

UK

## SEYI AKIWOWO

### Bombarded with online abuse for speaking up

Seyi Akiwowo defends the right of women to express themselves freely on social media, without fear of threats and abuse. She received a wave of online abuse after a video of her speaking at the European Parliament went viral. Seyi, a local councillor in London at the time, reported more than 75 instances of abuse – most of which was misogynistic and racist – to social media companies, including Twitter. But Twitter failed to acknowledge or respond to her reports at the time.

Frustrated and disillusioned, Seyi decided to speak out about the abuse in the media, and eventually Twitter suspended some of the accounts targeting her. She went on to launch Glitch, an organisation devoted to ending online abuse.

Violence and abuse against women online is widespread in the UK, stifling freedom of expression. One in five women polled by Amnesty and Ipsos MORI earlier this year said they had suffered abuse or harassment on social



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media. Despite the scale of the problem, companies like Twitter are failing to act.

#### SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Seyi Akiwowo  
c/o Amnesty International UK  
Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

Language English

#### Suggested message

Dear Seyi, Thank you for your work tackling online abuse and for encouraging a safer and more equal Twitter for all. I stand in solidarity with you.

#### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- Include my name and address? **Yes**

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to make Twitter a safe space for all users by enforcing its own rules on hateful conduct and abuse.

**Write to** Jack Dorsey, Twitter CEO  
c/o Amnesty International UK  
Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

**Salutation** Dear Mr Dorsey  
**In your letter urge him to**

- Make it easier to report violent and abusive tweets
- Ensure responses are timely, consistent, transparent and have meaningful information
- Raise awareness about Twitter's security and privacy features that help women have a safer and less toxic experience
- Educate users about the issue.

**'Online abuse is not about robust debate. It's about the intentional harassment of women to force them to leave the internet.'** Seyi Akiwowo

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS  
2018



EVERY MESSAGE COUNTS Together we can get Twitter to stop the abuse

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

