

Facebook whistleblower allegations

A former Facebook employee behind a series of bombshell allegations has revealed her identity in a U.S. primetime TV interview



Oct 3, 2021: **Frances Haugen**, data scientist from Iowa and former product manager at **Facebook's Civic Integrity** unit, appears on CBS **60 Minutes** news show

Haugen claims she is whistleblower who leaked thousands of pages of private Facebook research to **The Wall Street Journal**, which has serialised her exposés in past weeks

We have evidence from a variety of sources that hate speech, divisive political speech, and misinformation on Facebook and the family of apps are affecting societies around the world

Quote from alleged internal Facebook document, aired on 60 Minutes

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM HAUGEN'S ALLEGATIONS



Algorithm intentionally shows users content to make them angry

Haugen claims angry users generate greatest engagement – which Facebook turns into advertising revenue



Instagram (which is owned by Facebook) makes children unhappy

13.5% of teenage girls say Instagram increases thoughts of suicide, **17%** say it worsens eating disorders



Political parties in Europe had to run negative ads to reach people

Parties found they had to take stances they did not like, and that were bad for society, to gain any engagement on Facebook



Civic Integrity unit dissolved before Jan 6 Capitol riots

Haugen's team, responsible for combatting political misinformation, was shut down immediately after Nov 2020 election

Haugen believes she is protected from prosecution by **Dodd-Frank Act** – created to allow whistleblowers to talk to **Securities and Exchange Commission**

Nick Clegg, Facebook's Vice President of Global Affairs, says it is ludicrous to suggest social media is responsible for Jan 6 insurrection

