

November 18, 2016

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Roth,

Thank you for your letter about how Facebook might approach the Chinese market. We applaud your efforts worldwide on behalf of human rights. Facebook and other stakeholders in the information and communications technology sector look to your work when evaluating risks in markets across the globe.

Our mission at Facebook is to make the world more open and connected, and we seek opportunities to further this important objective in a thoughtful and responsible way. Facebook and other companies regularly contend with complicated regulatory environments that seek to protect free expression and privacy rights and at the same time maintain public safety and national security interests. In pursuing our mission across the world, we believe that by seeking to engage in a responsible way we can give more people a voice and an opportunity to connect and share ideas and information.

As you know, since 2009, people within China have been unable to access Facebook. We have long said that we hope the people of China will again be able to access the service in the future. Accordingly, we continue to study and learn more about this diverse and complex market. However, at this time we have not concluded how or when access to Facebook could be restored for people in China, recognizing the principal role the Chinese government plays in making this decision. As we continue to study this market, we will consider the important points you raise through the questions in your letter.

We are grateful for your team's constructive engagement on a number of issues of mutual interest, including our collaboration with Human Rights Watch in the Global Network Initiative (GNI), the multi-stakeholder digital rights initiative. Since 2013, Facebook has been a GNI member, and we are committed to the best practices related to free expression and privacy established by the GNI. Careful consideration of the issues you raise and the type of questions you pose in your letter would constitute an important component of any decision on entering China.

We appreciate your important work on these challenging issues in markets around the world. We look forward to further engagement with your staff, other GNI member organizations, and a diverse set of stakeholders as we continue to work to respect the rights of people around the globe who use the Facebook family of products.

Sincerely,



Joel D. Kaplan, VP
Global Public Policy