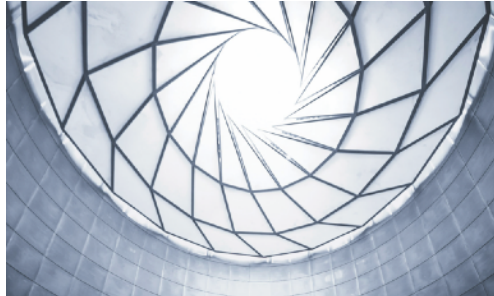# Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities in The Age of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming inseparable from our day-to-day lives — from deciding who is hired for a job or approved for a loan, to law enforcement's use of face recognition, to the creation of AI-generated images and videos. As AI evolves and becomes more prominent, questions about how it is designed, used and governed are increasingly urgent for people's rights and our democracy.

CDT President and CEO Alexandra Reeve Givens testifies before the U.S. Senate in a hearing entitled "Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights."

CDT is the leading organization working to protect people's rights in the digital age. We work with policymakers in the U.S. and EU on effective guardrails and protections for AI, testifying before Congress five times in the past year and advising government agencies. Meanwhile, our AI Governance Lab is a leading public interest voice on best practices for companies and governments. At a crucial time for this technology, CDT is leading conversations about how AI is tested, used, and governed — and helping developers, companies, and people impacted by AI systems to engage responsibly with the technology.

About CDT

Established in 1994, the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) is the leading nonpartisan, multi-stakeholder convener and a trusted voice in tech policy. At CDT, we fight to advance civil rights and civil liberties in the digital age. We advocate to policymakers and the courts in the U.S. and Europe, engage with companies to improve their policies and product designs, and shape public opinion on major tech policy issues. In addition to our advocacy work, CDT's research team produces deep-dive original scholarship to explore novel solutions to pressing issues in tech policy

AI & Economic Justice

When someone is denied a job or a loan because of a flawed algorithm, or mistakenly accused of fraud and stripped of their government benefits, it can devastate their life. As companies and government agencies increasingly use AI in critical decisionmaking, CDT is a leading resource on appropriate guardrails, testing, and rules to protect people's rights. CDT has published original work and policy recommendations about uses of AI in the workplace, in public benefits programs, in housing, and in schools. CDT is also a leading resource for state lawmakers considering AI legislation, and was recently named to the Commission created by Colorado Senate Bill 205, the first law in the country that requires companies to assess high-risk AI tools for their potential to discriminate.

Combatting Deepfakes

Just as AI tools introduce new opportunities for creativity, they have also made it easier than ever to produce and distribute harmful content at scale. In collaboration with the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) and National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), CDT leads a Working Group of leading tech companies, survivor advocates, and trust & safety experts to combat image-based sexual abuse, including deepfakes generated by AI. Our original research has uncovered the prevalence of non consensual intimate images in schools, and helped educators and families better prepare. CDT is supporting the DEFIANCE Act – bipartisan, bicameral legislation to address NCII – and secured commitments from leading tech companies to better address this harm. Meanwhile, CDT's Elections & Democracy team is working to address the impact of AI on elections, sharing election integrity recommendations for generative AI developers, investigating how chatbots can mislead voters about their rights, and training state and local election officials to navigate this new age.

AI-Powered Surveillance

When law enforcement used face recognition to identify protestors at peaceful Black Lives Matter protests in Maryland and Florida, CDT spoke out – insisting that such unfettered surveillance violates people's constitutional right to freedom of speech and assembly. CDT has raised the alarm about racial bias and the disparate impact of face recognition, and advocates forcefully for a federal law to preserve people's rights. We're also deeply engaged on the use of AI for national

"**In the U.S., we led a coalition of over 50 organizations calling on the Biden Administration to ensure the federal government's use of AI is safe, effective, and free from discrimination.**"

security purposes, leading advocacy before the Department of Homeland Security and Congress for transparency, guardrails, human rights protections, and public accountability.

Public Interest AI

Just as CDT is working to protect against the misuse of AI, we are also building a positive vision for how these tools can and should help public interest organizations to advance their mission and impact. We partner with groups representing impacted communities –from disability advocates, to teachers, workers' rights advocates and more – so they gain a seat at the table in tech policy debates. We advocate for open source, affordable AI tools that can help journalists, human rights defenders, environmental advocates and more leverage AI for good. We believe that AI shouldn't happen *to* people, but should be co-created by those with the most at stake … championing responsible, rights-respecting innovation that lifts us all.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US

Visit cdt.org and follow us on social media.

Have questions? Please feel free to contact Alexandra Reeve Givens, President & CEO, at agivens@cdt.org or reach out to our Development & External Affairs team at development@cdt.org.

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