

CHECKLIST: SHARING VIDEOS OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

BE SAFE. BE ETHICAL. BE EFFECTIVE.

Think through the following questions before uploading or publicly sharing footage of someone being questioned or detained by an immigration enforcement agent. Whether you filmed, received or found a video online, it's important to understand that sharing it publicly could put you, the filmer, the victim and/or others at further risk of harm or retraumatization by exposing identity, location, immigration status, etc. Seek advice from a trusted advocacy group or lawyer about how you can protect your community.

If possible, first share your footage with the person or the family of the person who was arrested or harassed by an immigration agent. They should decide how it's used.

WHY AM I SHARING THIS VIDEO?

Be clear about what you want to achieve: Do you want to expose an abuse, counter a problematic narrative, rally support for an individual, etc.? Your intentions will help determine your strategy.

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WHEN SHOULD I SHARE THIS VIDEO?

Waiting to share footage until after an immigration agent makes an official statement or releases a report can be a powerful way to expose lies and discrepancies. It can also be more impactful to wait and tie the video to specific policy demands, or release the video in collaboration with other organizing efforts.

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ARE THERE ANY IDENTITIES I NEED TO PROTECT INCLUDING MY OWN?

Identities can include someone's face, voice, dialect, tattoos, home or business address, license plates, etc. Use Youtube's free blur tool to obscure identifying features from footage before you share. Check out our tutorial for more info: <https://youtu.be/vBFRVIGB9L0>

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DO I WANT MY NAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOOTAGE?

Connecting your name or social media handles publicly to the video can make you vulnerable to online and offline aggressions. It could also result in long periods of time in the media spotlight or legal proceedings.

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If you or those you know have vulnerable immigration status, being on immigration enforcement's radar could be detrimental. Work with a trusted journalist or advocacy organization to release footage anonymously, but beware that metadata associated with your video could still tie the footage back to you.

If you release footage with a journalist or media outlet, make sure you have a contract in place that discusses ownership, usage, rights to the footage, etc.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIDEO EASIER TO FIND & VERIFY?

Adding visual and written context can help make your footage easier to verify. You can do this by filming landmarks, street signs, stating the time and day, etc. and by providing detailed descriptions after you upload footage.

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Keep titles brief and descriptive. Only use factual information to describe the events. Write a description of what happened before, during and after the recording. Always include date, time, city, specific location. Add keywords or "tags" so your video is easier to find.

SHOULD I LIVESTREAM?

Livestreaming can expose people's identities and other sensitive information far more easily than recorded video. It's important to understand the risks before you go live.

Phones can default to sharing your location, be aware of what location details you're sharing.

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Describe what is happening and recap what has happened through factual commentary. Work with a partner to keep an eye on what's happening in the periphery and check on viewers' comments and questions

Consider streaming to a trusted set of viewers, such as an attorney or trained legal observers on a private channel instead of publicly to anyone.

HOW DO I PREVENT MY CONTENT FROM BEING TAKEN DOWN?

Familiarize yourself with social media community standards and takedown policies. These are updated regularly.

Adding factual details and descriptions to your video can help ensure its intended use. Don't include personal opinions or perceptions, and NEVER use slurs or discriminatory language. If your footage is graphic, write "GRAPHIC IMAGERY" in the video's title and description to alert viewers.

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Remember, online platforms are not archives. Keep at least one copy of the video file in a secure location.

HOW DO I PROTECT MY FOOTAGE?

Backup your footage in at least one separate, secure location. If you edit, do so from a copy and save the original unedited file.

Some sites let you save livestreams on their platform, but others delete the video after a set time period. If you think your video contains evidentiary content, download and preserve a copy. Learn how: <http://bit.ly/PreservingLiveVideo>

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