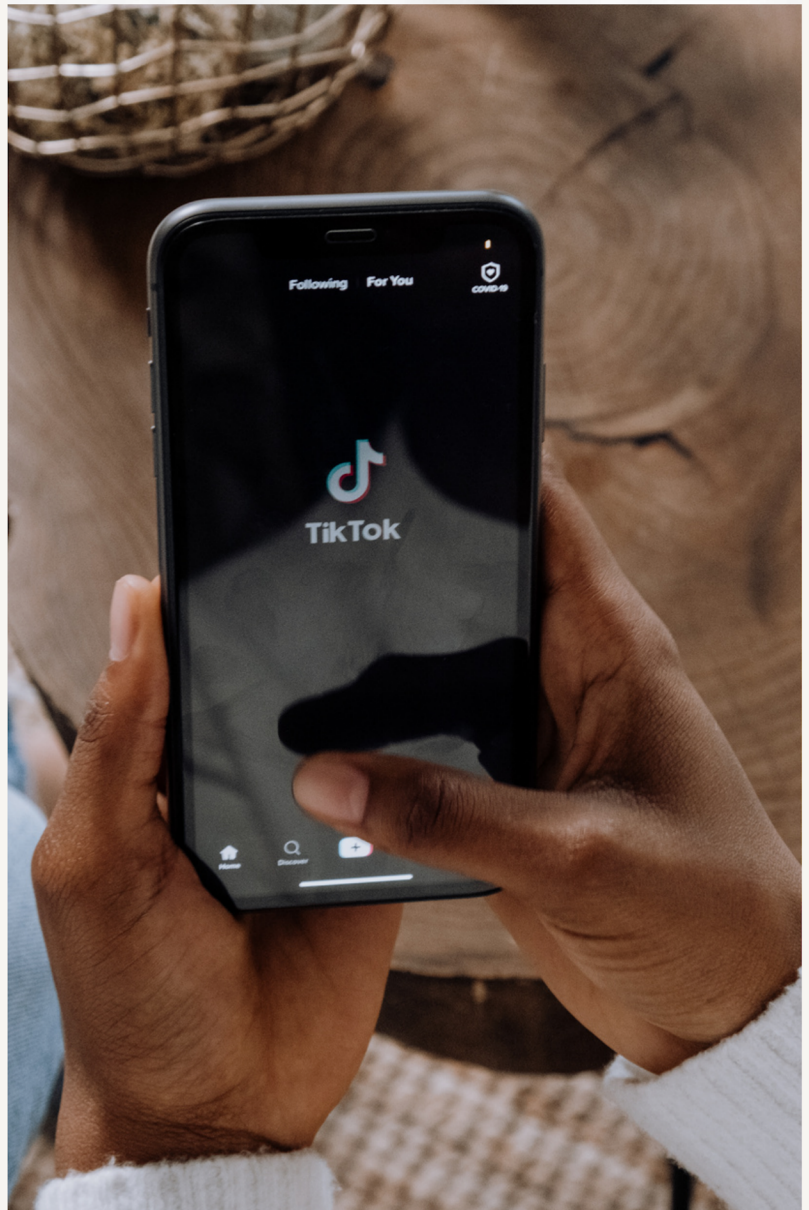

TIKTOK: THE THEATER OF DISINFORMATION

WAR IN UKRAINE

During the war in Ukraine TikTok became a center of disinformation. A platform which was first used for dance videos became a platform for information about war, of course fake information too. Many young people using this app have been led into misinformation. But it is people themselves who find some fake news and post it on TikTok and share it so it goes viral and other people comment on it and even make more videos about fake news. This text is written to help you avoid being misled by fake news. By showing examples of such fake news.

EXAMPLES

First of all, there are often exaggerated claims made by some users regarding casualties in this war or how far away from their homes people have had to escape due to fighting. While these facts may be true for some individuals affected by this crisis, they do not accurately portray what is happening across all regions within Ukraine or they do not give an accurate representation of how many people have been displaced overall due to this conflict's impact on their lives and source of income. It is now winter in Ukraine which is not at all helpful for homeless people, somehow they have to survive this very hard part of the year and war is still here.



MORE EXAMPLES

There are also false statements being spread about who is responsible for initiating or escalating the war between Russia's supporters and Ukrainian forces in certain areas near Donetsk Oblast region where most fighting occurs today; however, nothing solid can be proven without reliable evidence which can not always be found online through sources such as TikTok videos alone. Furthermore, even if one were able to find credible news reports discussing these matters, they would still need additional context before making any assumptions based up on them since so much remains unknown at present time. Even if war ends, we probably will not know a lot of terrible, shocking things which will be top secret. One can only hope they will be judged fairly.

Finally, other users of the platform may post content related specifically towards either side's actions during military operations, something which should never occur. More importantly, it can lead to leaking information about movements of troops. Which may be of significant importance for further actions. Everyone may be able to post on TikTok whatever they want, this can go viral and millions of people might see something that is not true. It's important for everyone to educate themselves properly before sharing anything online especially concerning events taking place thousands of miles away from one's home country. While platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have been labelling false or misleading viral videos about the war, TikTok seems to be late with it. They have to do something about it.



Why should we not use TikTok as a source of information, especially information about very important things, in this case about the war in Ukraine? As an answer to this question we will compare two sources which are TV news and TikTok.

- The most noticeable difference is authenticity of information. The information which we can see, for example on the news on TV is double – checked by many specialists whose job is to prove that these words are true. However on TikTok, videos can be uploaded by anyone who has an account there, so most of the videos contain information that is very often made up on the spot and just to get as many views and clicks as possible.
- The best and the most reliable TV stations are apolitical, which means that the information they provide is very objective, not containing personal opinions, perspectives and comments, while creators on TikTok show the matter from their own point of view. For this reason, videos can often contain false statements that are supposed to plunge one of the parties into the conflict in the eyes of people.
- A lot of people make biased, unreliable videos and put them on TikTok just to laugh and make a fuss, a large group of them in reality do not know much about the real situation and they do not realize how serious it is. For example, they live a big distance from Ukraine and do not care about the fate of people who die for nothing or have to fight for the freedom of their home and their country.

Still, all is not lost in the war on misinformation in the media. It is crucial to know your way around.

IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT RELIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE WAR BETWEEN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA, YOU SHOULD CHECK THESE ACCOUNTS @NEXTA_TV ON TWITTER, @BBC ON TIKTOK AND @CNN ON TIKTOK.