



## Social Media Toolkit: Targeted, Labeled, Criminalized: Early Findings on the District of Columbia's Gang Database

January 16, 2024

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs is thrilled to introduce a comprehensive social media toolkit designed to amplify our campaign against the discriminatory practices of the DC Gang Database. This toolkit unfolds across various platforms, strategically engaging our audience. From breaking news releases and in-depth reports to swipe-through educational initiatives and powerful calls to action, our toolkit seeks to inform, empower, and mobilize individuals seamlessly. We invite our community to actively share, comment, and champion our message, fostering a united effort to dismantle the DC Gang Database and advocate for justice. Thank you for joining us in this important movement.

### Official Hashtags

#BreakingNews #DCGangDatabase #CivilRights #ReportAnalysis #JusticeAdvocacy  
#DCGangDatabase #SwipeForChange #EndDiscrimination #JusticeCampaign #CallToAction  
#ReformNow #CivilRightsAdvocacy

### Social Media Handles

Instagram - [@Washlaw4cr](https://www.instagram.com/Washlaw4cr) X - [WashLaw4CR](https://twitter.com/WashLaw4CR) Facebook - [WashLaw4CR](https://www.facebook.com/WashLaw4CR)  
LinkedIn - [Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Washington-Lawyers-Committee-for-Civil-Rights-and-Urban-Affairs)

### Suggested Social Media Copy

#### Breaking News Toolkit

**News Release:** Civil Rights Groups Report: Secret DC Gang Database Criminalizes Predominantly Black and Brown Neighborhoods. The Washington Lawyers' Committee calls for legislative action to dismantle this discriminatory system. Read the full report here:

<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>

#### In-Depth Report Toolkit

**Key Findings:** Dive into the report detailing the unconstitutional and racially discriminatory practices of the DC Gang Database. We're committed to legislative solutions that protect the rights of all residents. Join us in advocating for change.

<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>

#### Swipe Left Toolkit

**Educational Initiative:** Our campaign aims to inform residents about the DC Gang Database's impact. Swipe through to understand why it matters, how to check if you're listed, and what to do if unfairly

**Breaking News** Civil rights groups reveal shocking findings about the DC Gang Database! Join the Washington Lawyers' Committee in the fight against racial discrimination and unconstitutional surveillance. Read the full report and take a stand for justice. <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#DCGangDatabase #CivilRights

Empower yourself with knowledge and take a stand against injustice! The Washington Lawyers' Committee unveils a comprehensive report on the DC Gang Database, exposing its flaws and proposing vital legislative changes. Let's work together for a fair and just society.

<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#LegalAdvocacy #JusticeReform

Swipe left to uncover the truth behind the DC Gang Database. Our report exposes the impact on Black and Brown communities and proposes essential legislative steps. Share this post to spread awareness and join the Washington Lawyers'



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targeted. Knowledge is power!  
#EmpowerWithKnowledge #JusticeForAll  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>

### Call to Action Toolkit

**Call to Action:** Read the recommendations and join us in urging the DC Council to pass legislation for a fair and just system. Together, we can dismantle the DC Gang Database and protect our communities.  
#TakeAStand #CommunityJustice  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>

Committee in the fight for justice!  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#SwipeForChange #EndDiscrimination

Stand against government surveillance and racial discrimination! The Washington Lawyers' Committee proposes seven crucial steps to reform the DC Gang Database. Share your support and let's make a difference together.  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#ReformNow #CivilRights

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### Quotes associated with the report for Social Media

“The DC Gang Database is an unreliable surveillance tool for Black and Brown communities. Now a new proposal expands police powers to stop, frisk, and arrest people in the database just for entering “drug-free zones.” The DC Council should reject this kind of unconstitutional policing.”

“More than 60 years after Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech and the FBI placed him on a watchlist, MPD uses the same type of unreliable policing in the name of the DC Gang Database to targets, label, and detain Black people without due process.”

“The District’s gang database is stop and frisk policing with a twist that swallows entire families and neighborhoods. In certain predominantly Black or Brown communities, you or I could be included in the gang database because we are friends with someone deemed a gang member or your cousin is in the system. Later, MPD passes around your name and photo as a ‘gang associate’ so that your next encounter with law enforcement becomes a pretext to stop, pat down or chase you.”

- Carlo Andino, Associate Counsel at the Washington Lawyers' Committee

“Teenagers signal their loyalty to their clique by sitting together at school, hanging out after class, dressing alike, and giving themselves nicknames and symbols. For most kids, these behaviors are considered normal and even encouraged for health social engagement. For Black youth, these behaviors earn them the label of “gang” or “crew” and put them at risk of arrest – just for being in the group.”

- Kristin Henning, Georgetown University Law Center Professor



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"MPD's gang database is an appalling example of systemic racial profiling and the over-policing of Black and brown communities in D.C. MPD's criteria for inclusion in the database are disturbingly vague and broad, allowing inclusion based on attire, family connections, or unreliable informants. With little to no oversight, the gang database leads to unwarranted surveillance, overly-aggressive policing, and even dire immigration consequences—all based on dubious and unverified data. This practice undermines trust in law enforcement and violates basic civil liberties without any form of accountability."

- Ahoefa Ananouko, ACLU-D.C.'s Policy Associate

"The DC Gang Database is a racist tool that criminalizes Black and Latinx communities for what they look like, where they live, and who they 'associate' with. Because DC shares information on the database with immigration enforcement agencies, they are placing DC's immigrant community at heightened risk of detention and deportation as a result of racially discriminatory and biased policing. We call on the DC government to immediately dismantle the DC Gang Database."

- Amber Qureshi, Staff Attorney at the National Immigration Project

"As is true of every aspect of our criminal legal system, surveillance as a tool for social control originates with this country's brutal commitment to chattel slavery. Over time, the overt justifications offered by law enforcement for surveilling Black and Brown people have shifted, but the purpose and utility have remained the same. Government surveillance is a powerful means of blocking political mobilization, destroying a community's sense of safety and solidarity, and crushing dissent. This is exactly how MPD is wielding its gang database against Black and Brown D.C. residents, especially those living in public and affordable housing. MPD's own records show that people are being added to the database just for speaking to their neighbors in public. This is unacceptable. The D.C. Council must intervene to protect D.C. residents' freedom of association, give relief to people who have been harmed, and abolish the database."

- Brittany Francis, Deputy Director of Litigation, Civil Rights Corps

### Short Retweets

1. Unveiling the truth behind the DC Gang Database! Join us in the fight against racial discrimination. Read the report: <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database> #DCGangDatabase #CivilRights
2. Empower change! Dive into the report exposing flaws in the DC Gang Database. Let's advocate for justice. <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database> #LegalReform #DCGangDatabase



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3. Swipe left to uncover the impact of the DC Gang Database. Spread awareness and join us in the fight for justice! #SwipeForChange #EndDiscrimination  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>
4. Stand against surveillance and discrimination! Support the Washington Lawyers' Committee's recommendations to reform the DC Gang Database. #ReformNow #CivilRights <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>
5. Take action now! Read and share the recommendations to dismantle the DC Gang Database. Let's protect our communities. #TakeAStand #CommunityJustice  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>
6. DC Gang Database exposed! Uncover the shocking truth and join us in the fight against discrimination. Read the report now: <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#TruthRevealed #EndInjustice
7. Knowledge is power. Delve into the report revealing flaws in the DC Gang Database. Stand with us for justice! <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>  
#KnowledgelsPower #JusticeForAll
8. Swipe through for insights into the DC Gang Database. Spread awareness, empower change. Join us in the fight for a fair society! #SwipeForChange  
#EmpowerWithKnowledge <https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>
9. Let your voice be heard! Support the call to action for reforming the DC Gang Database. Together, we can make a difference. #StandForJustice #ReformNow  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>
10. Time to act! Explore the recommendations to dismantle the DC Gang Database. Share the message and be a part of the change. #ActionForJustice #CommunityEmpowerment  
<https://www.washlaw.org/mpd-gang-database>