

Technologists for Social Justice

As more and more technologists (or however you identify) recognize the importance of our skills for supporting and adding to political movement work – that is for racial, gender, economic, and social justice – even those of us who come from marginalized backgrounds need to find ways to meaningfully contribute to political and organizing work for justice.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

This is a collaborative document. Add/edit where you can. Let's do this!

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Questions to Ask

“tech ppl who want to help now--don't start new things. find the orgs that have already been doing the work and lend your skills & money” -- [Kelsey Gilmore-Innis](#)

Where does my funding come from?

- Is my research forwarding military interests?
- Is it increasing the surveillance infrastructure that targets people of MENASA (Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian) origin or their countries, or polices and is used to limit the lives and incarcerate people of color generally within and outside of the US?
- Does [Peter Thiel](#) fund me? :(

Does our work listen to the most impacted communities? To organizers?

- For example, if we choose to work on a tool meant to address issues of poor people of color, are we centering poor people of color's leadership and more importantly, paying them for that expertise and work?

- Do we value and name the work of community organizers (paid and unpaid) in helping us access and build relationships and power with impacted folks?

What does accountability look like? What if we turn out to be causing social harm?

Who do I work with? Who is considered an expert here?

Similar to above, but if you are a white person and everyone who is working on the technical side is white and there are no black or brown folks to be found except as the “users,” then there might be a problem. In this moment, please respectfully ask what marginalized technologists are working on to help folks in this moment and offer your services, connections, and money. Stay humble, and if you cannot do that, please take some time to think about why. Talk to people who love you and will hold you gently accountable.

Am I being too hard on myself?

- There is never going to be a perfect social justice technologist. Yes, you will mess up. And continue to mess up. But commitment to justice doesn't mean you don't give yourself breaks or accept that you're a human being.
- Discomfort with being called out and refusing to take meaningful (defined by the people harmed) accountability are not the same as accepting others' shaming or your own shaming of yourself, which is self-destructive. There's a place for everyone, and you can go slowly. The movement always needs more people. And we need you whole <3

What can I do outside of technology? Am I using a tech-based solution where another would be just as good, if not better?

What apps or technology can we direct people to for successful "rapid response networks" that allow groups to mobilize in hours (say, in response to hate crimes or immigration raids) safely?

- [Other questions to reflect on:]

What can I do outside of technology?

[section needs work]

- For anyone who's been to college: Sign petitions and put pressure on campus officials to make yours a sanctuary campus, where undocumented students and staff do not have to fear being deported.

Time Sensitive Campaigns (11/16/16 - 01/20/17)

- Redistribute your \$\$\$
 - ACLU and Planned Parenthood are a start. Support individual fundraisers for healthcare, housing, and basic needs, because not every marginalized person has

the luxury of having a Planned Parenthood, a lawyer in general, or a nonprofit to rep them!

- Resisting the Cabinet appointments
 - appointment of Stephen Bannon to Chief Strategist (top aide)
 - Analysis: [KING: What it really means now that Donald Trump appointed vulgar, sexist, abusive, xenophobic Stephen Bannon as Chief Strategist](#) by Shaun King (NY Daily Post, 11/15/16)
 - Petition: [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)
 - Call your rep: ["We're His Problem Now" Calling Sheet](#)
 - Resisting the appointment of Giuliani
- Resisting the registration of Muslims / immigrants from designated countries
 - Beyond registering yourself as a non-Muslim, organized Muslim communities are [asking for](#) resistance of the program, period.
- Supporting trans people in accessing documentation and healthcare
- Supporting people in accessing reproductive healthcare
- Urging local and state politicians to designate their city and/or state to be a sanctuary city/state
- Preventing the repeal of Obamacare and pushing for wider healthcare/insurance coverage

[section needs work]

Academia

For students:

- Organize a students of color (or other affinity group) initiative to support and build collective power! E.g., [ColorCode at Columbia University](#)
- If you have relative power to others (e.g., you are white, you are a cisgender man, you are an employer or paid for your work, etc.), see what you can do to support students who don't have the specific access you do.

For researchers:

- See in [Questions to Ask](#): Where does my funding come from?
- What am I doing to support my students who are people of color, immigrants, poor, disabled, and/or LGBTQ? First step is to at least acknowledge (but don't assume) that they *may* be going through a lot of distress right now. Broadly, mind your language and reflect on whether you treat them with the same respect as you do your other students. Change your behavior if you don't think you have!
- Support the hiring of undocumented staff and faculty and seek to protect any and all undocumented immigrant students on campus, who more than likely are facing more financial hardship because of scholarship and work eligibility.
- [Other questions to reflect on??]

Digital Security

For everyone, it's important for you to be on top of your digital security hygiene, even if you may not be directly targeted. Someone's network is only as strong as their weakest node. See [Articles](#) for beginning digital security guides.

For digital security workers, new and old, thank you for your dedication and contributions! Recognize, if you are not directly impacted, the tremendous and *specific* impact that US surveillance has had on...

- Black communities (see: COINTELPRO, and more [recent events](#))
- poor folks (see: the hoops of data collection needed to deem someone worthy of services)
- incarcerated folks
- Muslim folks (see: Muslim registries, police surveillance, informants and infiltration)
- people who have been [abused](#) (often, people most vulnerable and groomed for family or relationship violence are trans and gender non-conforming folks and cisgender women)
- people in criminalized industries e.g., trading sexual services,
- and non-US citizens, especially undocumented immigrants (see: how organizing around citizen rights post-Snowden has not meaningfully limited US surveillance on non-citizens outside and within our borders).

As you embark on sharing all this sparkly digital security info with impacted folks, make space for (other) marginalized trainers -- help them combine their lived experience with their growing technical knowledge by inviting them to collaborate on things you're leading.

When you conduct your trainings, especially if it's with any of the above listed groups, please be aware that many people have been experiencing high amounts of well-founded anxiety and paranoia of surveillance and policing, that's only been *exacerbated* by this current moment. Don't info-dump on them and be realistic about what people are able to implement! Maintain the relationship as a consistent source of digital security as well as emotional and political support in these bleak times.

Articles

Digital security

- [A 70-Day Web Security Action Plan for Artists and Activists Under Siege](#)
- [A DIY Guide to Feminist Cybersecurity](#)
- [Guía de Seguridad Digital para Feministas Autogestivas](#)
- Electronic Frontier Foundation privacy guides and tutorials <https://ssd EFF.org/en>
- [How to Encrypt Your Entire Life in Less Than an Hour](#)

More reading:

- Model View Culture: <https://modelviewculture.com/>

Orgs/Spaces

- New York City:
 - Crypto Harlem (<https://www.facebook.com/cryptoharlem/>)
 - Blue Ridge Labs Fellowship (<https://labs.robinhood.org/>):
 - Data & Society Fellowship (<http://datasociety.net/initiatives/fellows-program/>)
- Boston, MA:
 - EMW Bookstore, Street Bio (<http://www.emwbookstore.com/street-bio/>)
(synthetic biology community)
- San Francisco
 - Electronic Frontier Foundation (<https://www.eff.org/>)
- Global:
 - Access Now (<https://accessnow.org>)
 - CryptoParty (<https://www.cryptoparty.in/>)
 - Tactical Tech Collective (<https://tacticaltech.org/>)

Upcoming public events

- NYC, 12/2/16: [Eyebeam security training? Does anyone have more details?]
- Boston, 11/19/16: [Engineering Activism: Activist Training for Technical People](#) (be sure to RSVP to kit.cali@gmail.com)
- SF Bay Area (UC Berkeley) 11/20: Digital Security Training for Activists and Advocates [RSVP & info](#)
- LeftForum 6/2-6/4 -2017

More Resources

Job boards:

- Tech for Good: <https://twitter.com/goodtechjobs>