

How the US government spies on people who protest — including you

Thousands of people have joined **marches** all across the US. We are all activists now, and that means that we all have something to worry about from surveillance. Surveillance means government collection and use of private and sensitive data about us, but the history of surveillance is one that includes surveillance abuses where this sensitive information has been used against people because of their race, their national origin, their sexual orientation, and in particular, because of their activism, their political **beliefs**.

Every one of us has something that we want to hide from somebody. The primary tool we used to reform surveillance law was to require a search **warrant** for the government to be able to get access to our phone calls and our letters, the information that's collected is going to be used for legitimate government purposes and not for discriminatory ones.

Today, we have technology that makes it cheap and easy for the government to collect information on ordinary everyday people that is not protected by a **warrant** requirement. First of all, use encryption. Second, support surveillance reform. And finally, the technology, the enabling rules and the policies that are either there or not there to protect us. We are all activists now, which means that we all have something to worry about from surveillance.

It is important to protect our privacy rights, so we must fight to protect our information using technology and better laws, because for security measures, some people are willing to do crazy things.