

Pride With Pride! Stop Mass Surveillance at Pride, Stop Face Recognition Now

Enough is enough! **Mass surveillance** in public spaces is becoming a reality in the European Union (EU), despite EU laws designed to protect us. As a result, our **fundamental rights** are under massive attack. We cannot stand by and do nothing – **stop facial recognition, sign the petition now!**

On 28 June, the **Pride parade** will take place in Budapest, Hungary. The Hungarian police is allowed to use face recognition systems even for **minor offences, which include jaywalking or attending the Pride parade.**^[1] Anyone taking part in the Pride parade can now be identified from a distance and be punished using this technology.^[2] This way, the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary is being deliberately **intimidated** and **criminalized**. This is unacceptable!

This form of **mass surveillance** leads to a decline of our fundamental rights. Using intrusive surveillance technology may have a chilling effect on free speech and the right to protest freely.

Now is the time for the EU to show its teeth and enforce the **AI Act**, as this act prohibits face recognition in public spaces for surveillance purposes. The EU member states need to consider this a **wake-up call** and put an end to face recognition in public spaces.

What happened?

For a long time, it remained uncertain whether the Pride parade could take place in Budapest this year. The Hungarian government tried to stop the parade with an **anti-queer law**. Both the **organizers** and the **participants** of the parade could now be prosecuted on the basis of this law. Part of the amendment to the law is to authorize the Hungarian police to use face recognition systems even to detect minor offences like participating in the Pride parade.^[3]

This use of live face recognition for mass surveillance in public spaces **violates Article 5 of the AI Act and our fundamental rights.**^[4] ^[5] We must act swiftly to protect **freedom of assembly** and to put a stop to the **spread of biometric mass surveillance** in the EU.

We demand:

- The EU Commission must investigate and sanction the violation of European law. If Hungary gets away with such an infringement, other countries will also **try to ignore the AI Act**.
- The **EU must act jointly and decisively** to show that it will enforce its own AI and human rights rules. The protection of **fundamental rights** must be at the forefront of EU regulation around AI systems.
- Face recognition systems in public spaces must be banned **in their entirety!** The Hungarian case shows that AI systems can be misused to **criminalize entire groups of people** and **restrict their rights**. EU member states must therefore implement a comprehensive ban at the national level with no loopholes or exceptions.