

January 15, 2019

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
ACLU Foundations of California  
ACLU of Massachusetts  
ACLU of Washington  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
18MillionRising.org  
A New PATH  
Access Now  
ALIGN (The Alliance for a Greater New York)  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Muslim Empowerment Network-Muslim  
Association of Puget Sound  
American Muslims of Puget Sound  
Arab American Institute  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice- Asian Law Caucus  
CAIR San Francisco Bay Area  
Californians United for a Responsible Budget  
Campaign for Accountability  
Casa Latina  
Center for Media Justice  
Center on Policy Initiatives  
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice  
Color Of Change  
Council on American Islamic Relations, Massachusetts  
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California  
CREDO Action  
Data for Black Lives  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Demand Progress  
Densho  
El Centro de la Raza  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
End Solitary Santa Cruz County  
Entre Hermanos  
Fair Chance Project  
Families for Justice as Healing  
Families Belong Together  
Fight for the Future  
Free Press  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Government Accountability Project  
Government Information Watch  
Grassroots Collaborative  
Harrington Investments, Inc.  
Harvard Law School National Lawyers Guild  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
International Committee for Robot Arms Control  
John T. Williams Organizing Committee  
Justice for Muslims Collective  
LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Sundar Pichai  
Chief Executive Officer

Kent Walker  
Senior Vice President, Global Affairs  
Google LLC

Dear Mr. Pichai and Mr. Walker,

We are a coalition of organizations dedicated to protecting civil rights and liberties and safeguarding communities. We are encouraged by the initial steps Google has taken to recognize the harms of invasive surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence. As Mr. Pichai [has said](#), the tech industry has a responsibility to think about the consequences of its technology, it “just can’t build it and then fix it.” We were also encouraged to see Google announce that it has not, and will not, sell a facial recognition product until the technology’s dangers are addressed, acknowledging its susceptibility to abuse and the importance of Google’s artificial intelligence (AI) principles.

We write today to call on Google to follow its AI principles and fully commit to not releasing a facial recognition product that could be used by governments.

Google has positioned itself as a leader in the field of responsible and ethical artificial intelligence. This year, in response to sustained employee activism over its work for the Pentagon, [Google published](#) its AI principles, pledging that the company will only seek to develop AI that is socially beneficial, free from unfair bias, and tested for safety. The Principles specifically state that Google will not release technologies that gather or use information for surveillance that violates international norms. Consistent with these Principles, [Google announced](#) in December 2018 that it has not, and will not sell a facial recognition product until the technology’s dangers are addressed.

The dangers of face surveillance can only be fully addressed by stopping its use by governments. Face surveillance provides the government with an unprecedented ability to track who we are, where we go, what we do, and who we know. Face surveillance gives the government new power to target and single out immigrants, religious minorities, and people of color in our communities. Systems built on face surveillance will amplify and exacerbate historical and existing bias that harms these and other over-policed and over-surveilled communities. In a world with face surveillance, people will have to fear being watched and targeted by the government for attending a protest, congregating outside a place of worship, or simply living their lives.

This past year, [Google employees](#) have made it clear that they expect the company to stand up for the vulnerable and refuse to “outsource the moral responsibility of our technologies to third parties.” In recent months, there has been [widespread public concern](#) about face

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Make the Road New York  
Media Alliance  
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee of  
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court  
Mijente  
Muslim Justice League  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the NLG  
National Lawyers Guild - New York City Chapter  
National Lawyers Guild - Massachusetts Chapter  
New Economy Project  
New York Communities for Change  
Oakland Privacy  
OCCORD (Orange County Communities Organized for  
Responsible Development)  
OneAmerica  
Our Revolution Arlington  
Partnership for Working Families  
Policing and Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College  
RAICES  
Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project  
Restore The Fourth  
Silicon Valley Rising  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood  
Starting Over, Inc.  
SumOfUs  
Tenth Amendment Center  
The Greenlining Institute  
The Legal Aid Society (NYC)  
The Project on Government Oversight  
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action  
War Resisters League  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
X-Lab

surveillance, with dozens of members of Congress, shareholders, and over 150,000 members of the public blowing the whistle on the dangers of face surveillance both to the public and to public trust in companies.

By finalizing its commitment not to sell a face surveillance product, Google would also be safeguarding the trust of its workers, shareholders, and customers. Google has a responsibility to follow its AI principles. Selling a face surveillance product that could be used by the government will never be consistent with these Principles. It's time for Google to fully commit to not releasing a face recognition product that could be used by governments.

We look forward to your written response to this letter.

Signed,

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