

April 13, 2026

Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Meta Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

We, the undersigned 75 local, state, and national organizations that advocate for domestic violence survivors, worker rights, bodily autonomy, consumer privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, write to urge Meta to immediately halt and publicly disavow [its plans](#) to deploy facial recognition features on its Ray-Ban and Oakley glasses, including the feature reportedly known internally as “Name Tag.” For two decades, it has been clear that the ethos of “move fast and break things” exploits consumers, endangers vulnerable communities, and profoundly undermines civil rights and civil liberties. Meta’s new plans will only compound that disastrous track record.

Facial recognition technology built into inconspicuous consumer eyewear represents a serious threat to privacy and civil liberties for every member of our society, and particularly for historically marginalized and vulnerable groups including domestic violence survivors, targets of stalkers and sexual harassers, religious minorities, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and women and children, among others. These concerns cannot be resolved through product design changes, opt-out mechanisms, or incremental safeguards — few of which Meta seems to have meaningfully considered. Our concerns reflect the fundamental danger of the technology itself.

People should be able to move through their daily lives without fear that stalkers, scammers, abusers, federal agents, and activists across the political spectrum are silently and invisibly verifying their identities and potentially matching their names to a wealth of readily available data about their habits, hobbies, relationships, health, and behaviors.

Meta’s reported plans to introduce this technology into broadly available consumer products is a red line society must not cross. **Preventing this outcome is not just a privacy preference. It is a prerequisite for a free and safe society.**

Meta should not proceed with this product release.

Facial Recognition in Public Spaces Threatens Everyone

Meta and eyewear giant EssilorLuxottica [reportedly](#) sold more than seven million Ray-Ban and Oakley units with Meta's technologies in 2025.¹ Adding facial recognition and/or "Name Tag" technology would let anyone wearing a pair surveil and profile every person they encounter — without those people ever knowing. The American people have not consented to this dystopian privacy invasion, and indeed there is no way to obtain meaningful consent of all people impacted. It is inevitable that this technology will exacerbate abuse, harassment, and stalking of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people, and will place children in danger. To outline just a couple of examples: perpetrators could use 'Name Tag' to identify and stalk victims, and abusers could use it to identify, track, and harm children. This invasion of privacy is also primed to be coopted for police surveillance, circumventing the Fourth Amendment, and disproportionately harming Black, Brown, immigrant, and other over-policed communities.

But it's not just these vulnerable groups at risk.

Corporate dissidents could use this technology to identify and harass leadership at pharmaceutical, insurance, oil, or other major companies as they go about their daily lives. Politicians and their staff would forfeit any ability to move through the country in relative anonymity. Abortion or IVF foes could stake out clinics and identify everyone coming and going. And when facial recognition technology is combined with the huge wealth of data that Meta and other tech companies hold on most Americans, the risks become even starker. Stalkers and scammers using the tech could conceivably find out, quickly and in complete stealth, not just the name of the person sitting next to them on the subway — but their address, marital status, social media profiles, workplace, income, hobbies, health information, and habits. That's frightening to contemplate.

Unfortunately, Meta's technology has already been used to invade the privacy of people in public spaces. As you know, in 2024, Harvard students showed that pairing existing Ray-Ban glasses with a commercial facial recognition tool let them identify strangers on the Boston subway in real time.² The "Name Tag" product and other invasive technologies Meta is considering, such as "super sensing" glasses with always-on cameras, present a far bigger threat, putting hundreds of millions of Americans at risk of abuse at the hands of Meta users.

¹ EssilorLuxottica. Q4/FY 2025 Results. EssilorLuxottica, Feb. 11, 2026, www.essilorluxottica.com/cap/content/283060/.

² Hill, Kashmir. "Two Students Created Face Recognition Glasses. It Wasn't Hard." *The New York Times*, Oct. 24, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/24/technology/facial-recognition-glasses-privacy-harvard.html>.

The Risks of Facial Recognition Are Gravest for Vulnerable Populations

While facial recognition glasses would harm everyone in our society, the impact of widespread surveillance technology deployment is not neutral or felt equally among all populations; it poses the gravest risks for the most marginalized and vulnerable individuals and groups.

For women and girls, wearable facial recognition is precisely the kind of technology stalkers and abusers will exploit. August 2025 [reporting](#) from *The Washington Post* describes teenage girls as already frightened by classmates wearing Meta glasses in school.³ Recent [reporting](#) also revealed that Meta glasses have been used to covertly record and upload videos of women without their consent.⁴ Adding instant identification via facial recognition creates a genuine and terrifying safety crisis for this population. Advocates have [warned](#) that such technology is often used to perpetuate abuse and harassment of women and girls, including by enabling abusers to locate and track them.⁵ The last thing Meta should do is hand abusers and stalkers a powerful weapon they can use to cause harm.

Immigrants are also at great risk. Already, reports have surfaced of [CBP agents wearing Meta glasses](#) during domestic operations.⁶ If Meta chooses to deploy facial recognition on its glasses products, government agents, including those working for ICE and CBP, could use them to automate the targeting of Latino, Asian, and Black immigrant populations, who are disproportionately affected by immigration enforcement. Further, these agents could also use Meta's technology to facilitate more intensive and accurate surveillance of nonviolent protesters, human rights observers, and government critics, chilling their speech and causing grave harm to our democracy.

LGBTQ+ people are also at great risk from Meta glasses embedded with facial recognition tech. According to a 2025 [report](#) by GLAAD, queer and trans people faced a dramatic increase in hate

³ Hunter, Tatum. "Smart glasses record people in public. The most online generation is pushing back." *The Washington Post*, Aug. 27, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/08/27/gen-z-smart-glasses-digital-privacy-consent/>.

⁴ Tanno, Sophie and Scatola, Ivana. "So-called 'manfluencers' are filming themselves trying to pick up women. Smart glasses are their perfect tool." *CNN*, Feb. 9, 2026, https://www.cnn.com/2026/02/09/world/manfluencers-smart-glasses-intl?Date=20260210&Profile=CNN&utm_content=1770765372&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawQVRQtleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETE0T1hQSXAwcZJVTUtObkhxc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHv2sBVq_IWgLLbEWfr5ar9d4ygQkBdkHRME_uoQFVJGSjA2JFFUNHjgVOEfs_aem_jg7Ogc2oM5Zl4zeEdM3d2g.

⁵ Nicole Wootton-Cane. "Meta's plans for AI facial recognition smart glasses 'threatens safety of all women and girls.'" *The Independent*, Feb. 20, 2026, <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/meta-glasses-facial-recognition-domestic-abuse-b2923551.html>.

⁶ Koebler, Jason. "A CBP Agent Wore Meta Smart Glasses to an Immigration Raid in Los Angeles." *404 Media*, Aug. 7, 2025, <https://www.404media.co/a-cbp-agent-wore-meta-smart-glasses-to-an-immigration-raid-in-los-angeles/>.

crime incidents in 2024, leading to at least 84 physical injuries and 10 deaths.⁷ Over half of those incidents targeted transgender and non-binary people. Online hate speech against LGBTQ+ people is also growing. A separate [report](#) by GLAAD and UltraViolet found that in a survey of 7,000, 75% of LGBTQ respondents reported that harmful content has increased since January 2025, when Meta rolled back its hate speech policy. For LGBTQ+ people, being identified and outed without consent can have devastating personal and safety consequences.

Visible religious minorities and people of color face similar threats of violence and harassment when their right to privacy in public space is erased.

Facial recognition technology in Meta glasses poses additional risks to Black, Brown, Asian, and Indigenous communities. Numerous [studies](#) have shown that these systems exhibit racial bias, resulting in a higher likelihood of misidentifying Black and East Asian faces compared to white faces.⁸ Such errors have led to documented instances of false arrests of Black people.⁹ Considering the long history of over-surveillance and over-policing of minority communities, the integration of facial recognition features in Meta glasses is likely to exacerbate these harms.

Meanwhile, for political activists, elected officials, and ordinary people working for companies or in fields that have been the subject of controversy, face surveillance embedded in consumer-facing Meta technology endangers their right to participate in society and speak freely on issues of importance to them, without worrying that everything they do in public is being tracked and catalogued by random strangers. This technology erases our ability to move anonymously through daily life.

These are not edge cases or hypothetical harms. They are the predictable consequences of deploying an inherently invasive, unethical, and unreliable technology, compounded by the fact that society has not consented to it or established laws or regulations to protect civil rights, civil liberties, and personal safety.

Meta's Conduct Exacerbates Our Concerns

[Internal documents](#) show Meta planned to launch this technology during a “dynamic political environment” when civil society groups would have their resources “focused on other concerns.”¹⁰ That is frankly shameful, and it is not the behavior of a company taking privacy or

⁷ GLAAD. "GLAAD ALERT Desk Data Shows Dramatic Rise in Anti-Trans Hate Incidents." GLAAD, Jun. 2, 2025, [glaad.org/glaad-alert-desk-data-shows-dramatic-rise-in-anti-trans-hate-incidents/](https://www.glaad.org/glaad-alert-desk-data-shows-dramatic-rise-in-anti-trans-hate-incidents/).

⁸ Grother, Patrick, et al. *Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) Part 3: Demographic Effects*. National Institute of Standards and Technology, Dec. 2019, nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2019/NIST.IR.8280.pdf.

⁹ Gentzel, Michael. "Biased Face Recognition Technology Used by Government: A Problem for Liberal Democracy." *Philosophical Technology*, vol. 34, no. 4, 25 Sept. 2021, pp. 1639–1663, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8475322/>.

¹⁰ Roth, Emma. “Meta Facial Recognition Smart Glasses Name Tag Privacy Advocates.” *The Verge*, Feb. 13, 2026, www.theverge.com/tech/878725/meta-facial-recognition-smart-glasses-name-tag-privacy-advocates.

its role as a good steward of the public interest seriously. Taking advantage of rising authoritarianism and this federal administration's disregard for the rule of law to roll out a product that will harm vulnerable people while further imperiling our democracy is vile behavior, unbecoming of a company with such a prominent role in shaping our children, our society, and our future.

Previously, Meta shut down facial recognition on Facebook in 2021 citing "growing societal concerns."¹¹ In the years since, these concerns have only grown, and have not been adequately addressed in the law, in part due to lobbying by the tech industry in state capitals and Washington, D.C.

Consumers have no reason to trust Meta to manage the complex social and political problems created by consumer-facing facial recognition tech. Indeed, in recent years Meta has paid over \$2 billion in settlements over its misuse of consumers' biometric data and \$5 billion to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for privacy violations, including pertaining to its facial recognition products. Under that FTC settlement, Meta was required to review every new product for privacy risks. But according to *New York Times* [reporting](#), in January 2025, Meta dismantled that process, curtailing its privacy teams and shortening review timelines.¹² A company with this track record should be working to earn back public trust — not looking for creative ways to exploit our current political crisis by deploying the next iteration of the same technology it was just recently forced to abandon.

Our Call to Action

In accordance with the serious dangers this technology poses, we urge Meta to publicly make and adhere to the following long-term commitments:

- Do not release any facial recognition features, including but not limited to "Name Tag," for the Ray-Ban or Oakley glasses or any other Meta wearable device or product.
- Publicly disclose any known instances of Meta wearables being used in the context of stalking, harassment, or domestic and sexual violence, and explain what steps the company has taken in response.
- Publicly disclose any past or ongoing discussions with law enforcement agencies, including ICE and CBP, regarding the use of Meta wearables by government agents or the provision of data from Meta wearables to government agencies.
- Publicly disclose any internal Meta deliberations or plans to engage with law enforcement agencies, including ICE and CBP, regarding the use of Meta wearables.

¹¹ Pesenti, Jerome. "An Update On Our Use of Face Recognition." Meta, Nov. 2, 2021, about.fb.com/news/2021/11/update-on-use-of-face-recognition/.

¹² Hill, Kashmir et al. "Meta Plans to Add Facial Recognition Technology to Its Smart Glasses." *The New York Times*, Feb. 13, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/13/technology/meta-facial-recognition-smart-glasses.html>.

- Commit to meaningfully engaging with civil society, affected communities, and independent privacy experts before making any decision to integrate biometric identification features into consumer devices.
- Stop opposing privacy legislation that would require Meta to obtain explicit user consent before collecting or processing biometric data.

A decision to provide face surveillance capabilities to the public through a widely used consumer product threatens the safety and freedom of community members everywhere and will undermine public trust in Meta's business.

When you move fast, you break things — and in this case, the casualties may well include our democracy, our privacy, and countless individuals, families, and communities. An approach to technology that privatizes profit and socializes harm carries with it irreversible consequences for people's safety, liberty, and civil rights.

We urge Meta to commit now — before this feature is released — to protect the public from face surveillance. We look forward to your written response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Access Now
ACLU
ACLU of Colorado
ACLU of Illinois
ACLU of Maine
ACLU of Massachusetts
ACLU of Michigan
ACLU of New Hampshire
ACLU of Northern California
ACLU of Pennsylvania
ACLU of Washington
AFT Massachusetts
Boston Teachers Union
California Initiative for Technology and Democracy
Campaign for Accountability
CLEAR Project
Common Cause
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT
Consumer Federation of America
Decrim NY
Decriminalize Sex Work
Defending Rights & Dissent
Digital Fourth
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

Equality New Mexico
Equality New York
Eventful Social Justice
Fairness Campaign
Fight for the Future
First Focus on Children
Free Speech Coalition
Freedom Oklahoma
Guardian Project
Healing Circle Collective LLC
Injustice On Trial Network
Jane Doe Inc.
Kairos Fellowship
La Comunidad
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Legal Action Center
Library Freedom Project
LTU 1019 AFTMA
Mass 50501
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
MassEquality
Mothers Against Media Addiction (MAMA)
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
Neighbor to Neighbor
New America's Open Technology Institute
New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Old Dykes Against Billionaire Tech Bros
Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts
Policing Project at NYU Law
Progressive Massachusetts
PROMO
Public Citizen
Reproductive Equity Now
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
Sustain SJ
TechTonic Justice
The Birch Group Corporation
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Real Cost of Prisons Project
UltraViolet

VoteAmerica
Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice & the Environment
What We Will
Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts

cc:

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