

U.S.

Nikki Haley

GOP

Social media

First Amendment

Ron DeSantis

Nikki Haley's Social Media Plans Called 'Blatantly Unconstitutional'

Nov 15, 2023 at 7:19 AM EST

By **[Khaleda Rahman](#)**
Senior News Reporter

FOLLOW

45

LRepublican presidential candidate [Nikki Haley](#)'s proposal to make all social media users verify their identities has sparked a backlash online, with some calling it unconstitutional and one legal expert telling *Newsweek* it is "at the very least, constitutionally dubious."

Haley made the remarks on [Fox News](#) in response to the reported [rise in antisemitism](#) amid Israel's ongoing war against Hamas in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"Antisemitism was always bubbling underneath the surface, but now we're seeing this massive exaggeration of it, but no one's talking about why," the former [United Nations](#) ambassador said.

"The truth is, if you look at social media, the misinformation and the dramatic sides of social media are instigating this. Why? Because it's being pushed by Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea."



SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

proposal to make all social media users verify their identities has sparked a backlash online.

Anonymous posts are "a national security threat," Haley said.

 **NEWSLETTER**

The Bulletin

Your daily briefing of everything you need to know

SIGN UP

"It is why when I get into office, the first thing we have to do, social media accounts... social media companies, they have to show America their algorithms. Let us see why they're pushing what they're pushing. The second thing is every person on social media should be verified by their name," she said.

"When you do that, all of a sudden people have to stand by what they say, and it gets rid of the Russian bots, the Iranian bots, and the Chinese bots. And then you're gonna get some civility when people know their name is next to what they say, and they know their pastor and their family member's gonna see it. It's gonna help our kids and it's gonna help our country."

READ MORE

- [Laura Ingraham mocks Republicans tearing themselves apart](#)
- [Protesters accuse Biden of "genocide" as Israel forces enter Shifa Hospital](#)
- [Rashida Tlaib joins forces with Rabbis and Jewish activists](#)
- [Candace Owens endorses Nikki Haley for "president of Israel"](#)

Haley's proposal prompted criticism on social media, including from rivals in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Her campaign has been contacted for comment via email.

Florida Governor [Ron DeSantis](#), who is trailing former president [Donald Trump](#) in the race for the GOP nomination, called Haley's proposal "dangerous and unconstitutional."

[Sign up for Newsweek's daily headlines](#)

"You know who were anonymous writers back in the day? Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison when they wrote the Federalist Papers," DeSantis wrote on X, formerly [Twitter](#).

"They were not 'national security threats,' nor are the many conservative Americans across the country who exercise their Constitutional right to voice their opinions without fear of being harassed or canceled by the school they go to or the company they work for."

@RonDeSantis · [Follow](#)

You know who were anonymous writers back in the day? Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison when they wrote the Federalist Papers.

They were not "national security threats," nor are the many conservative Americans across the country who exercise their Constitutional... [Show more](#)

Chief Nerd  @TheChiefNerd

NEW – Nikki Haley Says Allowing People to Post on Social Media Anonymously is a 'National Security Threat'

"Every person on social media should be verified by their name...It gets rid of the Russian bots, the Iranian bots, and the Chinese bots"

8:10 PM · Nov 14, 2023



22.3K



Reply



Share

[Read 1.9K replies](#)

Christina Pushaw, DeSantis' rapid response director, wrote: "I am no lawyer but isn't this blatantly unconstitutional? Free speech includes anonymous speech."

@ChristinaPushaw · [Follow](#)

NEW: Nikki Haley asserts that allowing people to post on social media anonymously is a "national security threat". She promises that as president, she will force "every person on social media" to be "verified by their name."

I am no lawyer but isn't this blatantly... [Show more](#)

Watch on X

3:26 PM · Nov 14, 2023



9.4K



Reply



Share

[Read 3.8K replies](#)

Vivek Ramaswamy, a biotech entrepreneur who is also in the GOP race, wrote on X that Haley's proposal "is a flagrant violation of the Constitution and straight out of the [Democrats'](#) playbook."

He said that "any politician who thinks it's OK for the government to use the private sector as its censorship bureau shouldn't be allowed anywhere near the White House."

@VivekGRamaswamy · [Follow](#)

.@NikkiHaley is *openly* pushing for the government to use private tech companies to censor speech. This is a flagrant violation of the Constitution and straight out of the Democrats' playbook. Any politician who thinks it's OK for the government to use the private sector as its... [Show more](#)

Watch on X

5:05 PM · Nov 14, 2023



26.9K Reply Share

[Read 2.1K replies](#)

Others also noted that the Founding Fathers had written both anonymously and using pseudonyms.

Journalist Glenn Greenwald wrote: "Is Nikki Haley aware that the Federalist Papers were written by founding fathers using pseudonyms? Nikki Haley may be one of the most war-mongering and authoritarian candidates for president in some time. She's completely unhinged. This is blatantly unconstitutional."

@ggreenwald · [Follow](#)

Is Nikki Haley aware that the Federalist Papers were written by founding fathers using pseudonyms?

Nikki Haley may be one of the most war-mongering and authoritarian candidates for president in some time. She's completely unhinged. This is blatantly unconstitutional.

Christina Pushaw 🇺🇸 @ChristinaPushaw

NEW: Nikki Haley asserts that allowing people to post on social media anonymously is a "national security threat". She promises that as president, she will force "every person on social media" to be "verified by their name."

I am no lawyer but isn't this blatantly...

6:13 PM · Nov 14, 2023



27.4K



Reply



Share

[Read 1.8K replies](#)

Laurence Tribe, a leading scholar of constitutional law and emeritus professor at the Harvard Law School, told *Newsweek* that Haley's proposal is "at the very least, constitutionally dubious."

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

people reveal their identities when speaking or distributing constitutionally protected material," he said.

"But at least since 1960, when it struck down a California law requiring the distributors of leaflets to disclose their names and addresses in the case of Talley v. California, the Supreme Court has treated anonymity as a constitutionally protected facet of the freedom of speech, so Nikki Haley's proposal is, at the very least, constitutionally dubious and it does seem either ignorant or deliberately misleading for her to make the casual assumption that, because dangerous disinformation has at times threatened national security and public safety, government may enact a sweeping requirement of verified disclosure by name on the part of all who use social media."

Update 11/15/23, 10:30 a.m. ET: This article has been updated to add comment from Laurence Tribe.

[Request Reprint & Licensing](#)

[Submit Correction](#)

[View Editorial Guidelines](#)

About the writer

[Khaleda Rahman](#)

FOLLOW

Khaleda Rahman is Newsweek's Senior News Reporter based in London, UK. Her focus is reporting on abortion rights, race, education, ... [read more](#)

To read how Newsweek uses AI as a newsroom tool, [click here](#).

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

Conversation 45 Comments

Start a discussion, not a fire. Post with kindness. Read our guidelines [here](#).

 Log in Sign up

What do you think?  

Sort by **Best** ▾

Timekeeper ...

15 November, 2023

I like the anonymity factor.

Kind of puts a damper on the AA meetings on Facebook, or the anonymous post with a moniker. Half of us that post here using a moniker would need to rethink how we post.

I would not want someone who disagrees with our comments to treat us like the republicans treated the e...

See more

Reply ·  2  · Share

 1 reply

Your Other Left ...

15 November, 2023


I support Haley although our positions differ on some issues, especially Ukraine. However, I could not do what I do without anonymity. Haley will have a difficult time forcing that policy on the social media networks.

Reply ·  1  · Share

Dieter Howard ...

15 November, 2023

Reply ·  1  · Share

 1 reply

Chris Davis

...

15 November, 2023

Nikki Haley wants to be POTUS, but she doesn't understand the basic tenets of the 1st Amendment in the Bill of Rights; **AND** she doesn't understand that social media is provided by corporations who set up legally binding terms of service agreements for users to have the privilege(s) to post content o...

See more

Reply ·  1  · Share

john nugent

...

15 November, 2023

Show me your papers. - Nikki Haley

Reply ·  3  · Share

MARA

...

15 November, 2023

There she is. The real inner Nikki coming out. It's the twin sister to Vivek!!! Shocker that is!!! On the GOP side, only Kris Krispy has any notion of "democracy". All the others want power, not to serve, but to rule. And that is most outstanding in Slobzilla the 300 Pounder, as we all know.

(Edited)

Reply ·  2  · Share

H Hugo

...

16 November, 2023

Nikki is just another oily, super fake, grab-the-money and run politician. She really just wants someone to pick her as vice president, so that she can get all the perks and limelight of office but not do the hard work. Super fake smile, super fake everything, just fake fake fake.

Reply ·  4  · Share

K Keepingitreal

...

15 November, 2023

Just get rid of social media altogether.
Things were much better before it

Reply ·  1  · Share

Barbara



15 November, 2023

Haley is the favorite republican candidate of liberals because of her warmongering, and their media declared that she came in first in the debate, even though she came in last.

Reply · 1 2 · Share

1 reply

William Earls



15 November, 2023

After seeing the vast amount of paid tweeters on Twitter (X) , I think Haley might have a point....published opinions are bought and paid for by teams of tweeters employed by political parties that truly distort a readers' analysis that what they are reading is a consensus viewpoint....

(Edited)

Reply · · Share

U

Ultra



15 November, 2023

Liberals should love this. Unconstitutionality never stopped them from their agenda...think the second amendment. Alleging it's good for all is justification enough.

Reply · 2 9 · Share

2 replies

Show More Comments

Trending



01 How Prince Harry and Meghan Were Spoofed in 2023— 'South Park' to Late Night
[36 comments](#)

02 I'm a Ghostwriter—Book Bans Are Beneficial
[62 comments](#)

03 Ron DeSantis' Jack Smith Threat Sparks Avalanche of Jokes, Memes
[61 comments](#)

04 Ancient 'Ritual Artifact' May Reveal Secrets of Deep Space
[24 comments](#)

05 Cardinal Who Lost Free Vatican Home Has 4-Word Message on Meeting With Pope
[28 comments](#)

[To Homepage](#)

THE DEBATE

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

By David Faris



VS



2024 Is Another Year of Living Dangerously

By Dan Perry

OPINION

2024 Is Another Year of Living Dangerously

By [Dan Perry](#)



Why 2024 Could Totally Rule!

By [David Faris](#)



Could 2024 Finally Be Puerto Rico's Year?

By [Dan Perry](#)



We Cannot Forget Azerbaijan's Ethnic Cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh

By Sheila Paylan



From Soccer to AI, Saudi Arabia Spends to Win

By Sarah Gebauer And Gregory Smith



A 2024 Wish List: Sanity at Home and Stability Abroad

By [Josh Hammer](#)



SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

Why Did Israel Kill My Family in Gaza and Destroy My Childhood Home?

By Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib



President Trump Is Right. Americans Are Being Poisoned—By Fentanyl

By Chad Carlsen



DeSantis Should Have No Regrets. No One Could Beat Trump or His Indictments

By [Mark Davis](#)



I'm a Jewish Republican. I Love You, John Fetterman

By Mor Greenberg



Premium Subscription

Digital + Monthly (Ad Free Trial)

Haley's Refusal to Mention Slavery Is an Insult to GOP Voters of Color

By [Darvio Morrow](#)



Why DeSantis Came Up Short

By Noah Abelman



- ✓ Newsweek magazine delivered to your door
- ✓ Unlimited access to Newsweek.com
- ✓ Ad free Newsweek.com experience
- ✓ iOS and Android app access
- ✓ All newsletters + podcasts

Top Stories



How Bryan Kohberger's Trial Will Unfold

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

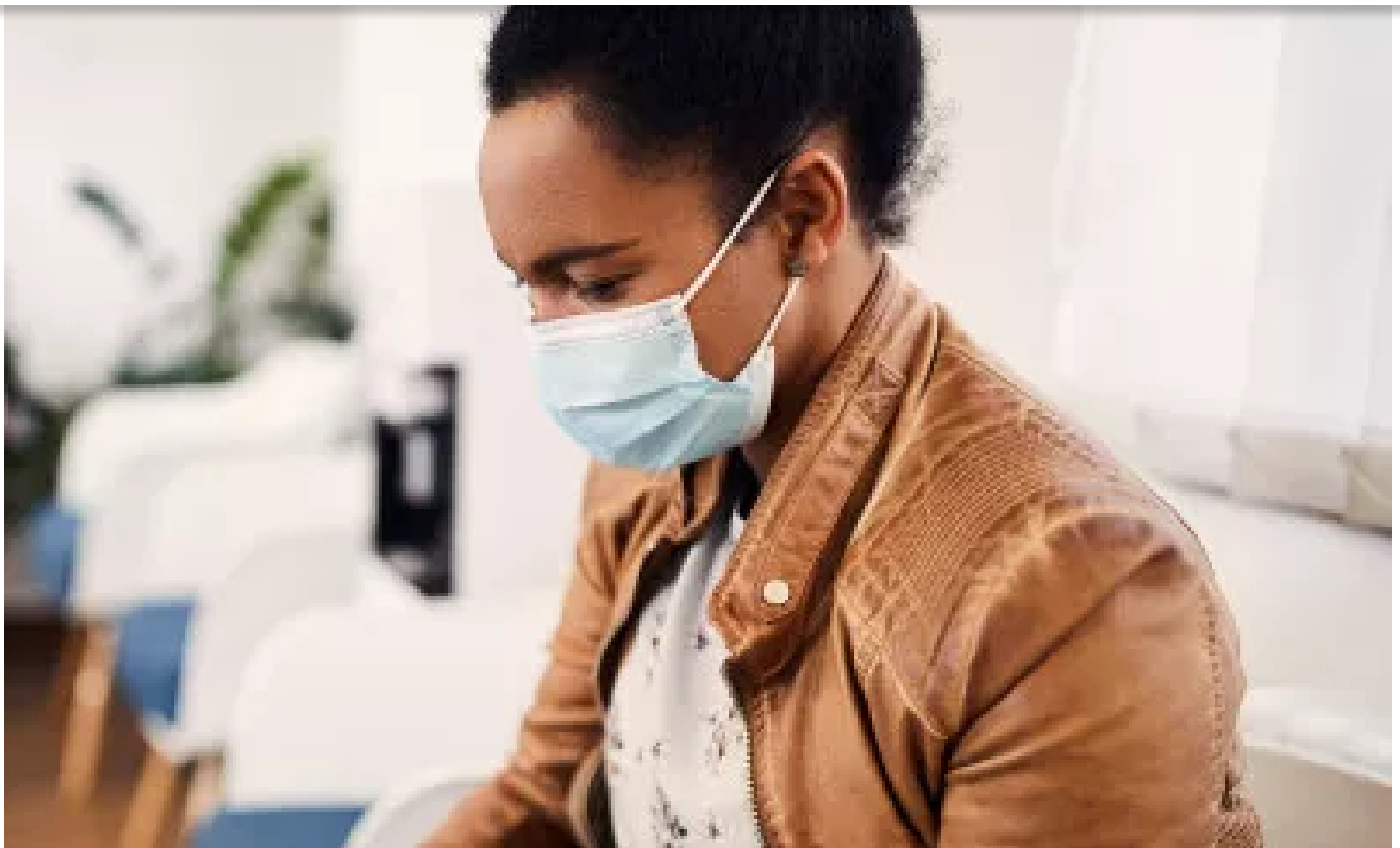


Joe Biden's Year in Review



Donald Trump Will See More Co-Defendants Flip: Ex-Prosecutor

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1



COVID Map Shows States With Highest Cases as Hospital Mask Mandates Return

U.S.

World

Science

Health

Rankings

Opinion

Culture

Fact Check

My Turn

Education

Subscriptions

Digital+ Monthly (Ad Free Trial) **\$1.00**

Digital+ Yearly \$49.00

Premium Monthly \$9.99

Premium Yearly \$99

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

Podcasts **Better Planet**

Vault **Mightier**

Autos **Newsletters**

Unconventional **Vantage**

Experts

Trending

Israel at War Vladimir Putin Russia-Ukraine War

Donald Trump

In The Magazine



January 12
2024 Issue

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1

- The Bulletin (Mondays to Fridays) [See Sample](#)
- The Josh Hammer Report (Wednesdays) [See Sample](#)
- The Frontlines (Thursdays) [See Sample](#)
- Israel at War (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- For The Culture (Tuesdays and Thursdays) [See Sample](#)
- Pawsitively (Mondays to Fridays)
- Better Planet (Mondays)
- My Turn (Sundays)

Email address

Sign up now

You can unsubscribe at any time.
By signing up you are agreeing to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy

Company

About Us

Masthead

Diversity

Announcements

Archive

Policies and Standards

Mission Statement

Leadership

Newsletters

Press Center

Editions:

U.S. Edition

日本

Polska

România

Contact

Advertise

Careers

Contact Us

Corrections

Terms of Use

Cookie Policy

Copyright

Privacy Policy

Terms & Conditions

Terms of Sale