



# Global statement: Stop facial recognition surveillance now!

We have a range of concerns about facial recognition surveillance, ranging from serious concerns about its incompatibility with human rights, to the potential for discriminatory impact, the lack of safeguards, the lack of an evidence base, an unproven case of necessity or proportionality, the lack of a sufficient legal basis, the lack of legislative oversight, and the lack of a democratic mandate.

All of these views lead us to the same conclusion: **180 experts call on police, other state authorities and private companies to immediately stop using facial recognition for the surveillance of publicly-accessible spaces and for the surveillance of people in migration or asylum contexts.**

The signatories to this call are civil society organisations and individual experts (including researchers, academics and advisors in technology, privacy, data protection and human rights, lawyers and other professionals).

This letter remains open for additional individual and organisation signatures. To add your signature, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stop-facial-rec-signature>.

## **128 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

### **PAN-EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL**

- Access Now
- Algorithmic Justice League
- Civil Liberties Union for Europe
- Data Rights
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Eticas
- European Center for Not-For-Profit Law Stichting
- European Digital Rights (EDRI)
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
- European Sex Workers Rights Alliance (ESWA)
- Fair Trials
- Human Rights Watch
- ILGA-Europe
- Organization for Identity & Cultural Development (OICD.net)
- Statewatch
- WITNESS
- Women's Link Worldwide

### **PAN-AFRICAN**

- Knowledge House-KHA

### **AUSTRALIA**

- Digital Rights Watch

### **AUSTRIA**

- epicenter.works
- Informational Structures Research Lab
- quintessenz - - Verein zur Wiederherstellung der Bürgerrechte im Informationszeitalter

### **BELGIUM**

- Ligue des droits humains

- petites singularités
- TechnopoliceBXL

## **CANADA**

- Centre for Free Expression
- International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group
- Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
- OpenMedia
- British Columbia Civil Liberties Association

## **CROATIA**

- Gong
- Politiscope

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- Iuridicum Remedium

## **DENMARK**

- IT-Political Association
- PROSA - Forbundet af it-professionelle

## **EGYPT**

- Masaar - Technology and Law Community

## **FINLAND**

- Electronic Frontier Finland

## **FRANCE**

- La Quadrature du Net
- LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme)

## **GEORGIA**

- Law and Public Policy Center

## **GERMANY**

- AlgorithmWatch
- Chaos Computer Club
- Deutsche Vereinigung für Datenschutz e.V. (DVD)
- Digitalcourage
- Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung / Forum Computer Professionals for Peace and societal Responsibility (FIFF)

- FragDenStaat
- Giodano-Bruno-Stiftung
- Initiative for the preservation of public space
- INSPIRIT Creatives NGO
- LOAD e.V.
- SUPERRR Lab

## **GREECE**

- DATAWO
- Homo Digitalis

## **HUNGARY**

- Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

## **INDIA**

- Punjab Women Collective

## **IRELAND**

- Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)

## **ITALY**

- Coalizione Italiana per le Libertà e i Diritti civili (CILD)
- Hermes Center
- info.nodes
- StraLi for Strategic Litigation
- The Good Lobby Italia

## **JAPAN**

- JCA-NET(Japan)
- Citizens' group Against Wiretapping Laws

## **LATIN AMERICA**

- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
- DEJUSTICIA - CENTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY
- Derechos Digitales
- Sursiendo, Comunicación y Cultura Digital

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

- Bits of Freedom
- PublicSpaces
- Racism and Technology Center
- Society Vrijbit J.M.T. Wijnberg

- Stop Wapenhandel

## **PHILIPPINES**

- In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND.ph)

## **ROMANIA**

- Asociația pentru Tehnologie și Internet (ApTI)

## **SERBIA**

- SHARE Foundation

## **SLOVENIA**

- Danes je nov dan, Inštitut za druga vprašanja / Today is a new day, Institute for Other Studies
- Povod Institute
- Državljan D / Citizen D

## **SPAIN**

- AlgoRace
- Irídia - Center for Human Rights
- Ongd AFRICANDO

## **SWEDEN**

- DFRI (Föreningen för Digitala Fri- och Rättigheter)
- Queerstion Media

## **SWITZERLAND**

- AlgorithmWatch CH
- Digitale Gesellschaft

## **TUNISIA**

- Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms
- Mawjoudin We Exist

## **TURKEY**

- Alternatif Bilisim (AIA-Alternative Informatics Association)
- Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER) - Eşit Haklar İçin İzleme Derneği (ESHİD)

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Amnesty International UK
- App Drivers & Couriers Union
- ARTICLE 19
- Big Brother Watch
- Defend Digital Me
- Director, Unlock Democracy
- Fair Vote UK
- Foxglove
- INQUEST
- Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)
- Liberty
- Migrants' Rights Network
- Netpol
- Open Rights Group
- Privacy International
- Public Law Project
- Race Equality First
- Race Equality Foundation
- Race on the Agenda
- Rainbow Migration
- Red Line for Gulf
- Rights & Security International
- Runnymede Trust
- Stop The Scan campaign by by The Racial Justice Network and Yorkshire Resists
- StopWatch
- Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales
- Worker Info Exchange

## **UNITED STATES**

- Accountable Tech
- Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
- Defending Rights & Dissent
- Fight for the Future
- Human Rights Data Analysis Group
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- NYC DSA Tech Action
- Oakland Privacy
- PDX Privacy
- Restore The Fourth
- Surveillance Resistance Lab
- The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

## 70 INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS

- **Abeba Birhane**, Senior Consultant, AI accountability, Mozilla Foundation & Adjunct assistant prof, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland; Ethiopia;
- **Prof. Alex S. Vitale**, Policing and Social Justice Project, Brooklyn College, CUNY, New York; United States;
- **Ana Valdivia**, Lecturer in AI, Government & Policy at University of Oxford; United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Andrew Clement**, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto; Canada;
- **Andrew McStay**, Professor of Technology & Society, Bangor University; United Kingdom;
- **Angela Mueller**, Head of AlgorithmWatch CH | Head of Policy & Advocacy; Switzerland;
- **Dr. Asli Telli**, Associate Professor and Research Associate, Wits University, Digital Media and Communications; Germany;
- **Dr. Ben Wagner**, Associate Professor Human Rights & Technology, TPM, TU Delft; The Netherlands;
- **Prof. Blaine A. Price**, Professor of Computing at The Open University; United Kingdom;
- **Dr Birgit Schippers**, Lecturer in Law at University of Strathclyde; Scotland;
- **Prof. Carmela Troncoso**, EPFL; Switzerland;
- **Christelle Tessono**, Tech Policy Researcher; Canada;
- **Clare Garvie**, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; United States;
- **Corentin Debailleul**, Researcher, IGEAT, Université libre de Bruxelles; Belgium;
- **Divij Joshi**, Doctoral Researcher at UCL; India / United Kingdom;
- **Douwe Korff**, Emeritus professor of international law; United Kingdom;
- **Ella Jakubowska**, Senior advisor on digital rights & one of Politico's tech 28 class of 2021; Europe;
- **Georg Markus Kainz**, Privacy activist; Austria;
- **Professor Hamed Haddadi**, Professor at Imperial College London; United Kingdom;
- **Henning Bumann**, Data Scientist; Germany;
- **Inioluwa Deborah Raji**, UC Berkeley; United States;
- **James L. Turk**, Director, Centre for Free Expression, Toronto Metropolitan University; Canada;
- **Javier Ruiz Diaz**, Digital Rights and Policy Consultant; United Kingdom;
- **Dr Jennifer Cobbe**, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge; United Kingdom;
- **Jill Toh**, PhD researcher at the University of Amsterdam; The Netherlands;
- **Jorgo Ananiadis**, President Pirate Party Switzerland; Switzerland;
- **Dr. Joy Buolamwini**, Author of Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What is Human in a World of Machines, Founder of the Algorithmic Justice League, Leader-in-Residence at MIT; United States;
- **Dr. Julia Slupska**, No Tech for Tyrants; United Kingdom;

- **Konstantin Macher**, Campaigner on biometrics; Germany;
- **Dr Leonie Maria Tanczer**, Associate Professor at UCL; United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Laurens Naudts**, AI, Media & Democracy Lab - Institute for Information Law; The Netherlands;
- **Lex Gill**, Lawyer and Fellow, Citizen Lab; Canada;
- **Lotte Houwing**, Policy advisor on government surveillance at Bits of Freedom; the Netherlands;
- **Prof. Martin Albrecht**, Professor of Cryptography, King's College London; United Kingdom;
- **Maroussia Lévesque**, Harvard Law School; United States;
- **Dr. Meg Young**, Researcher at Data & Society Research Institute; United States;
- **Meredith Broussard**, Professor, author of "More Than a Glitch: Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech"; United States;
- **Meredith Whittaker**, President of the Signal Foundation; United States;
- **Mohammad El Taher**, Researcher and Technologist; Egypt;
- **Naomi Appelman**, University of Amsterdam / Racism and Technology Center; the Netherlands;
- **Nayyara Rahman**, Digital Civil Rights Activist; Karachi, Pakistan;
- **Nicholas Bohm**, Lawyer — General Counsel to the Foundation for Information Policy Research; United Kingdom;
- **Olaf Griep**, LOAD e.V.; Germany;
- **Pat Walshe**, Privacy Matters; United Kingdom;
- **Professor Paul Bernal**, Professor of Information Technology Law, UEA Law School; United Kingdom;
- **Professor Peter Sommer**, Visiting Professor at BCU and DMU; United Kingdom;
- **Ray Corrigan**, Senior Lecturer in Computing & Communications at The Open University; United Kingdom;
- **Rebecka Ambjörnsson**, Project leader, human rights; Sweden;
- **Dr Rikke Bjerg Jensen**, Reader (Associate Professor) in Information Security at Royal Holloway, University of London; United Kingdom;
- **Robin Pocornie**, AI Justice Activist; the Netherlands;
- **Sandra Avila**, University of Campinas; Brazil;
- **Sebastian Kostadinov**, Policy Advisor at Deutscher Bundestag; Germany;
- **Dr Siamak Shahandashti**, Associate Professor, Cyber Security and Privacy, University of York; United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Stephanie Hare**, Author of 'Technology Is Not Neutral: A short guide to technology ethics'; United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Steve Walker**, Senior Lecturer, School of Computing and Communications, The Open University; United Kingdom;
- **Prof. Suresh Venkatasubramanian**, Director, Center for Technological Responsibility, Reimagination, and Redesign; Brown University; United States;
- **Vahid Razavi**, Author and Founder of No Ethics in Big Tech; United States;
- **Victoria McEvedy Esq.**, McEvedys Solicitors & Attorneys Ltd; United Kingdom;



- **Dr William Seymour**, King's College London; United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Zuzanna Warso**, Director of Research, Open Future; Poland;
- **Olukayode Akanni**, Knowledge House-KHA;
- **Dejan Barušić**, software engineer;
- **Tawana Petty**, Just Tech Fellow;
- **Marie Meudec**, social scientist;
- **Georgios Bouchagiar**, Ionian University;
- **Marc Rotenberg**, Center for AI and Digital Policy;
- **Yoehan Oh**, Postdoctoral Associate at Yale University;
- **Professor Douwe Korff**, International human rights & data protection expert;
- **Dr. Elizabeth O'Neill**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Eindhoven University of Technology;
- **Jeremiah Lee**, Engineering advisor on digital civil rights.