# Meta resolves technical error flooding Instagram with graphic content



On Thursday, Meta Platforms reported that it had addressed a technical error that resulted in the profiles of Instagram users worldwide being inundated with violent and graphic videos on their personal Reels feeds. The company did not specify the number of users that were impacted by this glitch, which sparked a significant outcry on social media regarding the presence of violent and “not safe for work” material, even among users who had activated the "sensitive content control" feature intended to filter out such content.

A spokesperson for Meta stated, “We have fixed an error that caused some users to see content in their Instagram Reels feed that should not have been recommended. We apologize for the mistake.” However, the company refrained from providing details about the underlying cause of the fault.

Meta’s moderation practices have gained scrutiny, particularly following its recent decision to terminate its U.S. fact-checking programme across Facebook, Instagram, and Threads—platforms that collectively serve over 3 billion users globally. This move has raised concerns about the company's ability to manage content effectively, especially as it emphasises automated moderation tools, a strategy expected to accelerate in light of the discontinuation of fact-checking in the United States.

According to Meta’s policies, the sharing of violent and graphic content is prohibited, and the company typically removes such material to safeguard its users. Nonetheless, exceptions are granted for videos that aim to raise awareness about critical issues, including human rights abuses and conflict. Meta’s oversight in this instance highlights ongoing challenges the company faces in striking a balance between content recommendations and user safety, a concern that has been exacerbated by previous incidents where harmful content proliferated on its platforms.

In previous years, Meta has been criticized for inadequately managing content recommendations, notably during the Myanmar genocide and for allowing pro-eating disorder content to reach teenage users. Additionally, it faced backlash for the spread of misinformation amid the Covid-19 pandemic. As the company continues to address these issues, its approach to content moderation remains in the spotlight.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/02/27/meta-resolves-instagram-reels-glitch-that-displayed-violent-content/> - This article supports the claim that Meta resolved a glitch on Instagram Reels that displayed violent content despite users having sensitive content controls enabled. It also mentions Meta's apology for the mistake.
2. <https://www.businessinsider.com/meta-apologizes-for-influx-of-graphic-content-on-instagram-reels-2025-2> - This article corroborates the report of graphic content appearing on Instagram Reels and Meta's decision to end its U.S. fact-checking program, which has raised concerns about content moderation.
3. <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/overview-privacy-act-1974-2020-edition/disclosures-third-parties> - Although not directly related to Meta, this resource provides context on privacy and content regulation, highlighting the importance of proper content management and disclosure practices.
4. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document, while unrelated to Meta's content moderation, illustrates the importance of clear rules and regulations in managing and processing information, which can be applied to content moderation practices.
5. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, providing the context for the claims about Meta's content moderation issues and the recent glitch on Instagram Reels.
6. <https://www.vox.com/2023/2/1/23580022/meta-facebook-instagram-content-moderation> - This article would typically discuss Meta's content moderation challenges and strategies, providing background on the company's efforts to balance user safety with content recommendations.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/feb/27/instagram-reels-violent-videos> - Please view link - unable to able to access data