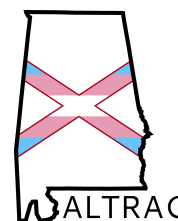


PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11th, 2024

CONTACT: ALTRAC Media Relations Team, media@altrac.works

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (Mar 11) – On Sunday, Clay Yarbrough, a convicted criminal currently living in north Alabama, posted inflammatory misinformation on Facebook targeting a transgender employee of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Space Camp in Huntsville. Yarbrough could not name any wrongdoing on the part of the employee, only that they were a transgender person. Yarbrough also has a history of spreading [misinformation](#) on Facebook about the COVID-19 pandemic.

In replies to the post, Yarbrough provided screenshots from the employee's personal social media account (which did not appear to be used for any work-related purposes). Several other Facebook users expressed that the presence of queer and transgender employees around Space Camp students is inappropriate in some way, despite presenting no evidence for this. Yarbrough later posted a mugshot of a non-transgender former Space Camp employee who had been charged for possession of child pornography in a clumsy attempt to equivocate transgender people with pedophiles.

Chaya Raichik, who operates "Libs of TikTok," a Twitter account known for its anti-LGBTQ+ posts ["designed to generate outrage."](#) reposted Yarbrough's allegations later on Monday. At the time of writing, over one million people viewed the post. Similar posts made by Raichik about queer people have spurred bomb threats at elementary schools. Twitter has suspended her account at least five times, including for [promoting "violence, threats or harassment against others."](#)

It is clear that the goal of these social media posts is to pressure the Space and Rocket Center to fire the employee in question simply for being transgender. Legally, employers may not discriminate based on transgender status because of the majority Supreme Court opinion in *Bostock v. Clayton County* – an opinion written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, who was appointed by President Trump.

News organizations were quick to report on the incident, but most failed to note that the targeted employee has done nothing wrong, and that Yarbrough had no good-faith concerns. The notion that queer people are out to "indoctrinate," "groom," or "recruit" children is a prejudiced falsehood that dates back decades in America and has led to innocent queer people losing their lives and livelihoods.

"This kind of rhetoric further divides our state, has no basis in reality, and has historically led to violence," said Andrea Trenaman, a member of the Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition (ALTRAC). "It is additional fuel poured on the flames of moral panic gripping the right wing of American political discourse, based only in fear and misunderstanding."

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ABOUT ALTRAC: The Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition provides information and contact tools to Alabama citizens concerned about legislative attacks on queer and transgender people.

<https://altrac.works>