



Office of Commissioner  
Rebecca Kelly Slaughter

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**Federal Trade Commission**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**Statement of Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter**  
*As Prepared for Delivery*

Opening Remarks at PrivacyCon 2021

Washington, D.C.  
July 27, 2021

Good morning everyone. I'm Commissioner Becca Slaughter and, on behalf of my colleagues at the Federal Trade Commission and my fellow Commissioners, I'd like to welcome you to PrivacyCon 2021! Thanks again to you all for attending virtually again this year. While circumstances have been challenging for all of us, I'm glad we have the tools to convene so many distinguished advocates, technologists, and academics from around the country and across the globe.

You have a full menu ahead of you today, and I want to open the buffet with a little food for thought on two topics.

First, I know we are here today for "Privacy"Con, but I would like to challenge everyone to reject "privacy" as the animating framework for the important issues being discussed at today's conference and among thought leaders generally with respect to our data-driven economy. Today's agenda addresses algorithmic bias, issues around consent, misinformation during the pandemic, and special concerns related to kids and teens, as well as more conventional privacy concepts. The FTC has done work on all these fronts and has recently issued guidance on algorithmic bias and unfairness, and worked to reevaluate outdated and deceptive consent frameworks around dark patterns. These issues go way beyond "privacy" as it is traditionally conceived.

The broad agenda of this PrivacyCon reflects a growing understanding that the data

Words matter, and “data abuses” reflects the fact that rampant corporate data collection, sharing, and exploitation harms consumers, workers, and competition in ways that go well beyond more traditional or libertarian privacy concerns. We must examine a wide variety of data abuses, including questions of racial bias, civil rights, and economic exclusion, considering practices that undermine personal autonomy and dignity, and reevaluating damaging and dangerous business models and market practices.

In addition to examining these practices, we need to consider what to do about the problems we find in the market.

Thanks again to everyone from the FTC that made today's event possible – especially our agency's speakers and moderators. And to our attendees, I'm personally grateful for your work and hope to hear more from you all at the Commission. It's now my honor and pleasure to introduce Erie Meyer, the FTC's chief technologist, for additional opening remarks.