

# STOP

**SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY  
OVERSIGHT PROJECT**

**Media Toolkit**

# About S.T.O.P

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**Mission:** The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.) litigates and advocates for privacy, working to **abolish local governments' systems of mass surveillance**. Our work highlights the discriminatory impact of surveillance on Muslim Americans, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous peoples, and communities of color, particularly the unique trauma of anti-Black policing.

**Vision:** **S.T.O.P. fights to ensure that technological advancements don't come at the expense of age-old rights.** We hope to transform New York City and State into models for the rest of the United States of how to harness novel technologies without adversely impacting marginalized communities. S.T.O.P. also believes that **directly-impacted communities are best equipped to lead this fight**, and that their voices should be at the forefront for this and any movement. We believe in pushing for radical changes where possible and incremental gains where necessary. We support interim measures, including increased government transparency and accountability, when pursued with the aim of abolishing systems of mass surveillance.

**About:** S.T.O.P. is a 501(C)(3), non-profit advocacy organization and legal services provider.

# Our Team



**Albert Fox Cahn** is the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project's (S.T.O.P.'s) founder and executive director. He is also a Practitioner-in-Residence at N.Y.U Law School's Information Law Institute and a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center For Human Rights Policy, Yale Law School's Information Society Project, Ashoka, and TED. As a lawyer, technologist, and activist, Albert has become a leading voice on how to govern and build the technologies of the future.

**David Siffert** is the Legal Director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.). Siffert is also the Director of Research & Projects at the Center on Civil Justice at NYU School of Law and an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Law at NYU. Prior to joining S.T.O.P., Siffert was a civil litigator at Boies, Schiller & Flexner and a tax attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Siffert also serves as Vice President and Board Member of the non-profit Friends of Marcy Houses and as a member of the New York County Democratic Committee.



**Eleni Manis** is Research Director at S.T.O.P., where she designs and coordinates the work of the S.T.O.P. research team. Ms. Manis joins S.T.O.P. after working on government agencies' technology policies at the NYC Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the NYC Mayor's Office of Operations, where she analyzed legislation on emerging technologies, authored the City's reply to FCC broadband decisions, and did research for the nation's first automated decision systems task force.

# Our Team

**William Owen** is S.T.O.P.'s Communications Director. He previously served as the Agency Marketing Manager of The Kinetix Group, a New York-based healthcare marketing agency and consultancy. He has also contributed to various local news publications in Brooklyn and Washington, D.C., including Greenpointers and The Washington Blade, the oldest LGBTQ newspaper in the U.S. In July 2020, Will graduated with distinction from Columbia University and the London School of Economics with a dual MA/MSc in International and World History.



**Leticia Murillo** is a graduate from Fordham University with a B.A. in International Studies and a minor in Economics. During her time in college, she pursued her passion of working with NGOs and non-profits with goals of improving and empowering local and international communities in need. She has served as a representative at the United Nations for Nonviolence International and World Information Transfer, and as a grant writer for University Blood Initiative.

**Corinne Worthington** is the Research and Advocacy Manager at the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.). Corinne recently graduated from Columbia University with a master's degree in Human Rights Studies with a focus on the policy, practices, and deployment of surveillance technology as mechanisms for discriminatory social control. Her master's thesis investigated how the NYPD's surveillance system targets Black communities under the guise of terrorism prevention.



# Our Work



S.T.O.P. fights to end discriminatory surveillance. Our team challenges both individual misconduct and broader systemic failures. We craft policies that balance new technologies and age-old rights. And we educate impacted communities on how they can protect their rights.

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**We wish to protect every New Yorker from predatory surveillance technology and ensure their civil liberty through legislation, litigation, advocacy, and education.**

# Legislation:

*S.T.O.P. fights for laws that that promote privacy, equity, and oversight*



## Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act

**Status: Passed (6/18/2020), Signed (7/7/2020)**

S.T.O.P.'s flagship bill is the POST Act. For years, the NYPD has built-up an arsenal of cutting-edge, military-grade spy tools without any public notice, debate, or oversight. The POST Act brings much-needed civilian review to NYPD policies, letting elected lawmakers know the types of surveillance conducted on New Yorkers and how that information is kept safe from federal agencies, including ICE.

## Geolocation Tracking Ban

**Status: Introduced, referred to committee**

S.T.O.P. is a lead advocate for the enactment of a geolocation surveillance ban, which would prevent large-scale location tracking, with or without a warrant. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that searches of geolocation data can be just as invasive as searching a person's home, and that law enforcement must have a warrant to do so. But law enforcement agencies in New York have found a loophole, convincing courts to grant "reverse location" search warrants. Unlike normal search warrants, which authorize the search of a person suspected of a crime, reverse location search warrants order technology companies to turn over the data of all users in a certain geographic area at a certain time.

## Litigation

S.T.O.P. pairs our staff with New York's largest law firms to take on both impact litigation and direct legal services cases, all at no cost to the client. Our 2023 litigation includes:



### **NYPD FOIL Noncompliance Lawsuit**

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel are pursuing litigation against the NYPD for systematically hiding public records from the public. The lawsuit claims the NYPD engages in a pattern and practice of unlawfully refusing to respond to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, citing NYPD delays in 42,000 requests over the past four years. Unlike routine FOIL lawsuits about individual document requests, this lawsuit challenges the NYPD's noncompliance with FOIL more broadly, seeking protections to ensure that the NYPD properly responds to all future FOIL requests.

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### **Amazon and Starbucks Biometric Surveillance Class Action Lawsuit**

S.T.O.P. and our co-counsel filed a class action lawsuit claiming that Amazon and Starbucks illegally failed to notify customers that their stores in New York City collect biometric data. Amazon Go and select Starbucks stores use Amazon's "Just Walk Out" surveillance technology that tracks each customer's movements and purchases in a store.



The class action also claims that Starbucks illegally shared those customers' biometric data with Amazon. S.T.O.P. previously filed two separate lawsuits against Amazon and Starbucks in the Southern District of New York, but those cases were voluntarily dismissed and repackaged as one suit in the Western District of Washington.

# Research

Our team has conducted extensive research supporting our litigation efforts on behalf of New Yorkers and their rights to privacy, covering new surveillance technologies, policies, and practices in New York City and State

## ANTI-ABORTION AD TECH

AD TECH PUTS ABORTION SEEKERS AT RISK

CORINNE WORTHINGTON  
ERIN MCFADDEN  
AARON GREENBERG  
ELENI MANIS

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

*Anti-Abortion Ad Tech* details how ad tech companies make money off the surveillance of abortion seekers on abortion scheduling and abortion advocacy websites.

## ORWELL'S CLASSROOM

PSYCHOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE IN K-12 SCHOOLS

SARAH ROTH  
EVAN ENZER  
OLAA MOHAMED  
KEVIN YE  
ELENI MANIS

DECEMBER 14, 2023

*Orwell's Classroom* examines how schools implementation of spyware as mental health prediction tools do more to hurt students mental health than help it.

*The Kids Won't be Alright* lays out how age verification laws meant to protect children will be ineffective, put marginalized communities at risk, and erase privacy on the internet.

## THE KIDS WON'T BE ALRIGHT

THE LOOMING THREAT OF CHILD SURVEILLANCE LAWS

ALBERT FOX CAHN  
ANNIE DEVOE  
CIRA PALADINI  
EVAN ENZER  
LULA KONNER  
SAMVIT GANESH

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

*Guilt by Association* highlights how police use "gang" databases to profile Black and Latinx youth. Inclusion in these databases, backed by little to no evidence, can ruin lives.

## GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

HOW POLICE DATABASES PUNISH BLACK AND LATINX YOUTH

ANDY RATTO  
NIRA LOSHKAJAN  
ELENI MANIS, PHD, MPA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

## ROADBLOCK TO CARE

BARRIERS TO OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR ABORTION AND GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

JULIE LEE  
NATHAN DARMON  
SARAH LOSHKAJAN  
ANUSHKA SIKDAR  
SOHINI UPADHYAY  
ELENI MANIS

JULY 18, 2023

*Roadblock to Care* analyzes all the methods of travel a patient seeking an out of state abortion or gender affirming care might take on their journey and assesses the surveillance risk of each.

## GAME OVER

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF VIDEO GAME MODERATION

ALBERT FOX CAHN  
EVAN ENZER

MAY 31, 2023

*Game Over* looks at video game censorship through an updated lens. As video games become more integrated with our daily lives, *Game Over* warns how video game censorship will result in fewer legal protections for users.

*Banned for Being* explores the systematic discrimination that results from content moderation in video games, highlighting how historically marginalized gamers are penalized for asserting their identities or responding to hate.

## BANNED FOR BEING

MODERATING ONLINE GAMES' PUBLIC SPHERE

ELENI MANIS  
EVAN ENZER  
DEREK SMITH  
LETICIA MURILLO  
ANNA SIPEK  
SARAH ROTH  
BRITTAN HELLER

MAY 19, 2023

*Obstructed Justice* investigates how NYC uses traffic cameras to pull over drivers for license plate obstruction, particularly in precincts with the most BIPOC residents. The report asserts how automated traffic enforcement shouldn't lead to more in person stops.

## OBSTRUCTED JUSTICE

NYC'S BIASED LICENSE PLATE ENFORCEMENT

ELENI MANIS, PHD, MPA  
ALEXANDER HUGHES, PHD

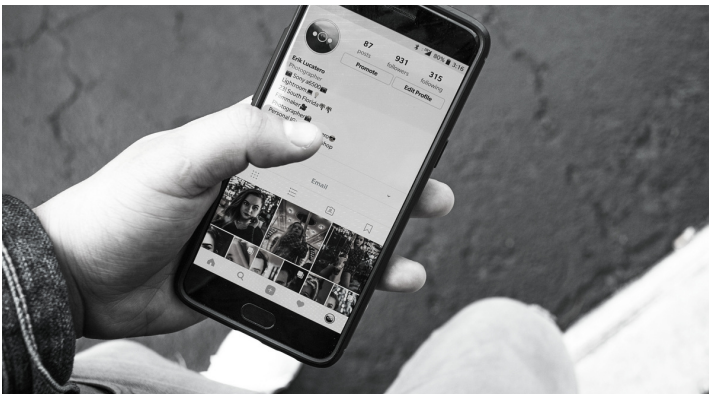
FEBRUARY 16, 2023



## Public Education:

S.T.O.P has held dozens of know your right campaigns, panel discussions, and other education events. We've built national coalitions to change the public discourse on the most pressing privacy issues in the country.

## Past Trainings



### Protest Surveillance

We provide tips on how protesters can protect their privacy during mass demonstrations.

### Digital Self Defense

Understand what data is collected about you; how to clean up social media search sites; how to improve web browser privacy and cellphone device privacy; how to prevent data leakage. Learn about passwords and account security, doxing, and privacy tools.



# Press Highlights

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# AP

**2/17/2024 AP - Some states are trying to protect health care data so it isn't used against people seeking abortions**

# The Boston Globe

**8/2/2023 The Boston Globe - Will AI be monitoring kids in their classrooms?**

# SLATE

**6/5/2023 Slate - The Police Surveillance Tool Too Dangerous to Ignore**

# The Washington Post

**12/20/2023 The Washington Post - Clear wants to scan your face at airports. Privacy experts are worried.**

washington  
**blade**

**7/21/2023 Washington Blade - There's no Pride in censoring queer gamers**

# The New York Times

**11/19/2023 The New York Times - The N.Y.P.D. Is Upgrading Its Radios. The Public Won't Be Able to Tune In.**

# gothamist

**11/13/2023 Gothamist - The NYPD is using drones 3 times more than it did last year**

# WIRED

**9/22/2022 Wired - The 'Surveillance Solutionism' of Putting Cameras in NYC Subways**

In just a matter of **months**, S.T.O.P. went from a **single staff member** working out of his apartment to **a globally recognized leader** in the campaign to promote privacy and equity in technology.

S.T.O.P. now boasts nearly **100** staff, interns, technical volunteers, and pro bono attorneys actively working on dozens of projects.

S.T.O.P. has held **dozens** of know your rights trainings, panel discussions, and other educational events, reaching more than **1,400 participants!**

We had more than **100 groups** come together to advocate for the **POST Act**, the **first meaningful victory for communities over the NYPD in a generation.**

S.T.O.P. augments our impact with **hundreds of thousands of dollars in donated services each year**, including pro bono legal support from many of New York's largest law firms. This helps us ensure that every dollar donated to our work is multiplied several times over.

Our op-eds and research are consistently published and quoted in **major news outlets**, from the New York Times to Last Week Tonight to the Washington Post.





## Community Advisory Board

**Our work would be impossible without the guidance of our Community Advisory Board.**

**Ángel Diaz, ESQ** - Counsel to the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice

**Dr. Chris Gilliard** - Writer, professor, and speaker

**Derrick "Dwreck" Ingram** - Warriors in the Garden Co-Founder

**Diane Akerman** - Public Defender in Legal Aid Society's Digital Forensics Unit

**Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez** - Social Forensic Science Counsel at Brooklyn Defender Services

**Fabian Rogers** - Constituent Advocate for NYS Senator Jabari Brisport

**Gabriella Garcia** - Decoding Stigma Founder

**Harsha Panduranga** - Former Counsel in the Brennan Center's Liberty & National Security Program

**Katurah Topps, Esq.** - Policy Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and a core member of LDF's Justice in Public Safety Project

**Murad Awawdeh** - New York Immigration Coalition Executive Director

**Rama Issa-Ibrahim** - Deputy Public Advocate for Justice, Health Equity & Safety for Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

**Sarah Chu, PhD** - Director of Policy and Reform at the Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice Cardozo School of Law

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**Contact for inquiries: [Media@stopspying.org](mailto:Media@stopspying.org)**

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