Chris Isidore. "Jeff Bezos net worth: Amazon CEO now richest person in history." CNNMoney. January 9, 2018. Accessed March 05, 2018. <http://money.cnn.com/2018/01/09/technology/jeff-bezos-richest/index.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Ben Kew. "Amazon's Jeff Bezos Exploring Legal Challenge to Trump Travel Ban." Breitbart. January 31, 2017. Accessed March 01, 2018.

[http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2017/01/31/amazons-jeff-bezos-exploring-legal-challenge-to-trump-travel-ban/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social](http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2017/01/31/amazons-jeff-bezos-exploring-legal-challenge-to-trump-travel-ban/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social).

Facebook and Google only have themselves to blame for their demise after choosing not to invest more in digital despite ‘decades of massive cashflow.’<sup>28</sup>

19. **Wael Ghonim (Computer Engineer, Internet Activist)**- Ghonim is an Egyptian democracy activist, and helped insight the 2011 mass demonstrations that eventually got Pres. Hosni Mubarak out of power.<sup>29</sup> He is a very interesting, and talented individual and will bring a radically left flair, as well as extensive computer and technology knowledge, into debate.
20. **Jackie Speier (U.S. Representative, D-CA)**- Speier is a democratic U.S. representative from California, who has taken part of many movements, more specifically the #MeToo movement by sharing her experiences on Capitol Hill. She has suggested that the Trump Organization was involved with money laundering,<sup>30</sup> however, the Conservative news source, Breitbart, has accused her of “fake news,” claiming that Breitbart themself could not verify her claim that the “Congressional Office of Compliance had paid \$15 million... to settle sexual harassment cases.”<sup>31</sup>
21. **Pavel Durov (Creator of VKontakte aka Russian Facebook)**- VK is the most popular website in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, as well as Kazakhstan<sup>32</sup>, and is number 6 most popular in the world.<sup>33</sup> Durov is also the founder of the Telegram Messenger. He was dismissed from VK in 2014.<sup>34</sup>  
**Devin Nunes (U.S. Representative, R-CA)** Nunes was a member of the Trump transition team, and recently came under fire for disclosing private information to the public in regards to the Russia Investigation; he denied all allegations<sup>35</sup>. Even though he was never charged, his rebuttal of the allegations and attack on the Mueller investigation has created some waves and concerns that Republicans are attempting to protect President Trump from allegations created against him.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>Jonah Burrell. "BuzzFeed's Jonah Peretti: news publishers only have themselves to blame for losing out to Google and Facebook." The Drum. Accessed March 11, 2018.

<http://www.thedrum.com/opinion/2017/06/29/buzzfeeds-jonah-peretti-news-publishers-only-have-themselves-blame-losing-out>.

<sup>29</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Wael Ghonim." Encyclopædia Britannica. May 05, 2014. Accessed March 11, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Wael-Ghonim>.

<sup>30</sup> Veronica Stracqualursi. "Speier alleges evidence of Trump Organization money laundering." CNN. January 19, 2018. Accessed March 11, 2018.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/19/politics/jackie-speier-money-laundering-accusations/index.html>.

<sup>31</sup>Penny Starr. Nov. "Following Fake News From Dem on Sexual Harassment, Truth About Extent of Abuse Unknown." Breitbart. November 18, 2017. Accessed March 11, 2018.

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/11/18/following-fake-news-from-dem-on-sexual-harassment-truth-about-extent-of-abuse-unknown/>.

<sup>32</sup> "Vk.com Traffic Statistics." Vk.com Traffic, Demographics and Competitors - Alexa. Accessed March 11, 2018. <https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/vk.com>.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup>Ingrid Lunden. "Durov, Out For Good From VK.com, Plans A Mobile Social Network Outside Russia." TechCrunch. April 22, 2014. Accessed March 11, 2018.

<https://techcrunch.com/2014/04/22/durov-out-for-good-from-vk-com-plans-a-mobile-social-network-outside-russia/>.

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<sup>36</sup>Karoun Demirjian. "Devin Nunes, targeting Mueller and the FBI, alarms Democrats and some Republicans with his tactics." The Washington Post. December 31, 2017. Accessed March 01, 2018.

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- 22. New York Times (Dean Baquet)** - The New York Times (the NYT) was founded in 1851 and won over 100 Pulitzer Prizes. In addition, the NYT has covered the topic of fake news extensively, and has actually increased subscriptions<sup>37</sup>.
- 23. CNN (Meredith Artley)** - CNN, in addition to the NYT, has covered the topic of fake news. However, CNN has recently come under the scope for allegedly spreading anti-gun propaganda.<sup>38</sup> In addition, Trump himself has tweeted many times to accuse CNN of being 'fake news' in itself, saying that that's the reason why "their ratings are so bad."<sup>39</sup>
- 24. Wall Street Journal (Gerard Baker)** - The Wall Street Journal (the WSJ) is based in New York City, and is the largest newspaper in US by circulation. The WSJ has also been attacked by Donald Trump, claiming that they "stated falsely that [he] said to them [that he had a good relationship with Kim Jong Un]" and that "they just wanted a story. FAKE NEWS!"<sup>40</sup>
- 25. Time Magazine (Nancy Gibbs)** - Time is the world's largest circulated weekly news magazine.<sup>41</sup> Time Magazine made an appearance during Donald Trump's 'Fake News Awards,' and has been accused of possessing "unrelenting bias."<sup>42</sup>

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