

Mr. Peter Micek  
Global Policy & Legal Counsel  
Access Now  
P.O. Box 20429  
Greeley Square Station  
4 East 27th Street  
New York, NY 10001-9998

January 27, 2020

Dear Mr. Micek and Access Now,

Thank you for contacting Yandex to address the results from Ranking Digital Rights (RDR) and for providing an opportunity for Yandex to respond publicly with this letter. We value and respect the work and commitment of Access Now, Ranking Digital Rights, and other organizations that aim to improve the overall state of online rights globally.

As a company that serves millions of internet users, we take our responsibility to users and the internet ecosystem very seriously. We have always been committed to prioritizing and protecting users and their online rights. We follow strict practices to ensure users' online security and privacy, in addition to challenging and speaking out against the obstruction of online rights.

We have been working with RDR since 2017, and in 2018, as your letter points out, Yandex made significant improvements this past year. As a result of our continuous hard work to better address privacy and freedom of expression online, our company's score increased by 5.67%, and Yandex moved up one position in the rankings. We are pleased to have published better formal commitments and more explicit explanations for our users. In addition to our other improvements in 2018, Yandex signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Exclusive Rights Protection in Digital Era, together with other Russian search engines and the largest copyright holders. This letter is also our second public response to Access Now, which is another important part of our engagement on these critical topics.

As always, Yandex will continue our commitment to our users and the internet ecosystem. We will cooperate with Ranking Digital Rights throughout the 2019 evaluation and appreciate that our company, among all others, can continue to improve how we manage digital rights topics. Thank you for further drawing our attention to the details of the RDR evaluation in your letter. Looking ahead, we will consider this, among other points of feedback, and we look forward to the next round of assessments.

Regards,

Yandex Communications