



Talk

Talk » Feminism chat

The MNHQ Moderation team (981 Posts)

MNHQ have [commented](#) on this thread.

BarrackerBarmer Wed 18-Apr-18 12:51:27

Dear MNHQ



I'm very grateful for the commitment to free speech you've publicly taken, and for Justine's courage this week.

A former disgruntled employee of MN is writing on Twitter about the 'transphobia' of MN staff, and calling you TERFs. She is showing a great deal of bias and intolerance towards women with feminist views, this may well be her honest opinion, which is no big deal I suppose, since she is no longer an employee.

At least, it isn't an issue until she calls a shout out to her *'friends who still work at MN'* to report and take down posts by *'transphobic scum'*, by which she appears to

be referring to any poster objecting to being called TERF by her friend.

Regardless of the personal views of the MNHQ staff, who should be as free to hold their own views as I am mine, I am disturbed that there may be a small contingent of employees who are invested in unfair moderation and will not be applying fair-handed principles, at least if the claims of this ex-employee are credible.

Can you please give posters some reassurance that the difficult job of fair-handed moderation isn't being abused by the 'friends' of ex-employees who are 'reporting it all' and taking down posts because any gender criticism means the poster is 'transphobic scum'?

Thank you.

Freshlylaidterf Wed 18-Apr-18 14:09:52

agree entirely

NotTerfNorCis Wed 18-Apr-18 14:14:37

Calling people scum for political views that are actually very mainstream (eg women don't have penises) is quite... worrying.

FloraFox Wed 18-Apr-18 14:15:21

She has also posted screenshots of MN which seem to have been taken while she was logged in as a moderator. I note that one of the buttons is "User Details".

Can MNHQ clarify for us what a moderator sees when they click on that link?

FloraFox Wed 18-Apr-18 14:15:54

screenshot

rememberthetime Wed 18-Apr-18 14:17:28

Impartiality is an important aspect of being a moderator- and I am sure they are all employed knowing this to be the case. I suspect this might just be posturing by the tweeter. I haven't seen any examples of posts being removed unnecessarily and if there was it would be obvious which moderator did it. I am sure they have to justify it every time because it's about free speech and that's important.

Maybe MN can clarify the process for us.

[CircleSquareCircleSquare](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:19:35

Wow, this is quite something.
So these people have access to our data?

[LadyMcLadyCrisps](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:19:35

Yikes... that is really dodgy. Could this ex employee/current ones be doxxing people?

[ItsAllGoingToBeFine](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:19:47

This is very concerning, and I hope MN post on this thread. I'd imagine this person is just venting and making threats, and that they don't really have a gang of secret squirrels in MNHQ, but it would be nice if MNHQ could reassure.

[NauticalDisaster](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:20:38

So, has she kept screenshots from her time working at MNHQ and is now posting them? That would seem to be somewhat of a data breach and actionable. What other information might she have taken and shared elsewhere?

[womanformallyknownaswoman](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:23:04

Is that a user's IP address in that screenshot?

Really this is doxxing and I hope they prosecute whoever posted these screens - surely her work contract prevent this type of harassment by proxy plus revealing MN's confidential information as well as users?

I would like to know what steps MN take to ensure consistency of moderator interpretation of their policies plus how they police trolling by mob reporting.

[CircleSquareCircleSquare](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:23:11

This makes me wonder about the threats I received (offline but alluded to my online activity) last week.

[redhalia](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:23:12

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[GinaCarbonara](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:23:30

Those are very recent screenshots. When did she actually leave?

[BarrackerBarmer](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:23:33

I am also very interested and concerned about what a moderator sees when they press that "user details" button.

Clearly, whilst working as a mod, this employee chose to screengrab and then publicise on social media individual poster's comments with characterisations of "transphobic scum"

Did this person have access to personal user details?

Because their integrity is certainly under question right now, and posters have a right to be concerned if mods with an axe to grind against particular posters have access to their personal details.

[OlennasWimple](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:24:34

I'm going to tag [@JustineMN](#) (I think that works)

Maybe this should be in Site Stuff, as the issues about moderators goes beyond this board

[BarrackerBarmer](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:25:39

Her twitter feed says she left in March 2018.
Last month.

[ItsAllGoingToBeFine](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:25:50

Message deleted by MNHQ

[CircleSquareCircleSquare](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:26:06

Did this person have access to personal user details?

Well they certainly had access to IP addresses as the screen shot shows. Which obviously is not unusual for a moderator but I'm pretty sure they are in some deep shit legally for publishing it.

[StealthNinjaMum](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:26:57

Thanks for drawing attention to this - very useful thread.

I have just reported this thread to get some attention. I would be very concerned if these person did have access to our personal information.

[CircleSquareCircleSquare](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:28:07

There are screenshots from April this year.
If this person left before then does she still has access to the site or are is there a mole sending stuff (i.e. personal data) out?

[NauticalDisaster](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:28:19

I've reported the thread in hopes that MNHQ can answer us and possibly take action on twitter if petsonal information, i.e. ip addresses, has been leaked by an ex-employee.

[ItsAllGoingToBeFine](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:28:28

I reported it too - if my email address is linked to my profile here it could cause me issues 😞

[RefuseToDenounceBiology](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:28:33

Yikes!

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:29:08

Wtaf. What is the potential here for a data leak specifically targetted at gender critical and radical feminist women, in this climate where violence against us is being encouraged and celebrated??

[TheyBuiltThePyramids](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:29:29

That is horrific!

[pastabest](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:30:55



[CapnHaddock](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:31:08

Bloody hell 😞

[LadyMcLadyCrisps](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:31:24

Hasn't she potentially breached data protection rules there? If so, I hope she understands how serious that is! 😞

[spontaneousgiventime](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:31:27

WOW! So, how safe is our data here? Do mods have access to our email address for example? With the threats to gender critical women we need to know what mods can access.

[WillowWept](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:31:56

I've just reported this thread so that MN see it and have included the following message:

The OP is raising a good question and from a data privacy perspective I'd like to better understand what access to my personal data your moderators have and what you plan to do about what appears to be a data breach?

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:32:21

@BarrackerBarmer will you post this in site stuff also? This surely could cause issues across the whole of Mumsnet??

[Teacuphiccup](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:35:04

I've used my special transphobia glasses and still can't see any in that screen shot. Mummybear is obviously being sarcastic. She's going to be furious if she's given as an example of transphobia as she's usually on the other side of the debate. Maybe it'll peak trans her.

[FrancisCrawford](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:35:05

Another one who is shocked at this persons actions

[WillowWept](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:35:21

Hasn't she potentially breached data protection rules there

Yes she has. I hope MN deal with this robustly.

[Thegirlinthefireplace](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:36:36

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[AssignedPuuurfectAtBirth](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:36:39

The April screenshots are standard mumsnet GUI screenshotted. Anyone can do this.

[NauticalDisaster](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:36:49

She's reading this thread and has deleted some screenshots from twitter. We have them if you need them MNHQ, plus there are sites that archive old posts, even if they get deleted on twitter.

[Janie143](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:37:50

Maybe a contributed plan to shut down MN due to data breaches now that other methods of getting women to STFU are failing

[CircleSquareCircleSquare](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:38:29

Yes I have the screen shots too.
Doesn't the unrolled save them too?

[Janie143](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:38:37

* coordinated plan

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:38:39

How do we report this beyond Mumsnet wrt data protection etc?

If she is spreading this stuff in public, what is she revealing in private?

[WillowWept](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:39:17

thegirl me too.

It's an appalling data breach

[AssignedPuuurfectAtBirth](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:39:37

This person is a serious self publicist.

twitter.com/emma_healey. She's screenshotting this thread.

Duh, deep doodoo for doxxing dodo

[foxyzliz26](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:39:46

As long as we are all posting within the law we should have nothing to worry about !

mind you I do have a degree in law , being a lesbian I remember the furore over clause 28 !

most of the old school Transsexuals , we know are not causing any problems yet get crushed on here when they have tried to debate politely

[Somerville](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:40:00

That's some data breach 😞

Yikes.

[NauticalDisaster](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:40:30

[@AssignedPuuurflectAtBirth](#) she had screenshots from February up that showed an ip address at the bottom. It may have been the user's she was screenshotting. That is a data breach and stealing data from a workplace.

[AssignedPuuurflectAtBirth](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:42:14

I know. I get it, trust me I screenshotted them all last night.

It's a serious breach of trust and law. She must have stolen this data.

[pastabest](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:42:34

As long as we are all posting within the law we should have nothing to worry about !

except the whole internet having our IP addresses.....

[RefuseToDenounceBiology](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:42:50

The chances are they are still an employee.

[BarrackerBarmer](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:06

I'd like to hear MNHQ's response before taking action on the data breach.

There is a trust breach here too.

And it's important not only to establish the extent to which anti-feminists have access to our data and may be inclined to abuse that, but also to establish if Emma's friends who still work here are similarly inclined to be untrustworthy, as she seems to believe.

I DO trust MNHQ to take this seriously. And regardless of the personal views of mods, they categorically must be safe with our data.

[reasonprevails](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:10

How about you just don't say anything online you wouldn't say to a trans person's face in the first place?

[Haidees](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:14

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:18

As a person who could identify as queer but is offended by the term - what this woman is doing is not just disgusting and threatening to all women on here, but it is particularly threatening to the lesbian, bisexual and trans people here.

This person should never be employed again in a capacity that allows them access to anyone else's data.

Somerville Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:49

Emma Healey says on Twitter "I've deleted some screenshots from this thread as I did not realise they had data in them, my point still stands - but this was an accident and not something deliberate at all."

How could this former employee not realise images "had data in them"? And more to the point, why has a former employee retained copies of these images?

WillowWept Wed 18-Apr-18 14:43:56

If she's reading this thread then maybe it'd be helpful for her to know that the last person I dealt with who took confidential personal data from work had a high court injunction served against them and a costs order.

I hope she has deep pockets.

CircleSquareCircleSquare Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:00

She has deleted the screenshots that contained IP addresses but I'm pretty sure that doesn't matter one bit, legally.

I'm having a scroll through the CPS website right now.

LadyMcLadyCrisps Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:05

Hmm... she is backpeddling furiously. I hope she knows that the data protection rules are set by the government and not Mumsnet... Claiming it to be an accidental data release is paper thin frankly and I am not sure would stand up at all based on the clear motivation...

LadyMcLadyCrisps Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:15

Motivation...

NauticalDisaster Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:25

If anyone wants to look up information re reporting data breaches, here you go: ico.org.uk/for-the-public/

treeofhearts Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:36

Legally she is fucked, under the data protection act. Claims of Transphobia are NOT going to fly here. She'll end up in court over this, especially if the user whose IP address is visible in the screenshots contacts the authorities.

RosenbergW Wed 18-Apr-18 14:44:54

Reasonprevails - the women here constantly express a need and willingness to discuss these issues outside of Mumsnet as long as it is safe to do so.

It is not safe to do so.

Thegirlinthefireplace Wed 18-Apr-18 14:45:17

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

reasonprevails Wed 18-Apr-18 14:45:27

Also, you do realise you can't dox someone with just an IP address, right?

SophoclesTheFox Wed 18-Apr-18 14:45:52

This is quite worrying. Would like some assurances about MN's data security policies.

HoneyBadger32 Wed 18-Apr-18 14:46:14

To be fair...there are quite extreme views expressed in relation to the rights of trans people on here, and generally no action is taken by MN...so I can see their point, even if I am concerned with the information which MN is allowing to be disseminated potentially.

[treeofhearts](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:47:19

No but it is still personal data that shouldn't be splashed all over twitter and it CAN be used to find out approximately where someone lives.

[pastabest](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:47:31

'accidentally' publishing personal data is not a defence.

The fact that it happened is ultimately the problem, the intention behind it is irrelevant really.

[reasonprevails](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:47:42

And her reply calling transphobes 'scum' was in response to this thread, written about someone she knows:
www.mumsnet.com/Talk/womens_rights/3222263-Slide-show-on-How-to-Deal-with-TERFs

Is that part of the civilised debate? Picking on a student? 🙄

[spontaneousgiventime](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:47:45

I think I'm going to speak to a solicitor. I don't like this one little bit. If need be, the PP who have screenshotted, would you mind if I used them? TIA.

[FloraFox](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:47:56

I didn't realise there was an IP address in the screen shot and I've asked MNHQ to delete the images.

An IP address can be data in certain circumstances but not always, generally depending on what other information can be obtained about the user of the IP address. Email addresses can also be personal data. Under the new General Data Protection Regulation which will come into force in May, IP addresses will be personal data.

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:48:20

Reasonprevails - for what reason are you diminishing the fears of many women in order to defend an illegal and unethical act?

[LadyMcLadyCrisps](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:48:43

I always post within the law and within the realms of respect and dignity for others and their life choices. Thank you for the utterly pointless and patronising reminder **Reason**.

[NauticalDisaster](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:48:44

It was [@StillTryingHard](#) that she posted an ip address on twitter, MNHQ will have to get in touch with that poster.

From a database pov yech should be able to query what data she accessed, captured, downloaded, emailed.

[Mummyoflittledragon](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:49:40

Thank you for bringing this to Mnhq attention. I've also reported the thread. The more reports, the faster the response (I think).

[SophoclesTheFox](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:49:54

Also, you do realise you can't dox someone with just an IP address, right?

You can have a fine old time hacking them, though.

[Haidees](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:50:33

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[londonmummy1966](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:50:35

Another one who would like to see MNHQ response - but I do think we should be prepared to give them a bit of time to come up with a considered one, especially since the screenshots are coming down, rather than jumping up and down for an instant reply.

[ZuriWanders247](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:50:47

My TiF friend went to Uni with her.

[reasonprevails](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:50:56

As someone with trans friends who have been deadnamed, attacked and shamed over and over on this website, all under the guise of 'civil debate', I just thought you could all benefit from a bit of perspective.

[KateMumsnet \(MNHQ\)](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:51:26

Hi all
We're looking into this as a matter of urgency as you can imagine - please bear with us briefly while we do so. Just to let you all know, though - all access to any Mumsnet admin functions were removed on the day that this person's internship ended - there's no possibility of further access. The screenshots have now be removed from that Twitter account which is something.

[lovetheway](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:51:48

so I can see their point,

And if an ex employee was sympathetic to the EDL and posted confidential data from their time at Mumsnet would you 'see their point' as well ?

I mean nothing to hide, nothing to fear. Right?

[AssignedPuurfectAtBirth](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:52:18

Message deleted by MNHQ. Here's a link to our [Talk Guidelines](#).

[LadyMcLadyCrisps](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:52:29



And right here is an example of a threat to abuse this data....

[Janie143](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:53:08

There is more than one IP address on the twitter thread

[KateMumsnet \(MNHQ\)](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:53:30

[FloraFox](#) we've deleted the screenshots from your post now.

[Freshlylaidterf](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:53:31

I reported it too - if my email address is linked to my profile here it could cause me issues
me too

[Thegirlinthefireplace](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:53:53

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[redhalia](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:53:57

Message withdrawn at poster's request.

[IAmWonkoTheSane](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:54:12

Bloody hell.
How many screnshots does she have? How much of our data?
She must realise she has royally fucked up here.

[Teacuphiccup](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:54:23

Deadnaming is a whole other thread.

[treeofhearts](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:55:13

Lady That is just going too far. I mean last I checked, my IP showed me in Sweden but still.

[RosenbergW](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:55:24

At what point does this cross the line wrt encouraging or assisting a crime?

[MagicJay](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:55:41



[ZuriWanders247](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:56:03

She literally just protected her tweets. I was viewing them all and then LOCKED.

[SophoclesTheFox](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:56:26

Thanks for the update, Kate.

reason, with all of your trans friends, you will know as well as we here all know, that there are many mischievous and malicious types with reasonable tech skills within the population who will take this as an open invitation.

It's hardly comparable to us discussing information that high profile trans people put into the public domain themselves, is it?

[foxyliz26](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:56:49

Anyone concerned should contact the ICO, and or request a Full subject access request from MNHQ

if you are at all concerned you will have to make individual complaints to the ICO

Justine cant be held responsible for every poster on every thread !
as she has already stuck her neck out for us on this !
and repeatedly asked for calm

[spontaneousgiventime](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:57:04

This is a disgrace, it's illegal and we all stand a chance our private data has been shared with people who may wish us harm. MNHQ this is no joke and we need to know what data mods have and we need to know quickly.

[Cocolepew](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:57:11

She's protected her tweets now.

[rememberthetime](#) Wed 18-Apr-18 14:57:31

thank you MNHQ for taking this so seriously and getting on to it so fast.

But I suspect the damage is already done...