

Forum : Forum citoyen sur la Liberté d'expression**Thématique : Comment garantir un accès à l'information fiable à la génération Z tout en la protégeant contre les dangers des médias ?**

Nom du/de la Citoyen.ne : Eben Claes

Family Situation: ○ Married/in a relationship ● Single ○ with children	Level of education ○ Primary ○ Secondary ● University
--	---

1. In what way are you concerned about the subject?

My name is Eben Claes, I am 23 years old and am an engineer working in developing algorithms capable of scanning, analyzing, and censoring texts, images, or videos, in service of the Chinese communist party. I have no children and am not married. My higher income permits me to live comfortably in Beijing. I use social media in my daily life for many different reasons, including entertainment, communication, and research.

For the past year I have been working for this company, finding it a learning opportunity and a good way to challenge my abilities as an engineer. We, as a company, strive to ensure wellbeing on media platforms, and plan to further our capabilities of doing this through developing AI algorithms that can moderate online media and texts with, what we hope, is more accuracy than that of a human.

Correct content moderation is an essential requirement to ensure that media is being used safely and responsibly. That is why the Chinese Communist Party moderates content to align with our aims and goals, including Socialistic core values, maintaining ideological safety, preventing social harm, protecting vulnerable groups, and ensuring transparency and traceability. These guarantee that there is no hate speech, and that everything on the internet can be traced back to its creator, which especially incentivizes proper behavior on all media platforms, and prevents anonymity from being an option.

My job permits me to ensure that people move on from needing to manually regulate media content and instead work towards adapting to using an AI algorithm to censor such content. The capital required for setting up such a system may be high, but operating costs will be much lower in the long term - and that will be significantly more efficient than people are at content moderation.

2. What do you propose at your level?

It is widely known that Meta, among many others, has allowed harmful content onto its platform, on the policy that outrage drives user engagement (BBC). A governmental algorithm would not be susceptible to these market forces. The good of society is our number one priority in terms of content moderation.

When content moderation is attempted, American tech companies such as Google and Microsoft are known to exploit cheap labor, often in African countries, through third party companies, such as

Sama (The Guardian), which focuses on hiring “data-labeling / content moderation” employees, and has reportedly hired over 3500 Kenyans to do this for them manually. (The Guardian)

“A survey of 134 moderators led by researchers of Minnesota, finds that 52% of African content moderators met thresholds for probable clinical depression, and 55% had significant levels of psychological distress, some 28% reported using drugs or medication to cope with their symptoms” (Time) As an engineer, I have not been exposed to any content to meet these thresholds in my work, but I understand the damage that this may have caused to the people being paid to manually moderate it.

I strongly believe that content moderation must be monitored by states, not by corporations. Western countries often allow corporations to moderate their own content, and this has allowed such companies to exploit cheap labor in low-income countries (LICs), without facing legal persecution.

It is clear that the capabilities of an AI algorithm media moderation system far surpass those of manual moderation, but, if further evidence is needed, AI algorithms are faster and don't take breaks, therefore being capable of moderating far more content than manual moderation would permit (utopia analytics)

At my level I propose to further fund the companies that work in expanding AI content moderative abilities and, through that, hopefully end the exploitation of people to manually moderate all content on the internet.

With the Chinese Communist Party's power over corporations in China, China has the resources available to act quickly in response to cyber crises (USCC), maintaining the ability to seize control of such corporations and ensure that any crisis might be quickly remedied.

In summary I believe that we must adapt our media content moderation systems by allowing governments a higher level of control over corporate entities and their content moderation systems, ensuring that outrage isn't used to drive engagement, preventing exploitation of cheap labor in LICs, increasing media moderation efficiency by switching to using AI algorithms, and ensuring that AI content moderation companies can reach the highest possible potential.

Please find a full citation list in the document cited below:

[Eben Claes - Position Paper Citations](#)