

# The People's Declaration

We, the people of Europe, demand technology that serves us, instead of putting us, our communities and our democracies at risk.

We call for an end to Big Tech's destructive business model which has turned our own data into weapons against us.

We demand a better internet, where citizens are able to access vital infrastructure and information, and thrive off connection and participation, without being reduced to products in an insidious surveillance economy.

We call for a world in which no small group of billionaires can tweak an algorithm and change the fate of billions without constraints or fear of consequence.

We urge all those involved in scrutinising and passing legislation in Europe to stand on the side of the people you represent and take all necessary measures to rein in Big Tech's abuses whilst defending people's fundamental rights, critically - the right to free speech for all.

We remind you that your job is to protect us, the people, and not the profits of massive tech companies operating with impunity within our borders.

The first important step is a strong Digital Services Act that stands as a first line of defence against the harms of Big Tech. It must:

1. **Turn off the manipulation machine** - Big Tech's toxic recommender systems and algorithms are amplifying hate speech and disinformation - weaponizing every societal fault line with relentless surveillance to maximise "engagement". These systemic risks are created not just by external actors but are a feature of an unconscionable, unethical business model. It is time for these platforms to de-risk their design, detox their algorithms, give users real control over them and be held to account for failing to do so.
2. **Stop surveillance for profit** - We've been conned into giving "consent" for surveillance. We were never given a meaningful choice. The DSA and DMA must put an end to surveillance advertising that people never asked for. The use of digital services cannot be conditional on acceptance of surveillance and profiling. In addition, we demand transparency on all aspects of online ads and enforcement of our data rights to make them a reality.
3. **Put people back in charge** - Big Tech cannot continue to call the shots as judge and jury. The DSA must create stronger powers for regulators to hold Big Tech to account, including through robust audit powers that cannot simply be gamed by the companies. Europe must not allow a repeat of the failures of enforcement as seen with the GDPR.

Our organisations represent over 25,823,881 citizens across the EU. Today, we send a united message: we the people will no longer tolerate this relentless corporate assault on our lives and our liberty.

We expect and demand that our elected representatives will stand with us.

## Signatories

1. Amnesty International
2. Avaaz
3. Center for Countering Digital Hate
4. Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
5. Civil Liberties Union for Europe
6. Corporate Europe Observatory
7. D64
8. European Network Against Racism
9. Fair Vote UK
10. Foxglove
11. Glitch
12. Global Action Plan
13. Global Witness
14. Hate Aid
15. Irish Council for Civil Liberties
16. Lobby Control
17. Netwerk Democratie
18. Never Again Association / NIGDY WIĘCEJ
19. Ranking Digital Rights
20. Reporters Sans Frontières
21. Stop Climate Chaos (Ireland)
22. Stop Funding Hate
23. Sum of Us
24. The Market Information Research Foundation (SOMI)
25. The London Story (Netherlands)
26. The Peter Tatchell Foundation
27. The Real Facebook Oversight Board
28. The Signals Network
29. Transparent Referendum Initiative
30. Uplift
31. WeMove Europe
32. Women in AI (Austria)
33. World Uyghur Congress (Germany)
34. 5 Rights Foundation