

Andy Jassy
Chief Executive
Amazon
2111 7th Ave
Seattle, WA 98121

Jeff Bezos
Officer Executive Chairman
Amazon
2111 7th Ave
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Jassy and Mr. Bezos,

We write to urge swift removal of the antisemitic book and related film *Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America* by Ronald Dalton Jr., being sold on your platform.

Much like other antisemitic material that Amazon has removed from its shelves in the past,^[1] this film and book promote hatred of Jews through the use of multiple antisemitic tropes, including Holocaust denial, by terming the six million Jews who were murdered by Nazis one of the “five major falsehoods.”

The film and book also echo a long-standing antisemitic trope common among extremist factions of the Black Hebrew Israelite movement that claims “white” Jews are “not the real Jews” and instead stole the religious heritage of Black people. This same concept inspired a violent rampage at a New Jersey kosher supermarket in 2019 that took three lives.^[2]

Your company’s decision to profit from the promotion of this dangerous hate speech has substantial real-world costs and consequences for the Jewish community and the greater society. According to the FBI’s 2020 hate crimes report, Jews were the target of 55 percent of all religiously-motivated hate crimes—an alarming statistic for a group that makes up less than two percent of the U.S. population.

Over the past few months, there has been a deeply distressing rise in antisemitic incidents, among the largest rise in antisemitic incidents in the last half century.^[3] Within this dangerous climate, basketball star Kyrie Irving’s decision to promote this film to millions of social media followers, along with his refusal to disavow its antisemitism, has spread this dangerous hate-filled content even further.

Mr. Irving’s actions drew international attention and a dramatic spike in sales of the film and its related book, making it a best seller in multiple categories on Amazon. Amazon’s own guidelines tell filmmakers that “all titles undergo manual and automated reviews” before it licenses them and that certain content is prohibited, such as violating a copyright or explicit sexuality. Amazon also says it prohibits “hateful content,” such as speech that contains “derogatory comments, hate speech, or threats specifically targeting any group or individuals.”

It is alarming that this antisemitic film and book would not immediately qualify as hateful content.

Amazon should not amplify and profit from this promotion of hate. Pulling this hateful content from your offerings should be a value judgement we believe your company should be comfortable making.

Amazon can minimize the damage it causes in searches for *Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America*, by ensuring customers are not automatically connected to similar publications of a conspiratorial nature.

Amazon has a unique and critical role to play in ensuring its customers do not consume hate-filled propaganda and misinformation. And as responsible corporate citizens, Amazon should certainly never profit from hate.

We urge you to swiftly take action and remove this film and book from your platform. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

[1] <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/09/technology/amazon-bookstore-nazis.html>

[2] <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/11/nyregion/jersey-city-shooting.html>

[3] <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-audit-finds-antisemitic-incidents-in-united-states-reached-all-time-high-in>