

This project will specifically identify and document the data brokers under contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to collect and disseminate personal information for the purpose of assisting these agencies to hunt and track California's immigrant communities. The actions of these federal agencies to target mixed families, including naturalized citizens, visa residents, Dreamers, asylum claimants and TPS holders to try to get to undocumented family members and associates has caused great pain and turmoil for immigrant communities. Efforts to convince tech and information companies to cut ICE contracts, while helpful, have not yet reached the most prolific data brokers that feed information into Palantir Technology's data crunching software. Time is running out as ICE and CBP ramp up detention camp capacity and move to degrade asylum rights and work permits and add new public charge laws.

One direct way to empower immigrant communities to protect themselves in 2020 is to leverage hard fought consumer privacy reforms to greatly slow the flow of personal information about targeted communities to federal immigration authorities. Research has unveiled that a handful of information companies like Thomson Reuters, Vigilant Solutions and Giant Oak (a social media scraper) account for a disproportionate amount of this data flow to the Department of Homeland Security.

A campaign that makes it easy for individuals to opt out of having their data sold by these companies under California's Privacy Act more or less immediately is one of the most specific and helpful actions we can take to put a crimp in an immigration enforcement regime that is taking on the characteristics of ethnic cleansing.

But without funding, there will be a time lag between disseminating information and getting opt-outs going on a large-scale basis, especially in non-urban parts of California with less support structures in place. Funding will help to meet the need for speed in this hopefully last year of a rogue president who is clearly preparing to try to anti-immigration rhetoric and abuses to a second presidential term and can be expected to ramp up attacks on immigrant communities in the run-up to the 2020 election.

The slowness of the federal contracting process provides for optimism that if the companies DHS relies on to keep the personal information flowing are less efficient at doing so, then it will take time for the Department of Homeland Security to identify and contract with alternate vendors and develop protocols to feed information from those sources into their data crunching systems. (The Thomson Reuters contracts with ICE are very specific about the need to format information for direct input into their systems and the elaborate systems that have been developed by particular vendors for that purpose. Virtually all of these contracts are sole-sourced).

This is work we intend to do regardless of funding, but recent developments including new executive orders, the recent 3 year renewal of Palantir's contract with ICE for investigative case management software and databases (through 2022 for \$49 million dollars) and the changes in DHS personnel in 2018 (Miller, Cuccinelli and so on), have convinced us that time is of the essence and there is none to waste with kickstarting this effort as soon as possible in 2020.

We believe strongly that as an education project in how personal information travels from the private to governmental sectors, this effort will benefit all Californians by highlighting the new privacy rights they have received and how to utilize them. Participating in ICE data broker opt-outs even without close ties to immigrant communities is an act of solidarity that will contribute to degrading the value of the data these companies sell - which is useful to DHS in exact proportion to its comprehensiveness.

For targeted communities, opting out provides a safe, legal and protected action that exercising does not place them and their associates into the sort of personal danger that picketing and protesting can generate due to encounters with law enforcement. Self-empowerment is powerful and communities are hungry for impactful actions they can take to slow down the deportation machine. We believe the call to cripple ICE's databases with massive opt-outs is one that will be heard.

Our timeline for the work would be research and online presentation in January and February of 2020 (research includes surveying FOIA and PRA databases for new work done on ICE/CPB data flows, which is ongoing) and documenting existing data flows for both easy reading and persuasiveness, as well as consulting with the California Attorney General on opt-out regulations they are in the process of developing so templated requests will be correctly worded to achieve the desired outcome. (This would be a problem with just a call-out that does not provide accompanying materials. Californians are not all born with the ability to craft complex data privacy opt-out requests per a brand-new law on the dime). March and April will focus on paper materials and translation, with the balance of the year focusing on a) distribution b) presentations at community forums throughout the state, and c) generating media coverage to expand the reach.

The desired outcome of the project is to degrade the value of the personal information sales on California residents made by third party brokers to federal immigration enforcement agencies who are guilty of significant human rights violations including lengthy detention, false imprisonment, denial of medical care and harassment. At scale, a significant number of data privacy opt-outs will have an impact on federal immigration activities within California, as after the passage of the California Values Act, federal immigration agencies can access considerably less information via law enforcement and government databases than previously and depend more heavily on private sector information brokers.