

## 2021-002-FB-UA

### Case referred by user

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*A Facebook user in the Netherlands posted a 17-second long video with accompanying text in Dutch. The video shows a young child meeting three adults, one dressed to portray 'Sinterklaas', also referred to as 'Saint Nicholas', and two portraying 'Zwarte Piet', also referred to as 'Black Pete.' Zwarte Piet is part of a traditional festival in the Netherlands and people playing the character often paint their faces black which has attracted controversy.*

*In the video, with festive music playing in the background, the child shakes hands with Sinterklaas and with one Zwarte Piet. The other Zwarte Piet places a hat on the top of the child's head. The accompanying text in the post, also in Dutch, states 'happy child!' and thanks Sinterklaas and the Zwarte Piets.*

*Facebook removed this content under its Hate Speech policy after receiving one report from another Facebook user. Under its [Hate Speech Community Standard](#), Facebook takes down content targeting a person or group of people on the basis of their race and/or ethnicity with "designated dehumanizing comparisons, generalizations, or behavioral statements (in written or visual form)," including "caricatures of Black people in the form of blackface."*

*The user submitted their appeal against Facebook's decision to remove the content in December, 2020. The user stated that the post was meant for their child, who was happy with it, and they want the content back up on Facebook. The user also stated that "the color does not matter" in this case seemingly because, in their view, Zwarte Piet is important to children.*