

Declaration of First Amendment Rights and Grievances

When, in the course of human events, the United States government violates with impunity the people's rights under the First Amendment of the Constitution, it is the duty of the people to reclaim them. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all individuals are created equal; that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights; that among these are freedom of speech, religion, press, and association; that to secure these rights, the government was restrained by the Constitution, deriving its limited powers from the consent of the governed; that vibrant free speech and access to government information are essential to preventing the government from destroying the people's liberties. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that the people must be vigilant against government transgressions of fundamental freedoms; and all experience has shown that the people's civil liberties are more disposed to suffer in the absence of First Amendment freedoms. But when a long train of government abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce their liberties, it is their right, it is their duty, to reclaim those liberties, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these people; and such is now the necessity, which constrains them to demand the rights to which they are entitled.

The history of the present government is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations of the First Amendment, increasingly denying the people access to information vital to their self-governance, and all having in direct object the diminishment of their civil liberties. The threat to a marketplace of ideas has never been greater. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world that the United States government:

Ignores its representative mandate by governing in the shadows.

Maintains a surveillance society through warrantless wiretapping, opening mail, and spying.

Secretly uses private parties to spy and seeks immunity to cover their illegalities.

Silences dissent.

Prevents citizens from petitioning their elected officials.

Profiles individuals and denies freedom of movement based on association.

Falsifies information to deny liberty.

Overclassifies, reclassifies, and impedes the lawful declassification of documents.

Prevents soldiers from communicating with their families and prosecutes their lawful speech.

Silences whistle blowers.

Censors the press, broadcast media, and Internet based on content.

Prosecutes the press for revealing illegal programs.

Obstructs oversight by elected officials.

To preserve secrecy, places secret holds on bipartisan open government legislation.

Funds religious programs.

Furtherers its ideological agenda by censoring the scientific community.

Security is compatible with liberty, and does not require limiting core First Amendment rights, including free speech, association, press, and religion.

In view of these transgressions, and because the people find themselves deprived of their most fundamental rights, we insist upon the immediate restoration of our First Amendment freedoms.



**To learn more about reclaiming your rights go to
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