

EFF Around the World



The internet is global, and so is EFF. Whether it's fighting bad laws and treaties or supporting the work of a global alliance of internet activists, EFF is protecting your rights worldwide.

Free Expression

EFF works to highlight censorship wherever and however it happens—by governments or large companies. With a global coalition, we launched the Santa Clara Principles 2.0 (santaclaraprinciples.org) to push companies to be more transparent and accountable. And we press tech platforms to make policy changes to protect free expression.

Privacy and Data Protection

EFF works with partners across the world to fend off proposals that compel platforms to disclose users' data to governments directly, or with weak or meaningless due process and human rights standards. We also fight proposals including those that seek to undermine end-to-end encryption or compel platforms to trace originators of online messages.

Setting Global Norms and Standards

EFF proactively shapes human rights standards through treaty and soft-law negotiations—advancing rights and blocking repressive norms before they harden into international law. We intervene in processes like the UN Cybercrime Convention, the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention, and digital applications of the Rome Statute to ensure alignment with human rights standards. Through policy analysis and coalition-driven policy drafting, we translate existing human rights into digital safeguards. We co-organize civil society interventions and strategic meetings with states to advance rights respecting benchmarks. We seek to equip courts, lawmakers, and advocates with tools for use in national advocacy.



Watchdog on Global and Regional Policymaking

EFF monitors how cybercrime and surveillance treaties are implemented across regions. In partnership with local groups, we support civil society engagement and help brief authorities and new actors on the impact of treaties on human rights. We identify trends, share cross-border lessons, and strengthen rights-based advocacy. EFF also follows platform regulatory trends across the globe and pushes back against dangerous bills that undermine free expression and privacy. We also support digital rights groups standing against harmful regional proposals.

Our Impact in Europe

EFF represents the interests of internet users in the European Union, fighting to make sure that legislation fosters civil liberties and works for everyone—not just the powerful. To enforce existing key laws such as the Digital Services Act or the Digital Markets Act, we advocate for a user-centered approach and fair digital markets that foster choice and innovation. In concrete terms, this means treating open and interoperable services as critical infrastructure, and rejecting pay-for-privacy schemes and manipulative design practices—all while ensuring users retain agency over their devices and products. We collaborate with many digital rights organizations across Europe and are proud members of EDRI, the European Digital Rights network.

Joining Forces in Latin America

EFF works with allies in Latin America to counter dangerous surveillance proposals and practices that erode privacy, freedom of expression, and other fundamental freedoms. We leverage regional human rights standards to uphold transparency, social participation, and crucial protections in government use of AI and automated decision-making affecting people's lives. Working with activists, journalists, lawyers, judges and public defenders, we highlight how uses of technology can enhance or undermine digital rights. We foster policies that strengthen data protection, competition, and the voice of vulnerable communities online, opposing those that serve to entrench unaccountable powers.

Collaboration in the Middle East and Across Africa

EFF works closely in coalition with partners and allies in the Middle East and Africa to promote free expression, defend the rights of technologists, and provide support to regional allies. We are a leading member of the campaign to free Alaa Abd El Fattah, a 2023 EFF Award winner. We are members of IFEX and the Middle East Alliance for Digital Rights. We also work with partners across sub-Saharan Africa to protect speech and privacy rights in the region, especially combating the numerous anti-LGBTQ+ bills.

Tackling International Issues in U.S. Courts and Beyond

EFF intervenes in court cases, including providing expert guidance at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IA Court), and previously filed a lawsuit in the U.S. against a spyware maker, defending a prominent Saudi Human Rights activist against illegal tracking of her communications and whereabouts.

How Can You Help?

Digital rights start at home: you can send us news of injustices and attacks on the internet and the rights of its users, and support (or start!) local digital rights groups in your own country. Find out more about the issues that affect users on our Deeplinks blog and take action locally with our international actions at the EFF Action Center at act.eff.org. Join EFF at eff.org/join.