

Friends,

Looking at what S.T.O.P. accomplished in 2019 is overwhelming. I'm grateful beyond words to the partners, supporters, staff, board members, and volunteers who made our first year an astounding success. When S.T.O.P. began in January 2019, we were just an idea. We had no funding or support, we had no office or paid staff, but then something incredible began to happen: Our community came together.

At first it was our Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board, civic leaders from across New York City who believed in the need to fight government surveillance. Then our pro bono partners began to join. Then came our incredible staff, starting with my amazing co-founder Liz O'Sullivan, and our Organizer Will Luckman. We built a team far bigger than I ever imagined possible, drawing on the talents of superstar interns and fellows from some of New York's top universities and law schools. Together we turned S.T.O.P. from a URL and a logo into a movement for surveillance reform.

As we grew, we also got to work drafting new laws, researching cutting edge technologies, holding legal trainings, representing victims of police misconduct in court, building new software, and changing the public narrative around surveillance. In just a matter of months S.T.O.P. became an internationally recognized force for privacy and civil rights, featured in nearly every major, national news publication and outlet.

But we're far from finished. If 2019 was our launch year, then 2020 is our growth year. That's because the more work we do, the more need we find for legal services, public education, legislation, organizing, and advocacy. But I know that the amazing S.T.O.P. community is up to any challenge. I can't wait to write you this time next year, telling you about our breathtaking accomplishments from 2020.

With gratitude,
Albert Fox Cahn, Esq.
Executive Director



Legislation:

in 2019, S.T.O.P. championed local and state privacy reforms. Our lead bill—The Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) ACT— was endorsed by 32 City Council members and the Public Advocate.

New York City Campaigns

- POST Act
- Gang Database Reforms
- Perp Walk Ban
- Commercial Biometric Surveillance Ban
- Keep Entry to your Home Surveillance-Free (KEYS) Act
- IDNYC “Credit Chip” Ban

New York State Campaigns

- Automated Decision Systems Task Force
 - Ban on Police Drones
 - Banning Unofficial DNA Databases
 - Ban on Biometric School Surveillance
 - New York Privacy Act
 - Residential Facial Recognition Ban
 - Law Enforcement Facial Recognition Ban
 - Bodycam Facial Recognition Ban
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Litigation:

NYPD “Hijab Ban”

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing a federal civil rights lawsuit to end the NYPD policy of forcing arrestees to remove religious head coverings, including turbans, wigs, hats, and the hijab.

NYPD Cell Phone Searches

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing open records litigation to compel the NYPD to produce documents about how the Department uses forensic tools to access encrypted phones and tablets.

MTA Facial Recognition

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing open records litigation to compel the MTA to produce documents regarding the apparent installation of facial recognition in the Times Square Subway Station.

Research:

Our reports have examined everything from U.S. Customs and Border Protection's warrantless cellphone searches on US soil, to the privacy implication's of the MTA's new OMNY radio-frequency payment solution, to the GPS-based tracking of New York City food vendors.

Public Education & Advocacy

Last year, team S.T.O.P. held dozens of know your rights trainings, panel discussions, and other educational events. We've built national coalitions to change the public discourse on the most pressing privacy issues in the country.

Communications:

Last year, S.T.O.P. was featured in hundreds of articles and op-eds, ranging from community papers to the front page of the Sunday New York Times.

Our digital reach includes:

- 3,076 Twitter followers
 - 1,219 email subscribers
 - 345 Instagram followers
 - 229 Facebook followers
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