

Organizing, Mutual Aid, and Activism

April 1, 2025

Slides downloadable at
thenexusofprivacy.net/data/organizing-0401.pdf

Welcome! A few quick reminders

- We are dedicated to providing a positive, inclusive, and harassment-free experience for everyone.
- No racism, ableism (including mental health shaming and stigmatization), sexism, microaggressions, gaslighting, sea-lioning, trolling, bullying, calling group members names, personal attack or harassment are allowed.

Goals

- Highlight successful examples to date -- and functionality gaps
- Hone in on short-term opportunities: what can we do? What can make it more effective?
- Identify barriers to progress
- Kick off a working group (and/or discussions on various networks)

Agenda

- Key use cases: private and public
- Examples
- Leveraging strengths and addressing gaps
- Detailed look at some upcoming opportunities
- Summarizing and next steps

Social networks and online organizing

Social networks *complement* other kinds of organizing

Social networks are (potentially) good fo

- Sharing public information (events, actions, alerts) with a broad audience
- Following and having discussions with activists, journalists, politicians, organizations, etc.
- Tracking news
- “Private” discussions (like Facebook groups)

Social networks are **not** good for Secure communications.

- Use Signal!
- Make sure you check who's in your group chat!!!!!!

Some open questions in today's political climate ...

- With protest getting criminalized, how long will public social network organizing be feasible?
- With dissenters getting targeted, how long will sharing news and discussions on public social networks be a viable option?
- With increasing surveillance, how long will private-but-not-encrypted social network organizing be a viable option?
- How can we use whatever time window we have effectively?

Key use cases

Public communications

- getting the word out about events, action alerts, programs
- recruiting new people
- fundraising and asking for resources
- messaging
- sharing and contextualizing accurate news and information
- countering disinformation and propaganda

“Private” (ish) communications:

- within a group's leadership team
- between leadership and members
 - announcements
 - questions and answers
 - polls and surveys
 - discussions
- cross-group
 - coalitions of different groups
 - chapters in a distributed org
 - working groups of individuals
- sharing secure contact info