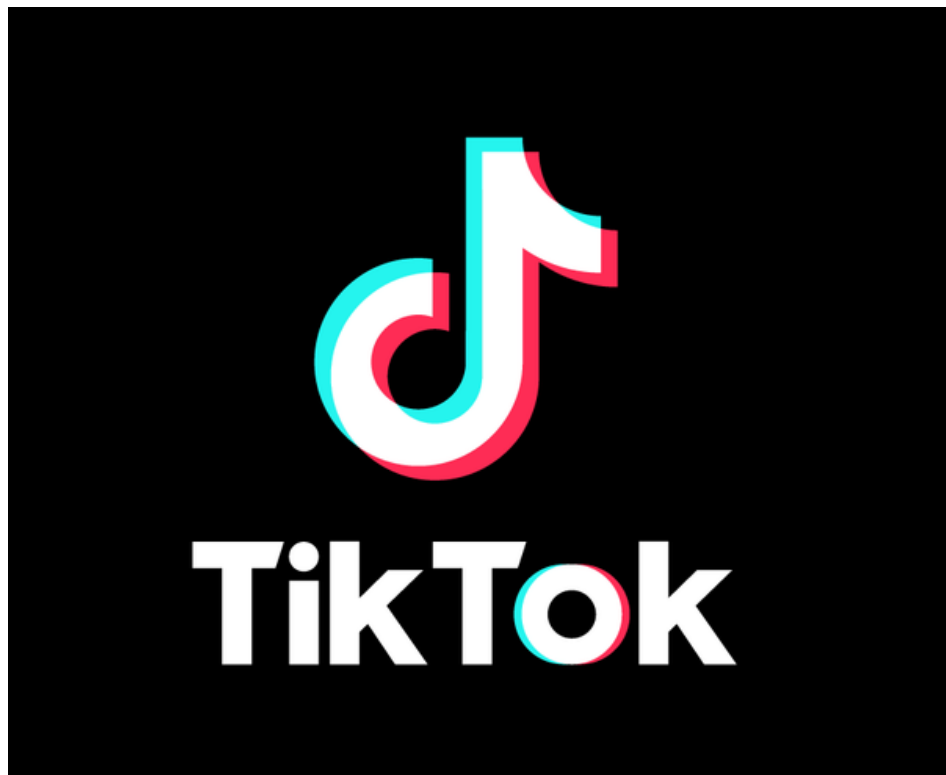


Nationwide Investigation Into TikTok Launched

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Federal /'fed(ə)rəl/ having or relating to a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs.
Example: The federal inspector will be paying him a visit..
2. Fact-finding /fakt 'fīndiNG/ the act or process of determining the facts and often the issues involved in a case, situation, or relationship; also means investigation or probe
Example: The fact-finding committee was able to gather evidence..
3. Detrimental /,detrə'men(t)l/ tending to cause harm; damaging
Example: People are well aware of the detrimental effects of smoking..
4. Human trafficking /'(h)yoomən 'trafiking/ the unlawful act of transporting or using people in order to benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation
Example: Human trafficking deserves a grave penalty..
5. Filtered /'filtərd/ to be processed or assessed (items) in order to reject those that are unwanted.
Example: Her brain can only recall filtered information of the incident..



U.S. lawmakers and **federal** regulators have launched a nationwide investigation into TikTok and its possible harmful effects on young users' mental health, widening government investigation of the highly popular video platform.

Law officers from several states who joined the **fact-finding** have criticized TikTok, saying that it's **detrimental** to the physical and mental health of young users. The platform has an estimated 1 billion monthly users and is especially popular with teens and younger children. In February, Texas opened an investigation into TikTok's alleged violations of children's privacy and facilitation of **human trafficking**.

"Our children are growing up in the age of social media — and many feel like they need to measure up to the **filtered** versions of reality that they see on their screens," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a news release. "We know this takes a devastating toll on children's mental health and well-being." (Associated Press)

DISCUSSION

1. Is TikTok popular in your country? Why or Why not?
2. Why do you think it became popular?
3. Why do you think the US is so much against it?
4. What does data privacy protection mean to you?
5. What can parents do to protect children from the dark side of social media?