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Facebook bans
pictures of
breast-feeding women
from the site
Flickr / pshab

Thousands Challenge Facebook's Ban on Breast Feeding Photos

The photos are considered to have explicit content

The online Facebook group that opposes the company's actions of deleting all photos of breast-feeding moms from users' albums and photo streams has recently gone beyond the 70,000 members limit. They started over 1,500 discussion threads on the matter, expressing their support for women who decided to post pictures of them nursing their children. Thus far there has been no reaction from Facebook, even though group members added some 3,000 photos depicting breast feeding instances.

By Saturday evening, users had already posted approximately 10,000 messages on the site, and signed an opened petition to the management of the firm, asking for the removal of the ban on this type of pictures. During protests that took place outside the company's headquarters, in Palo Alto, California, women nursed their children in public, and some had banners reading "Hey Facebook, Breast-feeding is not Obscene."

The site's terms of use were used previously by the management to justify entering users' profiles and deleting their pictures. Company officials said that showing the areola, the dark skin around the nipple, in pictures posted on Facebook did not comply with the site's terms and conditions. This content is deemed by the company as too explicit and unsuited for minors.

However, advocates of the idea state that breast-feeding is natural, and should not be regarded as immoral or banned from a public website. They argue that the women who post the pictures online are all in their own right to do so, as most of them are married, and they do not promote indecent behaviors, which could affect underage children, or other visitors of Facebook.

Thus far, there has been no official reaction on the part of the company's management, and executives couldn't be reached for comments. In the meantime, the protest on the site is gathering momentum, with more and more people joining in every day, from different parts of the world.