



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 19, 2011

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**Facebook Refuses to Remove Pro-Rape and Pro-Violence Pages
Fans Grow for Pages Like:**

“Abducting, Raping and Violently Murdering Your Friend”

“Punching Your Girlfriend in the Ovaries”

“You Know She’s Playing Hard to Get When You’re Chasing Her Down An Alley”

New York – After repeated calls from Facebook users and NOW-NYC, Facebook refuses to take down hateful and dangerous group pages that incite violence against women and explicitly endorse rape. Several large companies have pulled ads from the site and over 200,000 people have signed a Change.org petition calling for the removal of these pages, yet they remain active.

Facebook’s own Terms of Service prohibit content that is “hateful, threatening,” or contains “graphic or gratuitous violence.” Facebook users are specifically barred from posting content that aims to “bully, intimidate, or harass” any user. NOW-NYC President, Jane Manning, said, “It is absolutely stunning that Facebook, which has consciously chosen not to serve as a forum for other kinds of hate, would make this unbelievable exception when it comes to hatred of women.”

“They won’t stand for ‘The New Anti-Gay Movement,’ but ‘You know she’s playing hard to get when you’re chasing her down an alleyway’ is okay?” said Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director of the National Organization for Women in New York City. “Facebook users are dumbfounded that management is digging in its heels over rape pages. What exactly is the message here?”

Indeed, Facebook regularly removes pages it deems in violation of its Terms of Service for posting “direct statements of hate against particular communities”. For instance, “Third Palestinian Intifada,” “The New Anti-Gay Movement,” and “Abusing Belfast Rose Sellers” are pages that have all been removed from the website.

Meanwhile, according to an October 4 article in *The Guardian*, when it comes to protecting women from hateful, threatening content, Facebook states: “It is very important to point out that what one person finds offensive, another can find entertaining – just as telling a rude joke won’t get you thrown out of your local pub, it won’t get you thrown off Facebook”.

“Rape and violence against women isn’t a joke, it’s a crime,” Ossorio said. “One in five college women will be sexually assaulted while in school. With more than half a million followers, Facebook’s rape pages are fueling a rape culture that tolerates and excuses sexual violence against women.”

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to promote women’s reproductive rights, secure women’s economic empowerment, and end violence and discrimination against women.

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