

Dear Stanford School of Engineering (and the entities it encompasses),

This Tuesday, November 19th, students at more than a dozen campuses in the US and UK are rallying against Palantir in a #NoTechforICE student day of action to protest the company's relationship with ICE.

Stanford, with its location in the heart of Silicon Valley and its close relationships with neighboring companies—many of which work with ICE and Border Patrol—has a responsibility to pressure companies to cancel their contracts.

Because Stanford administration, the CS Department and specifically the Computer Forum have ignored our campaign to this point, **we call for an open meeting with the CS Department, and School of Engineering more broadly**, face-to-face, to discuss Stanford's relationship with Palantir because this university has the responsibility to hear us out.

Computer Science is consistently one of the most popular degrees at Stanford, with over 300 bachelor's degrees and over 270 master's degrees in computer science conferred in 2018 alone. Through recruitment, seminars, and other events, STEM students are hired by tech companies that facilitate the detention and deportation of immigrants in the United States. Many Stanford students choose to work at tech companies immediately after graduation and are thus either directly responsible or complicit in the violence tech companies facilitate on immigrants and refugees.

Detention centers, ICE, and Border Patrol have effects on Stanford's community of students, faculty, and workers. Stanford students and workers from immigrant communities directly experience harm as a result of immigration enforcement. Stanford needs to be held accountable for its role in creating and supporting tech companies that work for ICE and Border Patrol, as well as for feeding students directly into these workplaces. Stanford claims to exist in order "to promote the public welfare by exercising an influence on behalf of humanity and civilization." This relatively vague and open-ended mission statement leaves questions of ethics open for interpretation. Stanford has a responsibility to define what constitutes "the public welfare" and what sort of "influence" Stanford is preparing its students and affiliates to exercise. As Stanford students who fund the university endowment through our tuition, we have the obligation and the power to hold companies with ties to Stanford and border violence accountable.

To the Stanford School of Engineering, the Stanford Computer Science Department, and the university administration, ***we, the Students for the Liberation of All People (SLAP), along***

with faculty, staff, and undersigned students at Stanford, demand that the university ends their relationship with Palantir as is implicated in immigration enforcement and border control. We will demand this until Palantir agrees to end their contracts with CBP, ICE, police departments, and all arms of the deportation machine in the United States. We demand that these departments and administration stand with their students in asking Palantir to drop its contracts. We demand an open meeting with the CS Department, and School of Engineering more broadly. ***We say NO to complicity in racism, xenophobia, and imperialism. We say NO to designing tools that increase deportations, imprisonment, and family separation. We say NO to Stanford's racist tech pipeline. We say NO to Palantir being on Stanford's campus and these institutions gaining profit from each other.***

For more background: This fall, Palantir has the option to cancel its contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency that targets, detains and deports thousands of immigrants across the country. The company sells two technological tools to ICE. The first, Investigative Case Management (ICM), is "mission critical" to ICE's efforts, according to government documents, and was used at the border to investigate the families and sponsors of children who crossed the border by themselves. The operation resulted in the arrests of at least 443 people over 90 days. Its second tool, FALCON, is used by agents leading workplace raids, like the one in Mississippi early August, when almost 700 people were arrested en masse and at least two children were left alone for eight days because both of their parents were arrested and detained by ICE. **Palantir can cancel its FALCON contract, which is up for renewal on November 27.**

We have been demanding for a long time now that Palantir end their contracts with ICE. Just as Palantir must uphold their social responsibility to end this contract, Stanford must end their campus investment in Palantir. We ultimately believe that the two go hand in hand. So, with our proximity to both institutions, we challenge Stanford to stop supporting Palantir in their endangerment of immigrant lives as long as they have contracts with ICE and CBP.

SLAP has been working with Mijente, a Latinx organizing hub, on its No Tech for ICE campaign targeting tech companies that have contracts with ICE for almost a year now. Since the beginning of this year---through our Stop Coding State Violence campaign--- we've protested Palantir speakers on campus, flyered at multiple career fairs and outside Palantir's headquarters in Palo Alto, and organized the Oppressive Tech: How Silicon Valley Helps the Cops and ICE panel with Stanford's NAACP on tech worker and student resistance (cosponsored by the following: *CS + Social Good, El Centro Chicano y Latino, the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, the Black Community Services Center, and more).* We created our #StopCodingForStateViolence Campaign Booklet about our campaign and why we're targeting big tech, helped create a No Tech For Ice Student Toolkit in order to help other students organize on their campuses, and have gotten Buzzfeed, the Stanford Daily, The Ringer, Slate, Business Insider, NYT, Washington Post, and others to report on our organizing and Stanford's complicity with the help of Mijente. We collaborated with Mijente a second time to facilitate a nationwide

organizing call this past summer and begin **a student petition campaign where more than 3,000 students across 32 campuses demanded that Palantir drop its contract with ICE.** Finally, we participated in the TackBackTech: A People's Summit for a Surveillance-Free Future this past summer with organizers from communities directly impacted by criminalization and surveillance.

We are not alone. This is not a radical idea. Across other campuses this fall, there have been widespread actions against Palantir's involvement resulting in banning Palantir from conferences and dropping partnerships.

Earlier this year, hundreds of academics pressured U.C. Berkeley to drop Palantir as a sponsor of a privacy scholars conference. In late August, Lesbians Who Tech dropped Palantir as a sponsor of its annual conference, citing its provision of services to immigration enforcement as the reason. Just two days later, the Grace Hopper Celebration, the largest conference for women in tech worldwide, dropped Palantir as a sponsor just hours after learning of its role in human rights abuses.

On September 26th, Brown University's Computer Science department dropped Palantir from their public list of industry partners. Companies like Google, Facebook, and Pinterest pay as much as $20,000 a year for partnership with Brown, yet Palantir was dropped just **one day** after a student protest at their career fair.

Yale University's hackathon group, YHack, removed Palantir from their list of partners. In October, Harvard Undergraduate BGLTQ Business Society (HUBBS) announced that they were having an event sponsored by Palantir. Amid student criticism, HUBBS cancelled the event **the next day** and announced that they would never work with Palantir as a sponsor. Duke University's HackDuke, which is sponsored by their Electrical Engineering department and Computer Science department, has cancelled its Palantir sponsorship.

Over the course of recent months, these groups have been achieving *precisely* what we've been asking of Stanford for almost a year now. There is no reason that Stanford cannot do the same. Palantir's violent and harmful contract with ICE has been acknowledged and condemned by multiple other organizations. In addition, Stanford itself now has an Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and the university's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity Department launched its Race and Technology Praxis Program. Just last October, as part of the HAI's conference on Ethics, Policy & Governance, the program hosted a panel on "Race, Rights & Facial Recognition." It is therefore disappointing that the School of Engineering, the Computer Science Department, and administration have continued to ignore our message and the organizing that has come directly from its students. They do this even as ethics and technology has become a major topic of conversation on campus in the past year.

Palantir should be shut off from academia and computer science talent unless it decides to change tact by cancelling its contract. Stanford needs to stop enabling the anti-immigrant crackdown by dropping Palantir and joining its students in pressuring Palantir to cancel their contracts with government agencies who have violated countless human rights. We will continue

to kick recruiters out of career fairs, protest company speakers on campus, and urge university administrators to drop the company's sponsorship at every turn.

On November 19th, students across the world will stand in solidarity to protest Palantir's relationship with ICE. This is the #NoTechforICE national day of action.

This Tuesday, we will repeat our demands. To Stanford faculty and administration: We call for an open meeting to discuss Stanford's relationship with Palantir. Close off your relationship with Palantir until they agree to end their contracts with CBP, ICE, police departments, and other arms of the United States deportation machine in the United States. Rescind Palantir's invitation to the Computer Forum and following career fairs. Stop Palantir from holding recruitment info sessions. Stop allowing Palantir employees to mentor students and teach classes. And finally, actively support students in the fight against oppressive tech.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and we hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,
Students for the Liberation of All People

