

What does Spotify's new 'hate content' policy mean for artists and the music industry?

Notes & Cues:	Article: <p>Spotify has introduced a new policy that pledges to remove content that "expressly and principally promotes, advocates, or incites hatred or violence against a group or individual based on characteristics, including race, religion, gender identity, sex, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability".</p> <p>"We don't censor content because of an artist's or creator's behaviour, but we want our editorial decisions – what we choose to program – to reflect our values," Spotify said in a statement.</p> <p>Its new policy is a heel-turn following a statement last August, which said it did not alter its content library "based on the actions of the individual behind the content". However, Billboard reports that Spotify has been quietly enforcing a version of the new "Hate Content and Hateful Conduct policy" for "the last several years" without publicising it.</p> <p>And Don Gorder, the chairman of the management department at Berklee College of Music, called Spotify's decision "a big deal" given the influence of its playlists, but warned that "it is a slippery slope." Spotify "created this new moral standard – what is it?" he asked. "Where is the line?"</p> <p>Spotify has already acknowledged that it is treading in seriously murky waters and said in its announcement that it needed time to evolve. At present, Spotify risks making more of a mess than the one it is trying to clear up.</p>
Summary:	