

## **Tackling terrorist use of the internet**

We, as members of the Five Eyes, stand united in our commitment to reduce the threat posed by online terrorism and violent extremism. We are determined to ensure that tools developed to enhance prosperity and freedom are not exploited by those who seek to use violence to divide us. There should be no safe space for terrorists and violent extremists to communicate online to advance their unlawful goals.

The internet provides terrorists and violent extremists a channel through which they can share globally materials designed to radicalise to violence, often leading to devastating effects. Working together, governments and industry have had some success in tackling this issue. However, terrorists and violent extremists remain resilient and agile. They continue to produce and disseminate high-quality propaganda inciting violence, and to use online platforms to radicalise and recruit. And, despite concerted efforts, much of their archive of violent extremist content remains freely accessible online to anyone inclined to seek it out. We must continue to respond at pace and scale to this evolving threat.

In this context we welcome and fully support your commitment to develop a truly international, industry-led forum to tackle terrorist use of the open internet. This initiative represents an opportunity to significantly reduce the availability of this content across all platforms, including those provided by emerging companies. Such a forum will offer a venue to collectively build upon the work your companies are already doing to deal with terrorist use of the internet and online violent extremist content.

This initiative is also an opportunity to unify efforts to better understand how content and platforms are used to mobilise individuals to violence. With greater collaboration on learning about harms, we can support more focussed and effective countermeasures, be they led by civil society, the private sector or government. However, we must move fast, and we look forward to quickly making a significant impact in diminishing the presence and reach of terrorists and violent extremists online.

The British Home Secretary intends to visit the West Coast next month, where she will discuss progress on the development of the forum, how we can build on your commitment of establishing the industry-led forum and what additional measures can be undertaken to deal with the ever expanding threat consistent with the laws of all our countries. We look forward to receiving an update from her following the meeting.