

# BITCHUTE

PLATFORMING HATE AND TERROR IN THE UK

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**HATE**  
**HOPE**  
**HATE**  
CHARITABLE TRUST

# THE CASE AGAINST BITCHUTE

## BITCHUTE EXISTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE MODERATION OF MAINSTREAM PLATFORMS, AND IS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT HUB FOR TERRORIST PROPAGANDA, INCITEMENT TO RACIST VIOLENCE AND COVID-19 MISINFORMATION.

Over recent months, we have become increasingly alarmed by the frequency with which we are encountering violent, racist and harmful videos posted on social media that are hosted on the BitChute video-sharing platform. Almost every recent Facebook post we have seen promoting Nazi propaganda films were links to BitChute, while wildly misleading and harmful conspiracy theory documentaries that were quickly banned by YouTube, such as the *Fall of the Cabal*, *Plandemic* and *Out of Shadows* have gone on to rack up millions of views on their BitChute uploads.



BitChute is a UK-based video-sharing platform, set up in January 2017 by tech entrepreneur Ray Vahey. It received 22.75 million visits in May 2020<sup>1</sup>, a record for the site, boosted in part by its hosting of the *Plandemic* documentary, which promoted a dangerous conspiracy theory that denied the existence of the novel Coronavirus and claimed that COVID-19 was instead caused by vaccinations. The film was banned by all reputable social media platforms and video sharing sites, but existing uploads of the documentary on BitChute have a combined tally of at least 5.4 million views.

From the outset, Vahey promoted BitChute as a site that would host content that fell foul of other platforms' terms of service, saying that the idea for his site came from:

*"seeing the increased levels of censorship by the large social media platforms in the last couple of years. Bannings, demonetization, and tweaking algorithms to send certain content into obscurity and wanting to do something about it."*<sup>2</sup>

That this remains the site's primary selling point is apparent by analysis of the most popular channels and videos hosted by the site.

### **This report shows:**

- 1) That absence of moderation and willingness to host hateful content is the unique selling point of the platform**
- 2) That the platform is dominated by content and producers that have been, or would be, removed from other platforms**
- 3) That BitChute is knowingly playing host to terrorist propaganda and incitement to violence. Our research has identified 114 videos in support of proscribed terrorist groups on BitChute, including 23 videos in support of National Action and 86 videos promoting the Islamic State group.**
- 4) That BitChute actively promotes conspiracy theories and misinformation.**

# TIME FOR ACTION

In public statements, BitChute presents itself as having a laissez faire attitude to content moderation, tolerating all but the most extreme content in the name of free speech and open debate. But in actuality, the company chooses to almost exclusively promote content and producers that engage in hate speech and harmful misinformation. Far from merely tolerating such behaviour, the platform indicates time and again that such attributes are celebrated on their platform. The effects of this stance can clearly be seen by the content which garners most interest and views on the platform.

Worse still, the company fails to implement even the extremely lax rules that they have in place. Their community guidelines claim that will not tolerate incitement to violence, but even a five minute search of the platform will turn up hundreds if not thousands of videos celebrating the Holocaust or calling for the genocide of black and ethnic minority groups. The company claims that they remove propaganda from terrorist groups, but a single HOPE not hate researcher was able to identify hundreds of such videos in just a few hours of searching.

The vile and dangerous content that abounds on BitChute is a result of deliberate decisions on the part of their founder and team. Unless changes are implemented with immediate effect, BitChute must be considered a bad actor and promoter of online harm.

BitChute's behaviour is also a challenge for social media platforms where BitChute content is shared. As a result of our research Facebook have deleted swathes of links to BitChute posted on their own platform. That is a welcome move. Much more is needed to reduce the harm done by BitChute's behaviour.

## **We recommend that:**

- **Major social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter ban the sharing of BitChute links on their platform, thereby significantly reducing the impact of this extreme and dangerous material.**
- **Law enforcement investigate BitChute for distribution of content that breaks British law, including terrorism legislation.**
- **The government introduce an Online Harms Bill that includes meaningful consequences for bespoke platforms such as BitChute that host, promote or distribute terrorism, extremist and hateful content**

# 1. LACK OF MODERATION IS BITCHUTE'S PRIMARY SELLING POINT

Statements from BitChute founder Ray Vahey make clear that his motivation in creating the platform was to host content creators that had been subject to *“increased levels of censorship by the main platforms”* - i.e. those that had fallen foul of community guidelines on YouTube and other video-hosting platforms.

In an interview given to the online conspiracy theory channel *The Vin Armani Show* in November 2017, Vahey went further, saying:

*“We’re catering to a completely different audience. We’re after people who want to show their own work but are not able to because they’ve been shut down by YouTube [...] We want the kind of content that people used to see on YouTube, like the Activist Post, like the Vin Armani show”.*<sup>3</sup>

Both of the outlets he referenced are proponents of baseless and harmful conspiracy theories. The Activist Post regularly promotes antisemitic tropes about the Rothschild family and Israeli responsibility for 9/11, while Vin Armani has suggested that the Orlando shooting and Manchester bombing were false flag attacks carried out by governments.

This lack of moderation is continually promoted in posts by BitChute’s official Twitter and Facebook account, including in posts declaring it will *“will continue to compete and take market share from an increasingly authoritarian Youtube”*,<sup>4</sup> and criticising Facebook, YouTube and other platforms for their efforts to remove dangerous or hateful content, including COVID-19 misinformation.



*Tweet condemning moderation of COVID-19 misinformation, 22/05/2020*

Not only does BitChute tolerate users that have been banned from numerous platforms for hate speech, it actively promotes such channels and content. In February 2019, the company shared a post highlighting that Tommy Robinson, who had recently been banned from Facebook, saying that he had been *“banned from Facebook and Instagram (but still on BitChute!)”*<sup>6</sup> This was just one from a total of 51 Facebook posts from BitChute’s page that either linked to videos from or expressed support for the violent anti-Muslim activist over the past two years.

Similarly, when far-right Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes was removed from YouTube for allegedly *“glorifying [and] inciting violence against another person or group of people”*,<sup>7</sup> BitChute immediately tweeted their disapproval of the ban and invited its followers to *“come and watch him on BitChute”*.<sup>8</sup>



BitChute  
@bitchute

Gavin McInnes was just banned from youtube, we're not sure what the reason was but we suspect it was probably for comedy

[bitchute.com/video/VZ9eijg7...](https://bitchute.com/video/VZ9eijg7...) Come watch him on BitChute



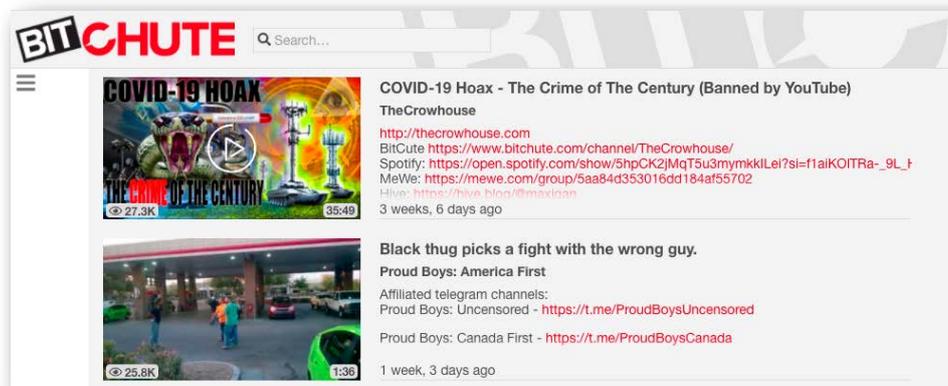
Gavin McInnes  
GOML LIVE #47 - THE MEDIA IS ASSHOE - Part 1  
[bitchute.com](https://bitchute.com)

On 24 June 2020, the company tweeted in support of E Michael Jones after his books were removed from sale by Amazon, saying that the move provided “*even more reason to buy some*”.<sup>9</sup> Jones is an explicitly antisemitic author whose books are filled with slurs and conspiracy theories about Jewish people, including the allegation that Judaism has “*a malignant spirit*” and the claim that “*every Christian, insofar as he is a Christian, must be anti-Jewish*”<sup>10</sup>. In January of this year, he tweeted that “*Jewish behavior is the #1 cause of anti-Semitism*”<sup>11</sup>

BitChute’s promotion of figures such as Robinson, McInnes and Jones indicates a clear editorial line: that content and channels subject to removal from other platforms are worthy of promotion on BitChute for that very reason.

## 2. BITCHUTE'S PLATFORM IS DOMINATED BY HATEFUL AND DANGEROUS CONTENT

While BitChute may cast itself as merely a neutral host open to all types of content, it is clear that its primary function is the hosting of material that either has been, or would be, removed from mainstream platforms for breaching their various terms of service. This can be measured in a number of ways, but this report will analyse two areas: the most popular videos on particular days and the most popular channels.



*Conspiracy theorists and far right figures dominate BitChute's Trending section.*

To analyse the most popular videos, we examined the 'Trending' section of BitChute's homepage on three consecutive days, 24 - 26 June 2020, which shows the twenty most popular videos over the preceding 24 hours. Screenshots of the full three days can be seen in Appendix 1 of this report, but those from the first day alone indicate the toxic nature of BitChute's community. The twenty most popular videos on 24 June are a mix of extreme racist propaganda and harmful misinformation, largely from the QAnon and anti-vaccine communities.

The most popular video of the day was titled "German Muslim Has Terrifying Message For The German People", from a channel that also promotes Holocaust denial and extreme antisemitism. Another of the top videos was titled "More Innocent White People Falling Victim To The Savage And Violent Nature Of The Feral Negro", with a thumbnail image of the video showing a masked man holding a shotgun to a black man's head with the slogan "Black Lives Don't Matter", an image originally created by the Nazi terrorist group Feuerkrieg Division:



*One of the top twenty most popular videos on 24 June.*

All twenty of the most popular videos on 24 June were from channels devoted either to explicitly racist material or the promotion of harmful misinformation, and in many cases both. Prominent antisemitic conspiracy theorists David Icke and Max Igan were on the list with videos denying the existence of the Coronavirus and calling the pandemic "the biggest scam ever".

The BitChute channel with the most subscribers is Styxhexenhammer666, real name Tarl Warwick, who also maintains a YouTube account under the same name. Having had multiple videos removed from YouTube for hate speech, Warwick is open about his reasons for preferring BitChute, blaming the "rampant algorithmic manipulation and censorship"<sup>2</sup> his account has faced after multiple breaches of community standards.

“The twenty most popular videos on 24 June were  
a mix of extreme racist propaganda and harmful  
misinformation”

BitChute does not provide a list of its most subscribed accounts, but the twelve largest channels we have been able to identify are all devoted to politics and/or conspiracy theories, each of which has either been previously removed from YouTube or had multiple videos removed for rule breaches. The second most popular channel appears to be Black Pigeon Speaks, another YouTuber who promotes far-right conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial. InfoWars, which was banned from YouTube in 2018 for hate speech and child endangerment,<sup>13</sup> appears to be in third place.

Also among the most popular channels is that of conspiracy theorist Paul Joseph Watson, who announced the creation of his BitChute channel on Twitter by saying “*YouTube has made it clear free speech isn’t welcome. Subscribe to my channel on BitChute!*”<sup>14</sup> Watson has also had multiple videos removed for hate speech, and made clear that he saw BitChute as a place where he would not be subject to moderation. British far right figures Tommy Robinson<sup>15</sup> and The Iconoclast<sup>16</sup>, both banned from YouTube, have also amassed tens of thousands of followers on the platform, along with conspiracy theorists Mark Dice<sup>17</sup> and David Icke<sup>18</sup>.

### 3. BITCHUTE KNOWINGLY HOSTS INCITEMENT TO TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE

BitChute’s community guidelines<sup>19</sup> state that they will not tolerate content that promotes terrorism or incites violence, yet the quantity of such content on the platform and their unwillingness to take action even when alerted to it shows that such claims are not credible.

#### **Terrorist Content**

Any content that is produced by and/or promoting a designated terrorist organization will not be tolerated and will be reported to the appropriate authorities. If you discover any such material on the site, we implore you to report it to us immediately using the tools provided.

#### **Violent Content**

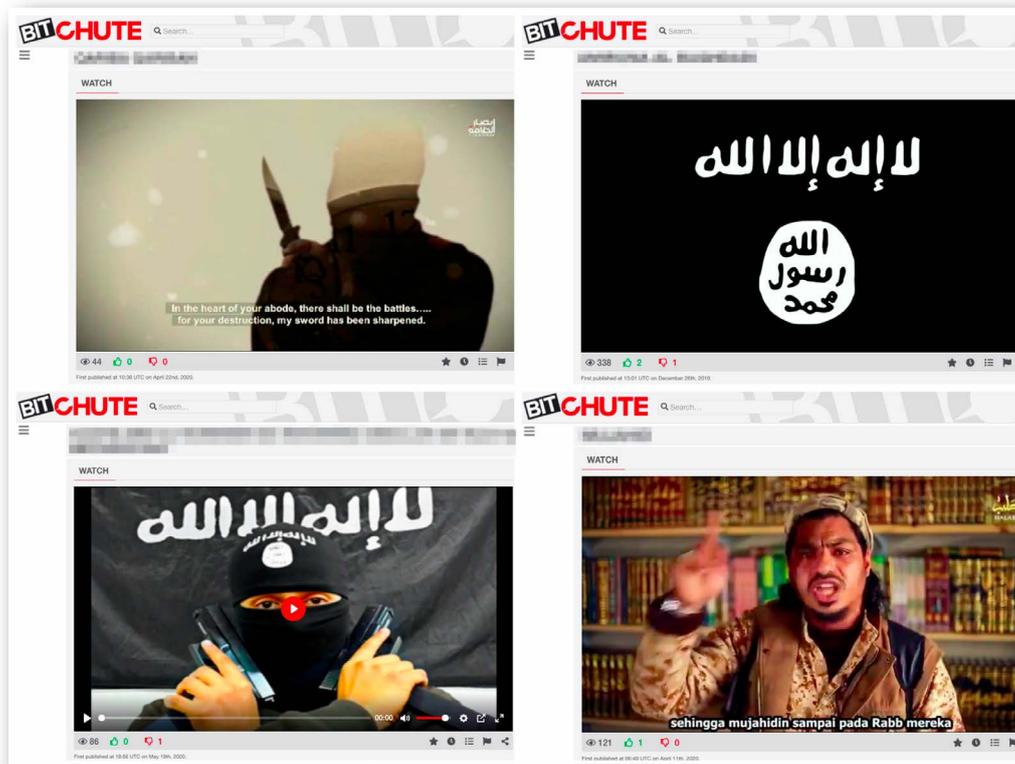
Any content containing credible threats and/or incitement to violence will not be tolerated, and should be reported when seen. Content showing acts of violence should be marked as Not Safe For Work (NSFW) or Not Safe For Life (NSFL) using the sensitivity controls.

*Excerpt from BitChute’s community guidelines.*

On 12 June, the UK-based Community Security Trust [CST] compiled a report called ‘*Hate Fuel*,<sup>20</sup> which highlighted BitChute as one of the four most dangerous outlets of extreme antisemitic content on the internet. Among the shocking content highlighted were videos in support of National Action, a neo-Nazi terrorist group that has been proscribed in the UK since 2016,<sup>21</sup> and a former central member of which plotted to murder a British MP in 2017.<sup>22</sup> BitChute removed some of the videos in question after the report was published, telling *The Observer* that it blocks “any such videos, including incitement to violence”.<sup>23</sup>

“Yet despite being alerted to the existence of such content, HOPE not hate has identified an additional 114 videos in support of proscribed terrorist groups on BitChute, including 23 videos in support of National Action and 86 videos promoting the Islamic State group.”

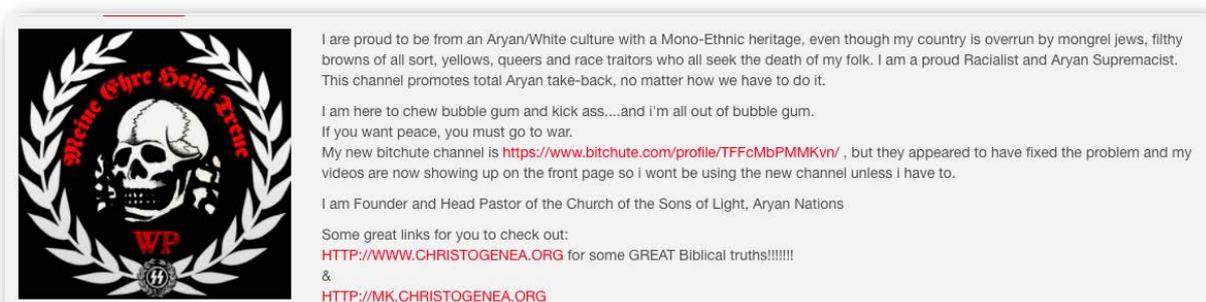
We have also identified a further 93 videos supporting other groups and individuals linked to international terrorism. Such videos include lectures by suspected al-Qaida recruiter Anwar al-Awlaki and promotional videos from the AtomWaffen Division, a US-based neo-Nazi group implicated in at least five murders.<sup>24</sup>



Recruitment videos for the Islamic State group hosted on BitChute.

Although BitChute appears to have removed a small number of National Action videos, the channels that uploaded them have been allowed to remain on the platform and continue to host content from other neo-Nazi terrorist groups. Some of those channels have been blocked to UK users of the site, but remain accessible to users across the world and any British person using a VPN to disguise their location.

One such channel, profiled in the Hate Fuel report, has almost 1,400 videos uploaded, the majority of which carry a caption saying “*The war the evil hook nosed pigs wage against God’s TRUE chosen people, the White Race, still rages on MANY millennia later and the evil ones MUST be completely destroyed*”.

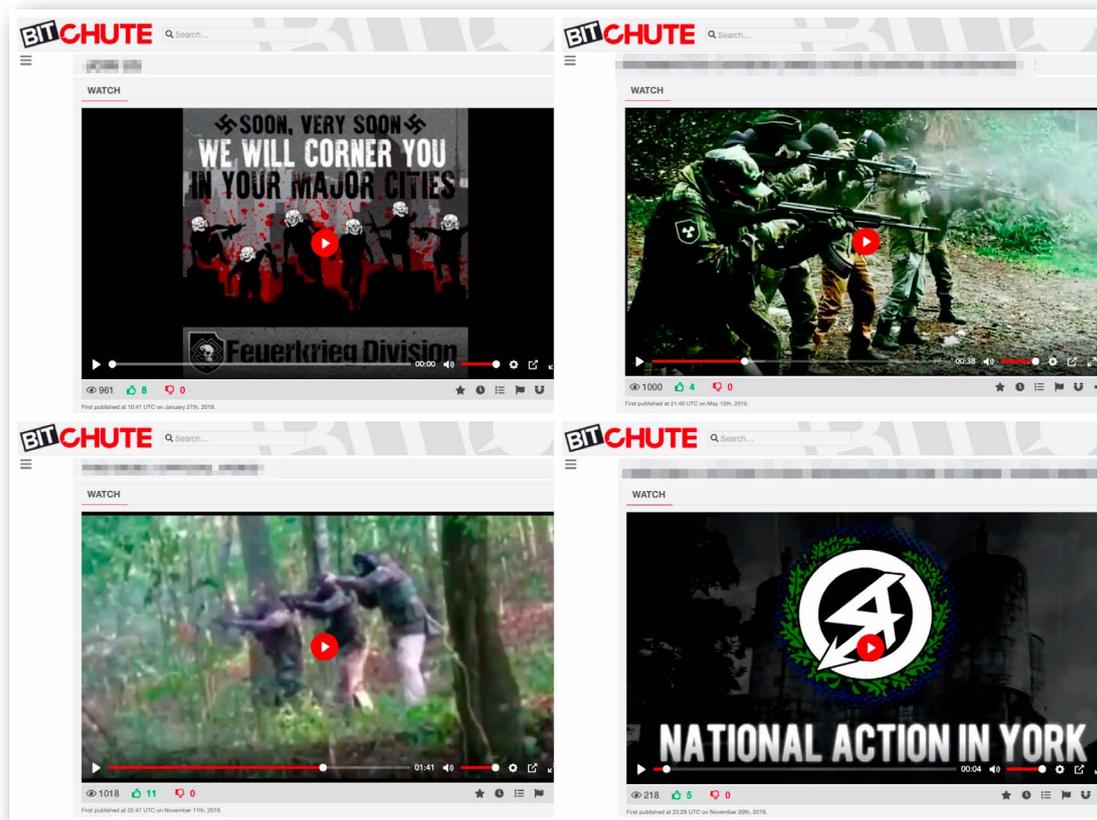


In the ‘About’ section, the channel’s owner incites vile racial hatred and alludes to the idea of violence against minority groups:

*“I am proud to be from an Aryan/White culture with a Mono-Ethnic heritage, even though my country is overrun by mongrel jews, filthy browns of all sort, yellows, queers and race traitors who all seek the death of my folk. I am a proud Racialist and Aryan Supremacist. This channel promotes total Aryan take-back, no matter how we have to do it.”*

The channel profile also states that “*They [BitChute] appeared to have fixed the problem and my videos are now showing up on the front page so i wont be using the new channel unless i have to*”, suggesting that the channel’s videos have occasionally appeared on the front page of BitChute, where the most popular uploads are highlighted to site visitors.

This channel is just one of hundreds of similar channels on the platform which host thousands of videos that explicitly endorse violent terror groups, and celebrate the Holocaust and far-right mass killers such as those behind the Christchurch and Charleston attacks.

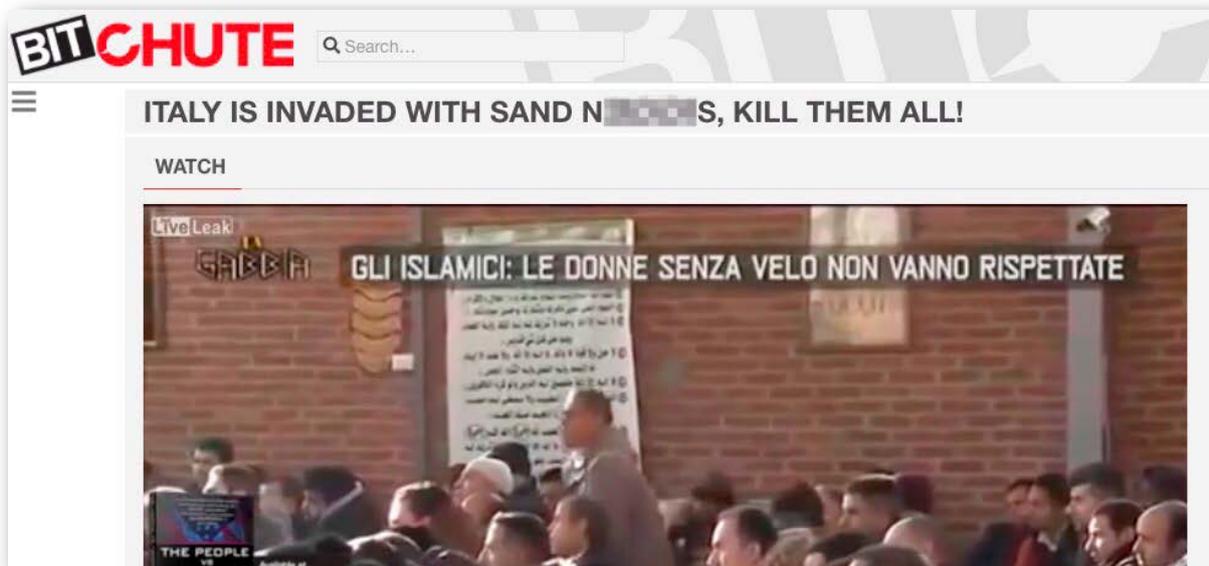


*Videos promoting neo-Nazi terrorist groups Feuerkrieg Division, AtomWaffen Division, The Base and National Action.*

The fact that BitChute chose to remove only a small number of the existing videos from National Action, and allowed the channels that hosted them to remain on the platform, demonstrates an unwillingness to implement even its own lax guidelines on content that promotes terrorism. Moreover, the quantity of similar content on the platform - much of which is clearly labelled, with the name of the group promoted in the video title - indicates that not even a cursory effort is made to remove such content unless it is subject of a high-profile complaint, such as that of the CST report.

Aside from the promotion of specific terror groups, there is a staggering quantity of content that explicitly advocates for racial violence and is immediately available to site visitors. One channel with 1,358 subscribers has videos titled 'All N\*ggers need to be killed', 'Making the case for the complete eradication of P\*ki M\*dslime N\*ggers' and 'Eliminate N\*ggers'. Another channel has received a total of over 170,000 views for videos such as 'Kill Baby Kill - Muslims Out' and 'We MUST Deal With the SATANIC JEW'.

“This channel is just one of hundreds of similar channels on the platform which host thousands of videos that explicitly endorse violent terror groups and celebrate the Holocaust and far-right mass killers such as those behind the Christchurch and Charleston attacks”



Example of the extreme incitement to violence hosted on BitChute

A larger channel is that of a British user with over 6,700 subscribers on the platform and whose videos - almost all of which contain a link to a website called *fuckthejews.com* in the caption - have been watched 2.7 million times. At time of writing on 2 July, one of his videos was placed highly in the 'Popular' section of BitChute's front page, titled 'JEWISH DEATHS IN UK UP 127%', in which he celebrates at length the COVID-19 death rate of Britain's Jewish population:

***"Jewish death rates more than double amid pandemic, data shows' - how good is that? That's the kind of information you like to hear - that the Judens [sic] are dying at a much faster rate than they were last year [...] 127% rise in dead Judens! That's a nice positive bit of information."***

Extreme violent content is rife on the platform, as can be seen from the fact that a video showing the shooting of a supposed Antifa protester was among the most popular videos on 24 June. Worse can be found on more niche channels. One video showed what appear to be multiple assaults and stabbings of homeless people in Russia, captioned "Featuring 'The Cleaners' a russian nationalsocialist group taking care of the homeless problem" and tagged with #COMBATASSAULT #SKINHEADS #WHITENATIONALISM.



Video showing a homeless man being stabbed by a neo-Nazi gang.

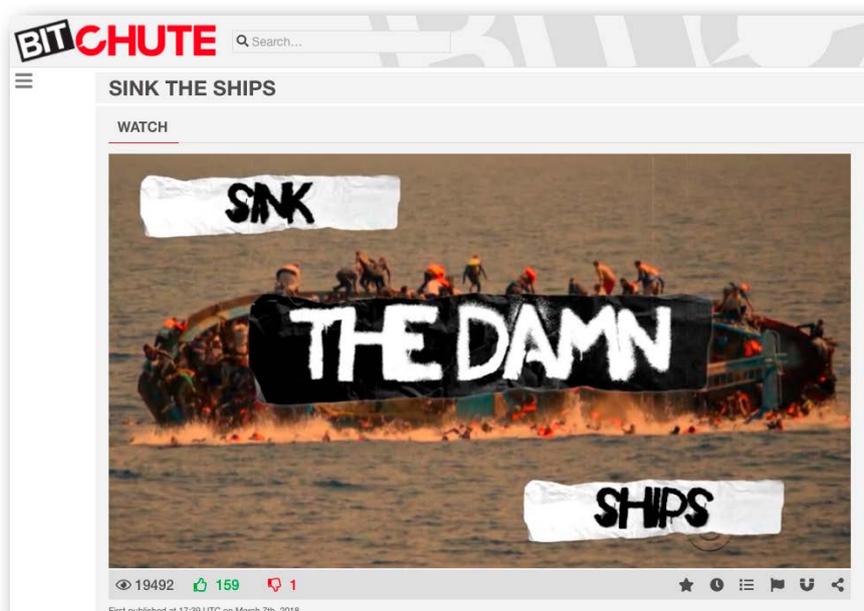
## 4. BITCHUTE ACTIVELY PROMOTES CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND MISINFORMATION

Both BitChute and its founder Ray Vahey have repeatedly used social media to promote the kind of hateful conspiracy theories that form a key motivator for terrorist attacks.

### The ‘Great Replacement’

The perpetrator of the Christchurch mosque shootings released a manifesto titled ‘*The Great Replacement*’, which refers to the conspiracy theory that white people are being deliberately ‘replaced’ by migrants, otherwise known as ‘white genocide’. This theory often combines racism and Islamophobia with antisemitism through the allegation that Jewish people are attempting to destroy the white race by forcing migration upon them.

BitChute has tweeted videos supporting this theory on multiple occasions. On 30th of September 2017, it tweeted a video called “*There is No White Genocide*” which, despite the title, was a strong advocacy of the theory. The speaker asks “*If there is no white genocide, why do NGOs help import as many refugees as possible? [...] Their motive is to race-mix and ultimately genocide Europe*”. This sentiment directly echoes the language later used in the Christchurch killer’s manifesto, of which one chapter was titled “*NGOs are directly involved in the genocide of the European people*”.



Video calling for the murder of refugees, shared by BitChute on 20/12/2018.

On 13 May 2017, BitChute retweeted a video from conspiracy theorist Max Igan titled “*White Genocide, Is It Racist or Is It Real?*” in which he stated that “*Yes, it is real, and it is happening [...] White people are very much being bred out of existence*”, before going on to say that “*it is not just happening to the white race, it is happening to all races, in fact: all races that are not Jewish are being merged together*”.

On 21st October 2018, BitChute tweeted a link to a video called ‘*Merkel Accelerates the Kalergi Plan*’, in which the speaker claimed that:

*“it is very clear that they [EU leaders] see migration from Africa and the Middle East as the solution to smother nations that wish to hold on to their national character. And this ‘Great Replacement’ is happening not only in Germany but across the continent”.*

The Christchurch attacker appears to have drawn some inspiration from Martin Sellner and his Identitäre Bewegung Österreichs (IBÖ) organisation, an Austrian far-right group which forms part of the broader Identitarian movement and to whom the killer donated €1,500 in

July 2018. The Identitarian movement, of which Sellner is a figurehead, has been among the most prominent advocates of the Great Replacement theory.

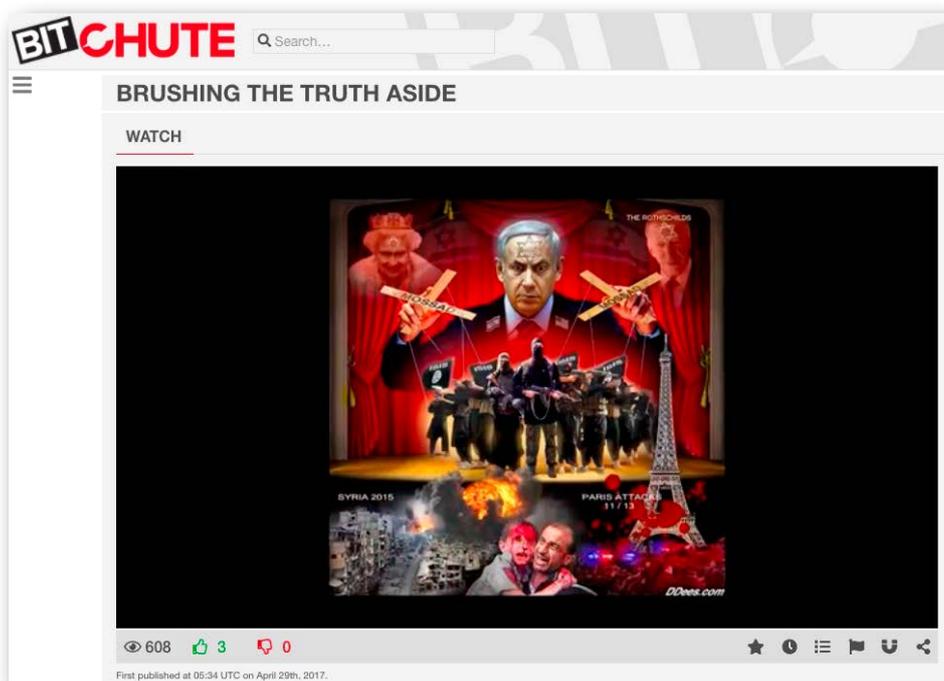
Sellner created his BitChute channel on January 6th 2018, one week after being invited to do so in a tweet from BitChute. Since then, BitChute has tweeted links to Sellner’s videos and messages in support of him on at least twenty separate occasions, including offering to back up all of his YouTube videos in case his account was deleted from the platform after his links to the Christchurch attacker were revealed.

On 20th of December 2018, BitChute retweeted a link to a video called *Sink The Ships*, which urged EU nations to sink refugee boats in the Mediterranean, using historical analogies to suggest that migrants would inevitably destroy the nations they arrived in.

“BitChute retweeted a link to a video called Sink the Ships, which urged EU nations to sink refugee boats in the Mediterranean”

## Antisemitism

Both BitChute and its founder Ray Vahey have repeatedly shared antisemitic content on their social media profiles. In a Facebook post from 2017, Vahey promoted a video from conspiracy theorist Max Igan that contained a number of deeply disturbing and antisemitic images, to which Vahey had added the caption “Don’t let the system spoon feed you their truth and parameters - be the free thinking, independent, beautiful person you were born to be”<sup>25</sup>



Antisemitic cartoon from a video shared by both Ray Vahey and BitChute

BitChute has also repeatedly promoted content from Holocaust deniers. On 23 July 2018, it tweeted a link to a video titled “*The Unquestionable Holocaust*”. In the video, the speaker describes the Holocaust as having been “used as a means of shaming Europeans into giving up their ethnic and cultural heritage”, and claimed that the idea that millions were deliberately murdered by the Nazis was a “logistical impossibility”.

On 5 May 2020, BitChute tweeted a link to a video titled ‘*David Irving & Centre Right Cowardice*’ from the far-right channel Morgoth’s Review. The video describes the work of prominent Holocaust denier David Irving’s work in approving terms, saying that his work

was “based on sound evidence” and that he’d made “powerful and persuasive arguments that much of what came out about WWII was just bullshit” which had fuelled a “Jewish victimhood narrative”.

## COVID-19 Misinformation

The *Plandemic* documentary was one of the most viral videos in history<sup>26</sup>, racking up millions of views on all video-sharing websites and social media platforms, with new uploads created faster than the sites could take them down. Polling by HOPE not hate found that 7% of British adults claimed to have watched the documentary, as many as 3.6 million people.

While video sharing sites like YouTube, DailyMotion and Vimeo attempted to remove the immensely dangerous documentary, BitChute made no similar effort, with the top twenty uploads of the documentary alone having a combined total of 5.4 million views. Worse still, BitChute promoted the documentary via its social media feeds, tweeting and retweeting endorsements of the documentary seven times in the first week of its release. Many of these tweets were later deleted, a common practise for BitChute’s social media accounts.



Facebook posts promoting COVID-19 misinformation from the BitChute page.

When asked about the hosting of *Plandemic* on the platform, BitChute provided a statement saying that:

*“Google and Facebook’s censorship of ideas is misguided and counter-productive. Hiding the public from ideas, even bad ones, only makes society more susceptible to dangerous errors and infringes on people’s universal human right to freedom of expression.”<sup>27</sup>*

Yet this apparently neutral stance on the veracity of the information on their platform does not explain the decision to actively promote such misinformation. The vast majority of BitChute’s social media posts about COVID-19 and public health measures are in promotion of conspiracy theories and public health misinformation, with promoted videos on the topic including those from conspiracy theorists InfoWars, David Icke and Max Igan. Videos promoted by BitChute on Twitter and Facebook include those that allege that masks are lethal, that the pandemic is a hoax designed to usher in a one-world government and that the lethality and death toll of the virus is vastly and deliberately overstated. Again, the majority of these tweets were later removed.

**“The vast majority of BitChute’s social media posts about COVID-19 are in promotion of conspiracy theories and public health misinformation”**

## 'False Flags'

Both BitChute and its founder Ray Vahey have used social media to promote numerous false conspiracy theories about terror attacks and mass shootings. By promoting baseless conspiracy theories surrounding the responsibility and motives of terrorist attacks, BitChute and its founder are working to actively undermine the understanding of terrorism and the motives that fuel it, and thereby erode public trust in measures needed to combat it.

Throughout 2017, Vahey was a frequent contributor to numerous Facebook groups, many devoted to conspiracy theories, which he used to promote the content on his new platform. Vahey often wrote supportive captions to the links he shared, endorsing the sentiments of the videos. Conspiracy theories promoted by Vahey in these groups include allegations that the Clintons are murdering their political opponents, that governments want to install microchips in the population, the Pizzagate hoax and many more.



Vahey refers to himself as a member of the 'PizzaGate research community'

On 12 May 2017, he posted a link to a news item in a group called "Anonymous "The Awakening Giant"! We are the 99%" to which he added a caption that said "It's happened! Thanks to alternative media, the mainstreaming of the term "False Flag", apparently claiming credit for the promotion of theories that secret actors are faking terror attacks to further clandestine agendas. On 12 June 2017, he posted a link to a video from the Corbett Report that opened with the following monologue:

"In the wake of London and Manchester, politicians around the world are trying to convince the public that the free flow of information on the internet is a terror threat. In reality, independent online media are exposing the real terrorists: the politicians and their deep state handlers who are funding, arming, aiding and enabling false flag terror"

Allegations of 'false flag' terror attacks are a running theme of BitChute's social media activity. Of the 49 mentions of '9/11' by BitChute's Twitter account, 41 tweets were promoting videos or channels from the so-called 'Truther' movement. These include 22 videos from the Corbett Report and six from InfoWars, both of which allege that 9/11 was carried out by the US government and/or the Israeli government.

Similarly, BitChute has actively promoted videos that promote conspiracy theories surrounding the Las Vegas shooting of 1 October 2017, tweeting 18 different videos that allege that the incident was a false flag attack or that it was subject to a government coverup.

On 15 February, the day after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, BitChute retweeted a video which asked whether the students who were interviewed after the attack were "Bad Actors Or Psychopaths?" The video suggested that the children involved might have been so-called crisis actors because the video creator did not consider them to be sufficiently emotional in their interviews. BitChute went on to promote a further five videos which suggested that the Parkland shooting was a hoax or subject of a coverup.

## **PizzaGate/QAnon**

Since 2017, when Ray Vahey described himself as a member of the “*Pizzagate researcher community*” in a Facebook post, BitChute has been an increasingly important hub for proponents of the Pizzagate and QAnon conspiracy theories. While such content is common across all social media platforms, BitChute is perhaps unique in having actively courted and promoted the theories, which revolve around baseless allegations of sexual abuse by a global elite of Satanic paedophiles, many of whom are publicly named and subjected to vile abuse from believers of the theories.

The PizzaGate and QAnon theories have already been linked to a number of violent acts, such as the Comet Pizza shooting in December 2016, where an adherent of the conspiracy fired a rifle inside a restaurant that had been subjected to accusations of involvement in child abuse. In May 2019, the FBI listed the QAnon community as a potential terrorist threat and cited a number of arrests that were linked to belief in the theory.

On 14 October 2017, Ray Vahey tweeted from his personal Twitter account that “*Pizzagate is real. Pedogate is real*”. The BitChute Twitter account has mentioned Pizzagate in 87 tweets and QAnon in 49 tweets, the vast majority of which were links to videos from proponents of the theories and which contained unfounded allegations of child abuse and Satanism against public figures such as John Podesta, Katy Perry, the Clintons and many more. Despite the Comet Pizza shooting incident and the campaign of threats against them, BitChute has retweeted seven tweets that name the restaurant or its founder James Alefantis, as well as dozens of videos devoted to perpetuating the allegations against them.

“On 14 October 2017, Ray Vahey tweeted from his personal account that ‘Pizzagate is real. Pedogate is real’”



# ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://www.similarweb.com/website/bitcute.com#overview>
- 2 <https://torrentfreak.com/bitcute-is-a-bittorrent-powered-youtube-alternative-170129/>
- 3 <https://www.facebook.com/activistpost/videos/1526715470708632/?t=8120>
- 4 <https://twitter.com/bitcute/status/1261669605207977991>
- 5 <https://twitter.com/bitcute/status/1263652837197668352>
- 6 <https://www.facebook.com/P2PVideo/posts/987842524737796>
- 7 <https://thepostmillennial.com/breaking-gavin-mcinnis-banned-from-youtube>
- 8 <https://twitter.com/bitcute/status/1275262627598352386>
- 9 <https://twitter.com/bitcute/status/1275635361759334400>
- 10 <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/combating-hate/E-Michael-Jones.pdf>
- 11 <https://twitter.com/EMichaelJones1/status/1218366730478727168>
- 12 <https://twitter.com/Styx666Official/status/1147969411258691584>
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