

Government Surveillance and Civil Rights

A resource for advocates fighting for technology that works for all of us

Every person in this country has the constitutional right to privacy from their own government—the right to live, move, and speak freely, without being watched or tracked without cause.

This administration, partnering with tech corporations, is deploying new tools at an unprecedented scale: facial recognition without consent, cell phone tracking of entire neighborhoods, databases of protesters without warrants. The government does not get to surveil its people to consolidate its power or simply because new tech makes it easy.

Advances in AI have collapsed the practical limits that once constrained this kind of abuse. We are seeing the harms in real time: ICE using surveillance tech to detain and deport families, federal agents targeting people who speak out. The chilling effect on free speech, free assembly, and free movement—our most fundamental rights—is not incidental. It is the point.

The right to privacy has no exceptions for immigrants, people of color, or protestors. It belongs to everyone—and we must fight to keep the government's eyes off us.

HOW YOU
CAN HELP

No Blank Checks

Billions of dollars in supercharged DHS funding is enabling our government to track, monitor, and surveil us in our homes, businesses, schools, and places of worship — stealing from resources we depend on to access health care, housing, and food, all without oversight. We demand no new funding to aid DHS's domestic surveillance machine and accountability for existing dollars.

Protect Against Surveillance Abuse

We all deserve meaningful protections against government surveillance abuse and data weaponization. Congressional leaders must reintroduce The Fourth Amendment is Not For Sale Act, update the Privacy Act of 1974, and close loopholes in section 702 of FISA in order to keep up with modern-day threats to our privacy, rights, and freedoms.

THREATS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Adapted from the *The Deadly Digital Border Wall*



Biometric and Social Media Surveillance

Federal agencies use biometric surveillance tech like DNA, facial recognition, voice recognition, and iris scans. They are rapidly expanding the types of biometrics collected, often without permission. They also surveil social media, tracking individuals who criticize the administration.



Hacking and Tracking

DHS uses hacking technologies to obtain personal information for investigation or policing purposes, often sharing it with state, local, and foreign agencies. They can also use location data from phones and vehicles alongside drones and automated license plate readers.



Data Weaponization

This administration is weaponizing our data against us, carelessly grabbing our most personal tax, voting, and sensitive information to target immigrants, communities of color, and other marginalized people or protestors and legal observers.



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