

Thousands Around the World Protest Instagram to Make #EveryBODYVisible on October 29 International Internet Day



Los Angeles – On October 29, International Internet Day 2019, a joint coalition of activists from around the world will protest censorship on social media platforms under the hashtag banner #EveryBODYVisible. #EveryBODYVisible is an online campaign specifically highlighting Instagram’s censorship of women, the LGBTQ+ community, People of Color, pole dancers, sex workers, photographers, models, artists, feminists, yogis, fitness athletes and other marginalized interest groups. Instagram, a top photo and video-sharing social networking service, is owned by Facebook, Inc.

The community alleges that social networking companies are using their immense platform power to censor and discriminate against its most vulnerable users. The #EveryBODYVisible community is advocating for more clarity and transparency from social media giants, and for a conversation to be had between different stakeholders in the social media moderation process. Varied Instagram user stories of discrimination, compiled by #EveryBODYVisible, can be viewed at www.EveryBODYVisible.com/discrimination and on the [@everyBODYvisible](https://twitter.com/everyBODYvisible) social media accounts.

The team is encouraging everyone who has experienced unfair artistic censorship, to join the campaign with three simple steps on October 29, outlined at <https://everybodyvisible.com/we-want-every-body->

[visible/](#).Â Censorship includes account deletion, hashtags bans and shadowbanning, a practice where a userâ€™s posted content is deliberately hidden and only visible to their existing followers. Participants and supporters are encouraged to use the #EveryBodyVisible hashtag and logo on October 29, alongside their picture or post, while tagging friends to join the campaign effort.Â In addition, and most crucial, a list of key executives at Instagram are outlined to also tag, ensuring that Instagram stays informed of the messaging.

AM Davies, CEO and founder ofÂ [United Pole Artists](#)Â and the creative force behind theÂ #EveryBODYVisible website states,Â â€œFighting Instagram censorship is not about getting views on a post. It is about being seen in the world at large!Â Every body deserves to be seen, heard and made to feel visible.Â International Internet Day is the ideal date to draw attention to what feels like an Orwellian prediction of omnipotent figures wielding oppressive control over the masses.â€

The EveryBODYvisible campaign started after over 18,000 pole dancers and their supporters petitioned Instagram viaÂ [Change.org](#)Â in July 2019Â to stop blocking and banning thousands of pole dance hashtags and accounts, arguing that they were not in breach of Instagram community guidelines. A Facebook/Instagram spokesperson publicly apologized and some of the blocked tags were restored.

But the deleting of accounts, and restrictions on tagging and visibility continued. Pole dance and fitness fans realized that they were not the only community being targeted.Â Evidence of discrimination was everywhere, including among women promoting self-expression, trans people, LGBTQIA folk, yogis, artists, photographers, the BBW community, feminists, disability activists, body-positive, sex and birth educators, and fitness professionals, all who were experiencing similar issues. The #EveryBODYVisible team was formed with the realization that this was a larger scale human

issue!

CitesÂ Carolina, a PhD researcher focusing on online abuse and blogger atÂ [Blogger On Pole](#)Â (@[bloggeronpole](#)),Â â€œThe monopoly of social media companies such as Facebook/Instagram, Google and YouTube and the lack of widely agreed upon transnational moderation law means that private businesses are increasingly becomingÂ theÂ gatekeepers of information and get to decide not only what's appropriate to post, but who is appropriate!â€

Lester Mendoza, the creator of Island MixÂ ([@islandmix](#)), an organization that offersÂ cultural awarenessÂ aboutÂ CaribbeanÂ music and events worldwide, knows firsthand the sting of Instagramâ€™s discriminatory practices.Â â€œWeÂ haven't gotten any direction on how to correct any account supposed infractions so people can continue enjoying our content.Â Instagramâ€™sÂ - shadowbanÂ defeats the purpose of celebrating and introducing our Caribbean culture to new people.â€

Phil Earley,Â founder, owner and operator ofÂ [DopeMinds](#),[Art, Apparel, Fitness](#)Â and the designer of the #EveryBODYVisible logo cites, â€œI personally feel that Instagramâ€™s undisclosed censorship practice is pushing the LGBTQ community back into the dark ages. Inhibiting our freedom of artistic expression makes my community feel the sting of shame and oppression that we have fought against for decades!â€

#EveryBODYVisible will release stunning artistic nude body images, showcasing male, female and non-binary dancers, shot by New York based fine art photographer Brynne Levy, across all their social media platforms on October 29.

Follow the campaign movement onÂ [Instagram](#)Â (<https://www.instagram.com/-everybodyvisible/>),Â [Facebook](#)Â (<https://www.facebook.com/everybodyvisible/>) andÂ [Twitter](#)Â (Â <https://twitter.com/EBVisible>).

Instagram executives to be tagged in #EveryBODYVisible posts include the following:

- Head of Instagram,Â Adam MosseriÂ [@mosseri](#)
- COO Facebook,Â Sheryl SandbergÂ [@sherylsandberg](#)
- Global Chief Diversity OfficerÂ Maxine WilliamsÂ [@maxinepwilliams](#)
- Facebook Chief Technology Officer,Â Mike SchroepferÂ [@schrep](#)
- Facebook VP of Integrity,Â Guy RosenÂ [@guyro](#)
- Facebook Global Head of Safety,Â Antigone Stokes DavisÂ [@davisantigone](#)

For more details about the campaign, research on discriminatory practices, and stories of censorship and discrimination, go to <https://everybodyvisible.com/>.