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**New research: A pivotal moment for free expression online**

John Sands, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:00 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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**New Research**

[Free Expression, Harmful Speech and Censorship in a Digital World](#)

Technology is increasingly pitting free expression against the undeniable societal harms that accompany disinformation, hate speech, and other manipulative content often amplified by social media’s algorithms.

Recent events have brought concerns around free expression online to the forefront of public awareness and are drawing more Americans into debates that until recently were inside baseball for the tech policy crowd in DC and Silicon Valley.

[A new Gallup/Knight report](#) captures a moment when Americans began to seriously consider the depth of these issues. It points toward the tension Americans are feeling between their desire for the internet to be a forum for the free exchange of ideas and their growing recognition of the costs that such freedom entails.

Free Expression, Harmful Speech and Censorship in a Digital World

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The report explores American views on:

- \* **Content moderation online** - who should control decisions and how;
- \* **Self governance**, like Facebook’s recently launched Oversight Board, and
- \* **Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act**, which President Trump and many in Congress are pushing to reform.

[Explore the findings now](#), and at 12 p.m. ET Wednesday, join Knight, Gallup, and experts from Facebook’s Oversight Board and the legal and policy worlds for an expansive conversation ["Free Expression vs. Misinformation Online: Who Decides?"](#)  
[Learn more](#)



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