

# Election Exclusive: British Advisors to Kamala Harris Hope to "Kill Musk's Twitter"

England, not Russia, is the culprit in a real foreign election interference story, as the leaked Stateside plans of an advisory group with close ties to Prime Minister Keir Starmer show

PAUL D. THACKER AND MATT TAIBBI

OCT 22, 2024

♡ 1,142

💬 380

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The British are coming, to meddle in our elections!

In an explosive leak with ramifications for the upcoming U.S. presidential election, internal documents from the [Center for Countering Digital Hate](#)—whose founder is British political operative Morgan McSweeney, now [advising the Kamala Harris](#) campaign—show the group plans *in writing* to “kill Musk’s Twitter” while strengthening ties with the Biden/Harris administration and Democrats like Senator

Amy Klobuchar, who has [introduced multiple](#) bills to regulate online “misinformation.” Klobuchar’s office declined repeated requests for comment:

Month Priorities	Annual Priorities	Backburner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kill Musk’s Twitter</li> <li>• Advertising focus</li> <li>• Trigger EU &amp; UK regulatory action</li> <li>• Progress towards change in USA and support for STAR</li> </ul>	

**Review of previous tasks assigned:**

**Items for discussion**

Project planning and timing around UK General Election dates

- **AI voice launch – Friday, 31st May**
  - Policy recs being fine-tuned at end of the day today (@Sarah Eagan)
  - **US policy engagement: set up meetings with Klobuchar’s team** to seek a quote/press release endorsement. Our meeting with their team is on Tuesday.

“KILL MUSK’S TWITTER”: The Center for Countering Digital Hate’s May 31st agenda, above a note about meeting “with [Senator Amy] Klobuchar’s team.”

The documents obtained by *The DisInformation Chronicle* and *Racket* show CCDH’s hyperfocus on Musk — “Kill Musk’s Twitter” is the first item in the *template* of its monthly agenda notes dating back to the early months of this year.

**Date: 5 March 2024**

Month Priorities	Annual Priorities	Backburner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK policy meetings</li> <li>• Partnerships UK, Trust &amp; Safety Conf.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kill Musk’s Twitter</li> <li>• Advertising focus</li> <li>• Trigger EU &amp; UK regulatory action</li> <li>• Progress towards change in USA and support for STAR</li> </ul>	

**Review of previous tasks assigned:**

**Items for discussion**

- Parents Guide to the finish line.
- Antisemitism mini report
- Election disinfo mini report
- MSI timeliness
- Canada OSB

**Date: 8 January 2024**

Month Priorities	Annual Priorities	Backburner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kill Musk’s Twitter</li> <li>• Advertising focus</li> <li>• Trigger EU &amp; UK regulatory action</li> <li>• Progress towards change in USA and support for STAR</li> </ul>	

**Review of previous tasks assigned:**  
All good, and either followed up or on the agenda for today

**Items for discussion**

22. Parent’s guide plan (Suzi)  
Suzi outlined what the plan is and timeframe.  
Jemma asked for UK medical/psychiatrist input too, different medical and cultural language  
Suggest to include a guide to the different platforms, and what their particular pitfalls are  
Ana - downloadable pdfs are very useful for generating leads. We need that for sharing with other organizations etc - a more tangible version. If we need that, it would take at least 2 weeks for design.  
Imran - not looking for lots of references to journal articles etc is not the easy reference content we are looking for. It’s for “normal parents”. Also be aware - American pediatric institutions are not always great on social media. (Sarah pointed out that we have vetted all referenced, and have relationships with them)

**Date: 10/6/24**

Month Priorities	Annual Priorities	Backburner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kill Musk’s Twitter</li> <li>• Advertising focus</li> <li>• Trigger EU &amp; UK regulatory action</li> <li>• Progress towards change in USA and support for STAR</li> </ul>	

**Review of previous tasks assigned:**

**Items for discussion**

1. Conference update – Sarah/Ana
  - a. 70 confirmed guests on Eventbrite (with CCDH+ speakers, approx 109)
  - b. Panel 1 woes – Melissa to Koyuncu – need a UK voice + Canada dropout
  - c. STAR 2.0 update in Suzi’s absence
2. Report debriefs – when to schedule? – Sarah

*KILL, KILL, KILL: No matter what else the CCDH talks about, “Kill Musk’s Twitter” is its first item of business*

The [Center for Countering Digital Hate](#) is the anti-disinformation activist ally of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party, and a messaging vehicle for Labour's neoliberal think tank, Labour Together. Both the CCDH and Labour Together were founded by Morgan McSweeney, a Svengali credited with piloting Starmer's rise to Downing Street, much as Karl Rove is credited with guiding George W. Bush to the White House.

The CCDH documents carry particular importance because McSweeney's Labour Together operatives have been teaching election strategy to Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, leading *Politico* to call Labour and the Democrats "[sister parties](#)." CCDH's focus on "Kill Musk's Twitter" also adds to legal questions about the nonprofit's tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization.

According to the IRS, CCDH could lose its special tax status if "[a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation](#)." Yet, CCDH's third item on its annual priority list is "Trigger EU and UK regulatory action" and the group previously employed the firm [Lot Sixteen to lobby congressional offices](#) on "misinformation" in Washington.

Both *The DisInformation Chronicle* and *Racket* have sent multiple, extensive questions to CCDH's current CEO Imran Ahmed, another British political operative tied to McSweeney's Labour Together. Despite repeated requests for comment, Ahmed has refused to respond.

In the last two months, the [Washington Post](#) and [Politico](#), among others, have run a [series](#) of [features](#) about British advisors from Labour Together rescuing the distressed political damsel that is the Harris/Walz campaign. *Politico* casts McSweeney as the "election mastermind" who first helped Keir Starmer defeat leftist Jeremy Corbyn to become the head of Labour, all the way to Starmer's "[landslide](#)" win over Conservatives to become Prime Minister this past July, implying that McSweeney and his team can perform a similar miracle for Harris.

McSweeney is an ascendant figure, having just been [promoted to Starmer's Chief of Staff](#) in something of a palace coup after the abrupt [resignation of longtime Labour fixture Sue Gray](#). McSweeney is lionized, not just for a Carville-style rightward tilt within the party, but for mastery of fundraising and dark money, having [reportedly](#) pulled a host of new wealthy donors to Labour in the last two years.

After 25 years of the “special relationship” being essentially “one-way traffic,” with Washington politicians advising the Brits, the Democrats “now believe they actually have something to learn from Labour,” [as Politico explained](#). Democrats will supposedly learn from Labour’s tactical brilliance. For example, Starmer countered former Conservative PM Rishi Sunak’s accusations of being soft on immigration by promising to “[smash the criminal boat gangs](#)” bringing migrants across the English channel.

The new British government also believes that a Harris defeat would leave Starmer “alone” as the “[keeper of the center-left flame](#)” and in “worrying isolation” as “[the Grand Atlantic Alliance's last hope](#).” On top of providing election strategy, over 100 “[current and former Labour staffers](#)” have begun knocking on doors for Harris this summer, drawing howls from Trump surrogates such as Sebastian Gorka, who called it a “[bloody outrage](#).”

The Stateside dispatch of Labour personnel has been depicted in British media as a self-interested gambit to keep America’s war machinery closely aligned with Israel and Ukraine, and billions of American defense dollars flowing in both directions.

However, these are only the visible parts of the British invasion. McSweeney’s Labour Together has been operating in the U.S. for several years through CCDH.

The Starmer/Labour Together formula for regaining power in the U.K. relied heavily on CCDH’s aggressive efforts to deplatform rivals on the Left and Right by lobbing accusations of bigotry, misinformation, and other misdeeds. As reported [in Tablet](#) and [Racket](#), one of CCDH’s successes involved silencing Starmer’s critics on the left by leading a boycott of advertisers for news sites like the left-leaning [Canary](#), on the grounds that its pro-Palestinian takes were anti-Semitic.

McSweeney has been praised for convincing Starmer that “he needed to sacrifice party unity to demoralize the far-left faction,” [as Politico put it](#).

In the U.S., a now-defunct CCDH offshoot called [Stop Funding Fake News](#) led multiple successful boycotts of media figures across the spectrum, from [Zero Hedge](#) during the BLM riots to [The Federalist](#). The formula often involved collaborating with a mainstream media outlet to level an accusation of bigotry, followed by a pressure campaign against advertisers to shut off revenue to the target.

“CCDH went directly after us and he worked with Google when they briefly suspended all advertising on *Zero Hedge*, our primary source of revenue then,” recalls Zero Hedge editor Tyler Durden, noting that the boycott came after CCDH worked [with NBC](#) on an article depicting them as racist for claiming damage from BLM riots was under-covered. Similar tactics led to demonetization of *The Federalist*, whose apparent crime was a June 3, 2020 piece called, “[The Media Are Lying to You About Everything, Including the Riots.](#)” Like *Zero Hedge*, *The Federalist* criticized mainstream coverage of BLM protests, including calling [not-yet-fired CNN](#) anchor Don Lemon a “not very bright man.”

“NBC News colluded with a foreign left-wing group in an attempt to destroy us because it disagrees with our political commentary and media criticism,” *The Federalist* editor Mollie Hemingway [told The Wall Street Journal](#) at the time.

Meanwhile, CCDH launched a separate campaign against Substack claiming the company profited from vaccine disinformation. It failed, as the firm “essentially told them to fuck off” when asked to ban contributors like Alex Berenson and Dr. Joseph Mercola from the platform, as a person with ties to the company put it. Berenson’s crime was the headline, “[Vaccines don’t stop Covid hospitalizations or deaths,](#)” an article based on a [Journal of the American Medical Association](#) report. “[At Substack, we don’t make moderation decisions based on public pressure,](#)” wrote Substack’s then-PR Director Lulu Meservey. CCDH then quietly “backed off.”

Now, CCDH’s growing Washington office is working on similar plans to “kill” the online presence of Democratic rivals like Musk by attacking X’s advertising revenue, a tactic first perfected in London against *The Canary*. CCDH is also laying the foundation for broader regulatory changes in the direction of platform censorship.

“60 meetings on the Hill,” [reads one CCDH task assignment](#) from early 2024.

“Meeting with 16 congressional offices over the next two weeks to give updates on the Elon lawsuit,” reads another, referring to Musk’s [since-dismissed lawsuit](#) against CCDH accusing it of manipulating data to make a case for proliferation of hate speech on X.

CCDH also held meetings with federal legislators while pushing for “change in USA” toward a censorious proposal it calls the “[STAR framework](#),” which would create an “independent digital regulator” that could “[impose consequences for harmful content.](#)” STAR’s core concepts are similar to Europe’s just-instituted [Digital Services](#)

[Act](#) and Britain's even more stringent [Online Safety Act](#), which puts the [national media regulator Ofcom](#) in charge of determining fines for uncooperative platforms.

The latter law has been the basis for Starmer and Ofcom threatening Musk with "[strong action](#)" in the wake of this summer's riots, which the UK claims were fueled by disinformation.

That the CCDH is pushing STAR in the US is obvious from its agenda notes. Equally clear however is that the group held those meetings while its senior officials wondered if they were violating lobbying laws. "Question on lobbying — if it is anything that Congress could have a vote on, it counts as lobbying," [reads one note from a January meeting](#). "Question on lobbying. Imran needs that to be checked, and if necessary register a c4 ASAP," reads a later note in February.

Question on lobbying - if it is anything that Congress could have a vote on, it counts as lobbying.

Action Items/Task Assignment

**Action:** Callum to revert with update on sprint ideas once MSI complete

Tom - timings and complexities - need a separate conversation with Suzi, Sarah, Tom and Ana - create a flat plan.

Imran - need it behind an email sign up.

Tom - 66% conversion rate at moment for the guide, so very happy to have it behind a sign up

**Query on lobbying - Imran needs that to be checked, and if necessary register a c4 ASAP.**

Jemma & Sarah to speak to Faegre

*"QUERY ON LOBBYING": Agenda notes from January 22nd show CCDH was ignorant about its legal obligations three years after gaining tax-exempt status*

CCDH gained tax-exempt status by [registering as a 501\(c\)\(3\)](#) organization in the US in 2021, but the IRS says "an organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation." In some instances, it appears the group is cognizant of that line.

"Understanding our limitations... as a 501c3," was another part of discussions last January. Nonetheless, the group repeatedly scheduled multiple meetings with legislators to discuss pushing STAR and other proposals, with Ahmed and others openly talking about pushing for legislation and how CCDH's work "will help us inch towards our goal of regulatory action":

[Imran Ahmed](#) there will be sustained pressure on meta in the next year or two on kids/harms - weaknesses in their flank can help us drive the accountability agenda. Simple story, and we know they knew about it for years and did not take account - simple accountability point. How can they not be liable? **How is there no legislation that can be used to hold them accountable**

Callum Hood: there will be 3 major things competing for our time after MSI: antisemitism, kids, election disinformation. However, there are one or two short things that we can do here that will work.

[Sarah Eagan](#) since this falls under OSA, **this will help us inch towards our goal of regulatory action**

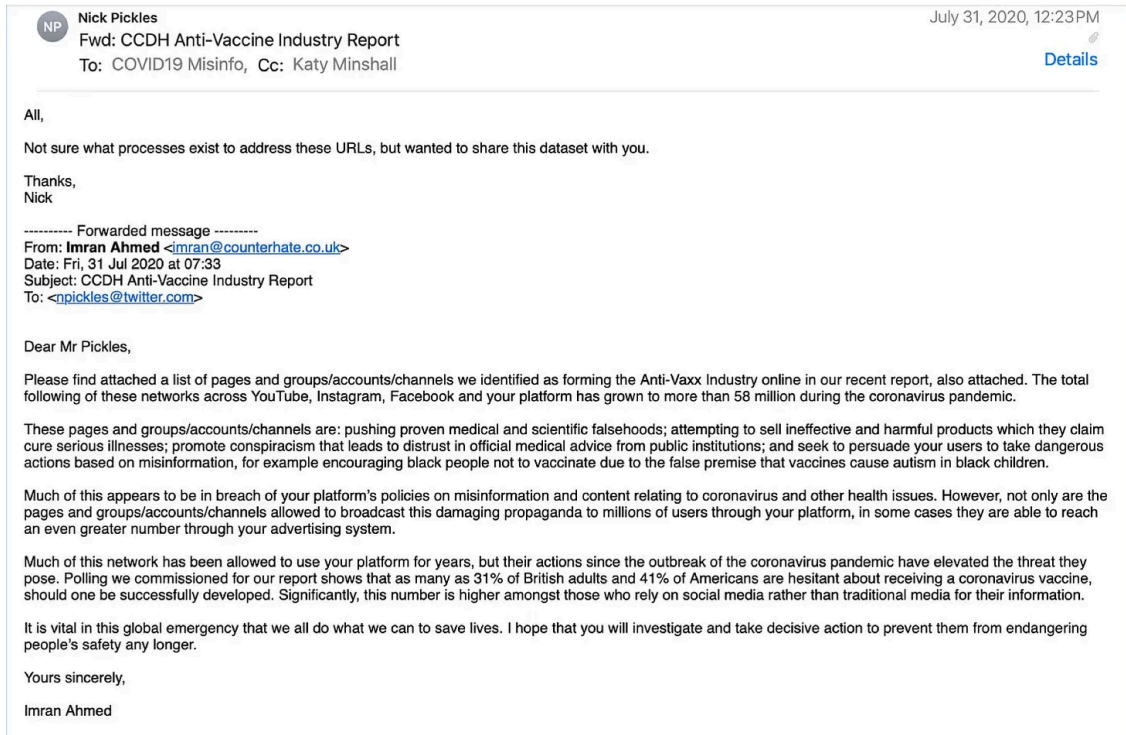
*“TOWARD OUR GOAL OF REGULATORY ACTION”: The tax-exempt CCDH is officially barred from substantial lobbying activities, but not privately.*

It’s crucial to understand that CCDH, Labour Together, and Keir Starmer’s Labour Party exist as a single package, with McSweeney at the helm. No political operative in the Western hemisphere is more in demand than Starmer’s “[Rasputin](#),” regularly hailed as a [genius](#). Much like Rove, however, the McSweeney reputation is built more on mudslinging and character assassination than insight into voter needs. *Canary*-style efforts and boycotts have already begun in the U.S.

McSweeney’s Labour Together colleague Imran Ahmed opened a CCDH office in DC three years ago and began working with American journalists [to suppress dissent and enforce narratives](#) friendly to Democrats and the Biden/Harris administration.

The CCDH was also a character in the [Twitter Files](#), notably organizing a letter from State Attorneys General to the platform seeking to ban the so-called “[Disinformation Dozen](#)” over Covid-related content, a group that included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

“I hope you will take decisive action to prevent them from endangering people’s safety any longer,” wrote Imran Ahmed in a July 2020 email to Twitter, while forwarding the “The Disinformation Dozen” report.



*CCDH and the Twitter Files: Letter to Twitter about the “Disinformation Dozen.”*

“The Disinformation Dozen” report coincided nicely with a Biden administration campaign to beat back American fears of the COVID vaccine and was referenced by White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki in a warning that social media companies should censor the accounts.

“There’s about 12 people who are producing 65% of anti-vaccine misinformation on social media platforms,” Psaki [claimed](#), citing the CCDH’s work. Three years later the truth finally caught up with Ahmed’s misinformation. In recent months, [Forbes](#), [The Independent](#), and [The Guardian](#) have all issued corrections to articles on CCDH’s 2021 report noting that Facebook investigated [CCDH’s allegations](#) and found them baseless and without proven methodology.

According to documents provided to both publications along with interviews with CCDH whistleblowers, an invitation-only conference held this past summer in Washington underscores the group’s priorities. Attendees at [CCDH’s private event included a slew of liberal groups](#) now organizing against Musk including a senior advisor at the White House, a Democratic Party staffer in the office of Congressman Adam Schiff, Biden/Harris State Department officials, Canadian MP Peter Julian (recently tweeted “[Boycott all advertisers on Twitter](#)”) and Media Matters for America (a Democratic party-aligned watchdog now locked in a lawsuit with Musk).



Group	Checked In	T	Check-In Sta	First Name	Last Name	Email	Salutation	Phone Number	Title	Organization Notes
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Sarah	Craven	████████@unfpa.org			Director, North American Rep	United Nations Population Fund
				Danielle	Lilly	████████@childfund.org			Director of Policy	ChildFund
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Peter	Julian	████████@mp		████████		Canadian House of Commons (Parliam
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Rose	Lang-Maso	████████@partner.reset.tech			Consultant	Reset.Tech
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Andrea	Alford	████████@mediamatters.org				Media Matters for America
				Marina	Navaro Lins	████████@counterhate.co.uk			Conference Staff	Center for Countering Digital Hate
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Julie	Millican	████████@mediamatters.org			Vice President	Media Matters
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Matt	Higginson					Propper Daley
				Arturas	Guda					European Institute for Gender Equality
				Sarah	Eagan	████████@counterhate.com			Conference Staff	Center for Countering Digital Hate
				Maria	Abeyratne	████████@counterhate.com			Conference Staff	Center for Countering Digital Hate
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Jill	Braunstein	████████@ldrenandscreens.org			Director of Marketing and Cor	Children and Screens
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Jamie	Neikrie	████████@issueone.org			Legislative Manager	Issue One
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Alan	McQuinn	████████@mail.house.gov			Professional Staff	U.S. House of Representatives
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Madeleine	McMahon	████████@porticus.com			Programme Manager	Porticus
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Christabel	Randolph	████████@caidp.org		████████	Law Fellow	Center for AI and Digital Policy
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Julie	Scelfo	████████@wearmama.org			Founder, Executive Director	Mothers Against Media Addiction
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Matthew	Nguyen	████████@fordfoundation.org			Technology Fellow	Ford Foundatoin
				Suzi	Ragheb	████████@counterhate.com			Conference Staff	Center for Countering Digital Hate
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Eirliani	Abdul Rahman	████████@hsph.harvard.edu			Research Affiliate	Minderoo Centre for Tech & Democrac
				Hanno	Fenech	████████@counterhate.co.uk			Conference Staff	Center for Countering Digital Hate
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Erica	Mindel	████████@state.gov				Department of State
	2024-06-18T	checked in		Katie	Paul	████████@htransparencyproject.org		████████	Director	Tech Transparency Project

From the invite list to CCDH's June gala in Washington

The second annual CCDH priority on the document reads, “Advertising focus.” This likely references the group’s apparent strategy of publishing reports that claim Musk allowed hate to proliferate on X, followed by efforts to drive away the company’s advertisers, as it did with the *Canary*, later with *Zero Hedge* and *The Federalist*, and most recently has aimed [at the entire X platform](#).

Fresh from success at destroying the *Canary* and the Labour left, Imran Ahmed brought the CCDH campaign to the States in 2021. And the group has continued to operate as it has in the past: a dark money political campaign that dances around legalities while hiding the names of employees and donors. As reported in [Tablet](#), U.S. tax records show that Ahmed collected \$1.47 million in donations in 2021.

Although CCDH does not disclose donors, \$1.1 million of that money came from one anonymous donor, meaning almost 75% of CCDH’s funding in their first year. A whistleblower says that CCDH’s management told staff that this initial bolus of funding came from Aleen Keshishian, a Hollywood agent for actor Mark Ruffalo, who promotes Imran Ahmed on X. [Keshishian sits on CCDH’s board](#), and CCDH employees are reminded to treat her nicely.

Another Keshishian client, the singer and actress Selena Gomez, has also apparently provided secret funding to CCDH, although that donation has not been disclosed publicly until now.

Aleen Keshishian did not respond to repeated requests for comment from *The DisInformation Chronicle* and *Racket*.

Subsequent reports in this *The DisInformation Chronicle* and *Racket* series will contain more information about the emerging theme of cooperation between Hollywood figures and censorship advocacy groups like the CCDH.



*STAR BACKING FOR "STAR" CENSORSHIP PROGRAM? Agent Aleen Keshishian with client Selena Gomez, reportedly a CCDH financial backer*

Journalist Paul Holden, who put together the "[U.K. Files](#)" docs here, reported earlier this year that [CCDH's 2021 submission to the IRS](#) for tax-exempt status claimed CCDH was operating as a registered charity in the U.K.

Neither Ahmed nor his attorneys responded to questions about his false paperwork filed with the IRS. We then [ran the documents](#) past tax attorney Dean Zerbe, who [authored the tax code](#) reform that governs American nonprofits. Zerbe said he hoped the IRS would take a "hard look" at CCDH for submitting false information to gain nonprofit status.

Many of CCDH's current staff remain hidden, but one of Ahmed's most critical employees is Callum Hood, CCDH's head of research. Like Ahmed, Hood has never

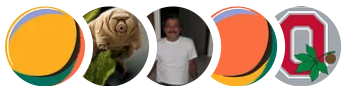
fully disclosed his ties to the Labour Party’s conservatives who sought to drive Corbyn from power. On [his LinkedIn page](#), Hood lists the Center for Countering Digital Hate as the only job he has ever held. However, sources in London have provided much of Hood’s background. Like Imran Ahmed, he staffed a member of the Labour Party’s conservative wing.

According [to British Parliament records](#), Hood worked for Labour Party MP Ian Austin. Austin helped [lead the charge against Corbyn’s leadership](#) and urged voters to back Conservative Boris Johnson. When Johnson became Prime Minister, he [then recommended Austin](#) to the House of Lords.

Austin now goes by the title “[Lord Austin of Dudley](#).”

“This was a political project from the beginning by Labour Together,” Holden says. “It’s extremely disturbing that Imran has influence in the US, considering his key aim is to censor speech he disagrees with.”

*NEXT: The DisInformation Chronicle and Racket give an insider’s account of the internal chaos and secret money fueling CCDH, one of the most prominent and respected groups for the Censorship Industrial Complex.*



1,142 Likes · 169 Restacks



A guest post by

**Paul D. Thacker**

Founder of The Disinformation Chronicle.

Investigative Reporter; Former Investigator United States Senate; Former Fellow Safra Ethics Center, Harvard University.



## Discussion about this post

Comments

Restacks



Write a comment...



Coco McShevitz Coco McShevitz 21 hrs ago

So \*this\* is what actual journalism looks like! Congrats on some good old fashioned shoe leather reporting. Needless to say these people are disgusting fascists, hopefully your reporting will bring the scrutiny they deserve upon them.

♡ LIKE (281) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



16 replies



Evans W Evans' Ramblings.... 21 hrs ago · edited 20 hrs ago

UKgate.

This should be one of the biggest scandals in US election history. Unlike Russiagate, which was a complete fabrication hoisted upon the American people for 3 1/2 years by the democrats and corporate media, UKGate IS in fact election interference pure and simple.

Should Trump be elected, he should immediately cut all aid to the UK, implement sanctions, and lobby the UN to bring foreign election interference charges against the UK until they dismantle and make illegal corrupt NGO's like The Center for Countering Digital Hate.

Thank you for publishing this Matt. You are a national treasure.

Remember folks....you don't hate the corporate media & the establishment enough. You think you do, but you don't.

[https://x.com/Evans\\_Wroten/status/1848759790291530012](https://x.com/Evans_Wroten/status/1848759790291530012)

♡ LIKE (196) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



24 replies

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