

'The Viewpoint Bias of Facebook Now Borders on the Deadly'

Facebook's face-off with co-founder Chris Hughes over how it is wielding its monopoly power has implications for Christian communicators, says the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) association.

In a lengthy *New York Times* op-ed today, Hughes had harsh words for Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and the company he runs, calling for the Federal Trade Commission to break up the enterprise's monopoly. NRB, through its John Milton Project for Free Speech, has long argued that Facebook uses its power to stifle Christian viewpoints while fostering those of its opponents.

"The viewpoint bias of Facebook now borders on the deadly," says Craig Parshall, NRB's general counsel and founding director of the John Milton Project. "While it publicizes its campaign to censor so-called extremist conservative voices, it has still allowed the Facebook postings of anti-Christian Pakistani cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi, who has openly called for the death of Asia Bibi, who faced the hangman's noose for her Christian beliefs."

Bibi has been acquitted and now has safely left Pakistan.

In Hughes's op-ed, speaking of Facebook's CEO, he complained that Zuckerberg is the one who "sets the rules for how to distinguish violent and incendiary speech from the merely offensive."

NRB's John Milton Project has pointed out the vague, anti-free speech problems with those rules for years.

“For nearly a decade we have found those rules to be skewed against Christian viewpoints and values,” says Parshall, “and while anti-competitive monopoly power is not allowed in commerce, when it comes to exchange of ideas and opinions, that is the most important marketplace of all.”