



Netflix Services UK Limited  
22 Torrington Place, 3rd Floor Suite C  
Fitzrovia, London  
WC1E 7HP

8 February 2022

Dear Netflix UK,

Last year, HOPE not hate was approached by Netflix to discuss the forthcoming documentary *Nail bomber: Manhunt*. In the course of our dialogue, your team made repeated references to their personal pride in a film with such a strong social message having been produced. This enthusiasm and desire to promote such a positive message of cohesion convinced us to do everything we could to promote the documentary to our supporters and the general public. I undertook several media interviews on behalf of Netflix and we heavily advertised the film on our social media channels. HOPE not hate was proud to share your desire to show how hope can triumph over hate.

A year on, the memory of our collaboration leaves me with a bitter taste. Broadcasting a “comedy” show by Jimmy Carr that makes a joke out of the Roma and Gypsies killed in the Holocaust is reprehensible. It also demonstrates a grave error of judgement on the part of Netflix in allowing this sketch to be aired.

We totally accept that comedy can be both subjective and edgy. Indeed, some of the best comedy is when comedians transmit a serious message about a difficult issue with humour. The supposed joke about the positives of Gypsies being killed in the Holocaust was not one of these.

We also strongly believe in free speech and people, including comedians, being able to say and do things that we might personally disagree with. But with freedoms comes responsibilities, and in any modern democratic society there are lines that should not be crossed. A line was crossed here.

I think David Baddiel’s assessment of the “joke” is exactly right.

“You can obviously tell a Holocaust joke that is cruel and inhumane and mean-spirited and racist. Or you can tell one that targets the oppressors, or draws attention to the fundamental evil of it, or shines a light on the humanity of the victims.

“I said this every night during my Trolls: Not The Dolls tour as part of a bit arguing that it’s not the subject matter of a joke that counts, it’s the specifics of the individual joke. Clearly, Jimmy Carr’s was the former.”

Jimmy Carr has refused to apologise for his joke. In fact, he has doubled down and has attempted to portray himself as an innocent victim of cancel culture. This is total nonsense. He and his supporters have claimed that rather than insulting and mocking Roma and Gypsies, he was in fact trying to shine a spotlight on their marginalisation in history. If that was so, then surely he would have been disturbed by the laughter of the

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audience (rather than them gasping in shock) to his distasteful joke. If that was so, then surely he would have been concerned about the reaction of every Traveller and Holocaust organisation, which have universally come out and condemned him. His refusal to accept the offence he has caused to the people he claims to have been promoting by his joke only adds insult to injury.

Just as Jimmy Carr must be answerable for his actions, so Netflix must be answerable for theirs, made all the worse by your subsequent silence. Like Carr, there is no recognition for the offence caused. Like Carr, there is no public apology.

The Roma/Gypsy/Traveller community suffer more racism and prejudice in society than any other minority group, often perpetuated and reinforced by media portrayals of them as criminals and troublemakers. The fact that Jimmy Carr felt it was appropriate to make a joke out of hundreds of thousands of Gypsies murdered in the Holocaust and that this joke passed Netflix's editorial process is a reflection of the prejudice that exists and is ignored.

A year ago I felt proud to be working with Netflix. Now, I'm deeply disappointed that I need to ask you to remove this racist and offensive clip immediately and offer a public apology for the hurt you have caused. Furthermore, I wish to invite you to a meeting with HOPE not hate, The Traveller Movement and the Roma Support Group to discuss how comments like Jimmy Carr's affect Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and how we can work together to frame them in a more positive light. While this situation has re-opened old wounds for many in the GRT community, this is also a fantastic opportunity for learning and one that we wish to harness.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Lowles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Nick Lowles  
CEO HOPE not hate