Joint statement on police and private company use of facial recognition surveillance

In the UK

(Big Brother Watch, September 2019)

*The signatories to this call are rights organisations, race equality organisations, technology experts, parliamentarians and academics.

*We hold differing views about live 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 parliamentary consideration, and the lack of a democratic mandate.

*However, all of these views lead us to the same following conclusion:

*We call on UK police and private companies to immediately stop using live facial recognition for public surveillance.*

SIGNATORIES

David Davis MP
Diane Abbott MP (Shadow Home Secretary)
Darren Jones MP
Kate Green MP
Jo Swinson MP (Leader of the Liberal Democrats)
Christine Jardine MP (Shadow Home Secretary)
Norman Lamb MP (Chair of Science and Technology Committee)
Ed Davey MP (Shadow Chancellor and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)
Jane Dodds MP (Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wera Hobhouse MP
Layla Moran MP
Tim Farron MP
Sarah Wollaston MP
Lord Strasburger
Lord Clement-Jones

Caroline Lucas MP
Baroness Jenny Jones
Sian Berry AM (Co-leader of the Green Party of England & Wales)

25 rights, race equality and technology organisations

Big Brother Watch
Ada Lovelace Institute
Amnesty International
Article 19
defenddigitalme
doteveryone
Football Supporters Association
Foxglove
Future Advocacy
Index on Censorship
INQUEST
Institute of Race Relations
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
Liberty
Netpol
Open Rights Group
Police Action Lawyers’ Group
Privacy International
Race Equality Foundation
Race on The Agenda
Runnymede Trust
Statewatch
StopWatch
The Monitoring Group
Tottenham Rights
Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

Technology academics and experts
Dr Stephanie Hare, Researcher
Dr Lina Dencik, Cardiff University and Co-Director of the Data Justice Lab
Dr Arne Hintz, Cardiff University and Co-Director of the Data Justice Lab
Kate Crawford, co-founder and co-director AI Now
Meredith Whittaker, co-founder and co-director AI Now
Dr Joe Purshouse, Lecturer in Criminal Law, University of East Anglia
Dr Nóra Ni Loideáin, Director of Information Law and Policy Centre and Lecturer in Law
Dr Richard Mortier, Reader in Computing & Human-Data Interaction, Department of Computer Science & Technology, Cambridge University, and Fellow of Christ’s College, Cambridge
Dr Helen Carr, University of Oxford School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography; Elected Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute
Dr Angela Daly, Senior Lecturer in Strathclyde Law School
Eric Kind, Visiting Lecturer, Queen Mary University London
Guido Sanguinetti, Professor of Computational Bioinformatics, University of Edinburgh
Mike Stannett, Senior Lecturer, Computer Science, University of Sheffield
James Marshall, Professor of Theoretical and Computational Biology, University of Sheffield

Barristers
Leslie Thomas QC (Garden Court Chambers)
Marc Willers QC (Garden Court Chambers)
Maya Sikand (Garden Court Chambers)
Michael Etienne (No5 Chambers)