PM Sunak Debases Himself, His Country with Desperate Musk Chat

Secretary Donelan Bravely Declares “AI May Have an Impact on Disinformation” as First Day of “AI Safety Summit” Platforms Big Tech, Confirms Misguided Focus on Future Harms

1 Nov - The Citizens released the following statement about the first day of PM Sunak's AI Safety Summit, attributable to Executive Director Clara Maguire:

“Prime Minister Sunak is debasing himself, his country and the concept of AI Safety by chatting with Elon Musk Thursday night, and showing his hand - the AI Safety Summit is a desperate play for attention ahead of an election year, not a serious effort at safeguarding privacy, economic security or democracy.

Musk’s “X” platform is rife with anti-semitism, racism, extremism and AI generated hate speech and electoral disinformation right now. He should be called to the stage to explain himself and the cesspool he has allowed Twitter to become, not elevated as the PM's equal.

As Day One of the Summit has unfolded, it’s clear that today’s risks from AI are not on the PM’s agenda. In the most obvious statement ever, Secretary Donelan bravely declared that ‘AI may have an impact on disinformation,’ - impacts that The Citizens and other tech accountability advocates have been documenting for years.

When Nick Clegg comes back to town representing Meta and pledging a commitment to online safety, you know the fox is guarding the hen house. That’s the AI Safety Summit that PM Sunak has organised - not one commensurate with the risks and threats we face.

We urge a focus on real solutions to the immediate harms of AI, and a focus on the voices of experts who understand and acknowledge the gravity of the problem.”

Extensive research on PM Sunak’s AI Task force, Meta and other platforms active AI harms and expert commentary can be found here.

Media inquiries welcome and interviews are available, ben@the-citizens.com. The People’s AI Summit has been organised by a coalition of groups led by The Citizens, a not-for-profit journalism organisation with a focus on democracy, data rights and disinformation.