



Mr. Peter Micek
Global Policy & Legal Counsel
Access Now
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New York, NY 10001-9998

November 1, 2018

Dear Mr. Micek and Access Now,

Thank you for reaching out to Yandex to further draw our attention to the 2018 results from Ranking Digital Rights and for providing an opportunity for Yandex to respond publicly with this letter. We value and respect the work and commitment of Access Now, Ranking Digital Rights, and other organizations that aim to improve the overall state of online rights globally.

Organizations such as yours have come to play an important role in helping shape the agenda on online rights. 2017 was the first year in which we started collaborating with the team at Ranking Digital Rights, and we found the dialogue to be very fruitful. Throughout our engagement with the RDR team, we learned more about the research process, standards, and how Yandex can better relay information about our commitments to users. We were also able to share more information on Yandex to their team.

As a company that serves millions of internet users, we take our responsibility to users and the internet ecosystem very seriously. We have always been committed to protecting users and their online rights. Throughout our twenty year history, we have prioritized our users and followed strict practices to ensure security and privacy, in addition to challenging and speaking out against the obstruction of online rights. However, many ways in which we demonstrate our commitment to online rights do not fit into the RDR evaluation framework or fall within the three Yandex services which the organization uses to evaluate our entire company across multiple markets.

We have reviewed the RDR 2018 report card on Yandex and recognize that we can improve how we share information on human rights online, government requests, and how we handle user data. Since reading the 2018 report, Yandex has worked further to provide more public information in the aforementioned topics and we look forward to the next round of evaluations in which the RDR team will see a clear improvement by our company.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to our [updated privacy policy](#) and [our page on privacy](#) that outlines that more clearly for users.

As always, Yandex will continue our commitment to our users and the internet ecosystem. We will cooperate with Ranking Digital Rights throughout the 2019 evaluation.

Regards,

Yandex Communications