

DEFUSE NEWS

A weekly update of relevant issues



Social Media Boycott

There is one story this week, and that is the UK Football authorities and players boycotting social media for 4 days.

This is not a new idea. Earlier this month a number of football clubs, including Scottish giants, Rangers, boycotted Social Media for a week. This is on top of the wider campaign in support of #BLM whereby all players 'take a knee' before each game.

Despite these actions, nothing has changed.

I am not convinced that these tactics are effective. Having led the response against the horrific abuse of UK politicians on Social Media between 2016 -2019, where the abuse we investigated on a daily basis was off the scale. During that period the major platforms were hauled in front of the Home Affairs Select Committee to be grilled by angry, if uninformed MPs.

What actually made a difference was by personally engaging with the platforms & agreeing protocols to work together. Such was the strength of those relationships that I still maintain them and use them to benefit our clients. My attempts to engage with the footballing authorities has been less successful. It appears that rather than learn from our extensive experience, they believe they know better...time will tell!

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Anonymity Online

Nothing illustrates the lack of knowledge of Social Media more than the constant discussion of 'demanding' banning online anonymity.

This is something that I don't believe will ever happen, nor do i believe it should.

We need to stop seeing Social Media from a micro UK perspective. It is a global communication platform, and there is some evidence that much of the abuse is from outside the UK. Enforcing identification or increased verification of users will put peoples lives in danger in countries where regimes consider any contrary opinion to be a crime, often punishable by torture and death. Those whistleblowers who rely upon being anonymous to expose corruption, prejudice and other forms of oppression will be silenced.

Australian man who claims he is
Prince Charles & Camilla's secret
love child....with this image
apparently his proof



This story appears to have received more attention than it deserved this week, including an interview on This Morning which ended rapidly when his wife started swearing on live TV.

It is exactly because these stories are so regular that the Met Police have what is called Fixated Threat Assessment Unit. Any Met police officer that has been deployed on a Royal event will have been briefed on any number of delusional and often fixated people who are convinced that they are the rightful heir to the British throne.

Apparently he has written to the Queen a number of times...actually he's written to FTAC and I'll guess he's still waiting for a reply!

There's no severance package for Cancel Culture.

Putting the genie back into the bottle is almost impossible

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