

ACADEMIC

FREEDOM

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The AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom has curated practical resources for those facing threats to their academic freedom, including how to find organizations that offer legal support. We also offer resources concerning digital security, travel, and dox defense.

We welcome suggestions about other resources and ways we can support you in your work.

Please feel free to reach out:
CDAF@aaup.org.

**CENTER FOR THE DEFENSE
OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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RESOURCES

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)	Any academic worker who holds a professional position of teacher, researcher, graduate student, or related professional appointment can join the AAUP.	Find your AAUP chapter: aaup.org/chapters/find-chapter Join: aaup.org/join Email: organizing@aaup.org
FAQs on Academic Freedom (AAUP)	The <i>AAUP</i> has compiled answers to key questions, including topics such as application to teaching and research and the difference between academic freedom, free speech, and First Amendment protections.	aaup.org/issues-higher-education/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom
AAUP's Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance (DAFTG)	Those facing a threat to academic freedom on campus can reach out to the staff at DAFTG, who respond to AAUP members and non-members, and provide advice regarding Association-supported principles and standards.	Email: academicfreedom@aaup.org
Faculty First Responders (FFR)	<i>FFR</i> assists academic workers who are experiencing targeted harassment.	facultyfirstresponders.com Email: facultyfirstresponders@gmail.com
Targeted Harassment of Faculty (AAUP)	This resource provides steps faculty can take to prepare for and respond to targeted online harassment.	aaup.org/issues-higher-education/political-attacks-higher-ed/targeted-harassment-faculty/what-you-can-do
The AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom (CDAF)	<i>CDAF</i> has produced a number of useful Action Reports, including how to respond to TPUSA, post-tenure review laws, and NSF grant cuts.	Action Reports: aaup.org/publications-media
Curated Resource List (AAUP)	The <i>AAUP</i> has also curated practical resources that can be used by faculty, AAUP chapters, unions, administrators, and others.	aaup.org/curated-resource-list
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)	<i>AFT</i> has resources for navigating attacks on funding, research, and DEI, as well as for international faculty, staff, and students in the US.	aft.org/featured-resources/defending-higher-education-in-2025

GENERAL LEGAL RESOURCES

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	The <i>ACLU</i> works to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in the United States by the Constitution and laws.	For legal assistance please contact your local affiliates: aclu.org/affiliates
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	<i>CAIR</i> 's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.	Report Incident: cair.com/report Hotline: 202-742-6420 Email: civilrights@cair.com
Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University	The <i>Knight Institute</i> litigates issues of freedom of speech, especially in digital spaces. They prioritize cases on free speech and social media, transparency and democracy, and privacy and surveillance.	knightcolumbia.org Email: info@knightcolumbia.org Phone: 646-745-8500
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)	The <i>NLG</i> provides guidance for setting up a legal defense fund, a directory of attorneys specializing in immigration issues, and Know Your Risk resources.	Chapters: nlg.org/chapters Directory: nlg.org/referral-directory Responsive Guides: nlg.org/massdefenseprogram/responsive-guides
Palestine Legal	<i>Palestine Legal</i> works with a network of organizations to respond to requests for legal and advocacy assistance. For immigration and criminal matters, they can offer referrals.	Intake Form: palestinelegal.org/intake Email: info@palestinelegal.org

If you are an AAUP or AFT member you have access to AFT legal benefits, which include a free 30-minute consultation (and 25 percent off legal fees). For a fee, you can also enroll in a MetLife Legal Plan, which offers additional legal protection. AFT now offers Professional Liability Insurance; email aftplus@aft.org in order to purchase.

A FULL LIST OF RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND ON [AAUP.ORG/ADDITIONAL-LEGAL-RESOURCES](https://www.aaup.org/additional-legal-resources)

IMMIGRATION LEGAL RESOURCES

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)	The <i>ADC</i> defends and promotes human rights, civil rights, and liberties of Arab Americans and other persons of Arab heritage. They run an emergency legal hotline and offer assistance to those contacted by the FBI.	adc.org Hotline: 844-ADC-9955 FBI Assistance: 202-244-2990
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)	The <i>ILRC</i> does not provide direct legal services or individual legal consultations. They do offer community resources.	Community Resources: ilrc.org/community-resources
Immigration Advocates Network	<i>Immigration Advocates Network</i> provides a searchable national directory for legal clinics and legal services specific to immigration issues.	Directory: immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory
Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)	<i>LCR</i> provides free legal advice for immigrants facing imminent threats.	lawyersforcivilrights.org Phone: 617-988-0606 Email: hotline@lawyersforcivilrights.org
National Immigration Project	The <i>National Immigration Project</i> litigates, advocates, educates, and builds bridges across movements to ensure that those who are impacted by our immigration and criminal legal systems are uplifted and supported.	Directory: nipnlg.org/work/find-attorney Phone: 617-227-9727 Email: info@nipnlg.org

DIGITAL SECURITY RESOURCES

Access Now	<i>Access Now</i> has a 24/7 digital security helpline; they also offer resources on staying safe online in the context of conflict in Gaza.	accessnow.org 24/7 Helpline: accessnow.org/help Email: help@accessnow.org
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)	<i>EFF</i> offers information about privacy and security settings for iPhone and Android, and publishes printable guides for border search and digital privacy at the US border.	Tool Guides: ssd.eff.org/module-categories/tool-guides
Privacy Guides	<i>Privacy Guides</i> offer a list of tools, including information about browsers, e-mail, VPN's, and cloud storage. They also host a series of helpful videos, a forum, and a section on privacy best practices.	List of Tools: privacyguides.org/en/tools Helpful Videos: privacyguides.org/videos Forum: discuss.privacyguides.net
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (STOP)	<i>STOP</i> litigates and advocates for privacy, working to abolish local governments' systems of mass surveillance. They offer guidance on securing devices and communication, including a toolkit on protest surveillance safety.	Protest Surveillance Toolkit: stopspying.org/protest

If you are concerned about your emails or other documents being subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, please see the CDAF report on the topic aaup.org/sites/default/files/Responding_to_FOI_Requests.pdf.

DOX DEFENSE RESOURCES

Aaron Roussell and Max Parmer Portland State University (PSU)	Aaron and Max from PSU offer specific recommendations for doxing mitigation for academics (2024).	A Guide to Online Safety for Academics: sites.google.com/pdx.edu/aaronroussell/academic-organizing-zine-ongoing
Coalition Against Online Violence	The <i>Coalition Against Online Violence</i> hosts a response hub and offers a few emergency steps to take if you've been doxed.	Emergency Steps to Take: onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/doxxing-emergency-steps-to-take
Digital Defense	<i>Digital Defense</i> offers some guidance on “doxing yourself” to see what sensitive personal information of yours is easily searchable online.	digitaldefense.com Dox Yourself: digitaldefense.noblogs.org/doxx-yourself
Equity Labs	<i>Equity Labs</i> , a startup dedicated to progressive power-building, provides practical tools for activists and a comprehensive anti-doxing guide for activists.	Digital Security: equalitylabs.org/work/digital-security Anti-Doxing Guide: equalitylabs.org/research/publications-resources
Library Freedom Project	<i>The Library Freedom Project</i> offers an anti-doxing in academia toolkit with recommendations on preventive measures and steps to take if you're the target of harassment.	Toolkit: libraryfreedom.org/resources

TRAVEL RESOURCES

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	The <i>ACLU</i> has 54 local offices across the US working with attorneys and activists in their communities to shape better policies and spread awareness about their states' priority civil rights issues.	aclu.org Training Videos: youtube.com/@ACLU
Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR)	<i>CLEAR</i> project's mandate is to support Muslim and all other clients and communities targeted by local, state, or federal government agencies under the guise of national security and counterterrorism.	Know Your Rights While Traveling: cunyclear.org/know-your-rights In English, Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, Urdu and Farsi
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)	<i>EFF</i> , the leading nonprofit defending digital privacy, free speech, and innovation, offers printable resources such as: Protecting the Data On Your Devices, Digital Privacy at the U.S. Border, and the EFF Border Search Pocket Guide.	eff.org/issues/know-your-rights
Dream Big, Act Bigger	<i>Dream Big, Act Bigger</i> is a publication exploring the intersection of personal growth, political truth, and global impact.	Shortcut for vulnerable travelers: mrearthrebirth.substack.com/p/new-tool-the-im-at-customs-shortcut
Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)	LCR's Immigrant Defense Hotline is providing timely and free legal advice for immigrants facing imminent threats related to immigration enforcement.	lawyersforcivilrights.org Immigrant Defense Hotline: 617-988-0606

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS RESOURCES

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	<p>The <i>ACLU</i> works to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in the US by the Constitution and laws. If you believe your civil liberties have been violated, contact your local ACLU affiliate here: aclu.org/affiliates</p>	<p>Protesters Rights: aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights Guidance for Non-Citizens: aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights</p>
The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	<p><i>CAIR</i> is a grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage their participation in political and social activism.</p>	<p>Know Your Rights Guides: cair.com/know_your_rights/download-know-your-rights-guides Travel & Free Speech: cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CAIR-Latest-2025-Travel-and-Speech-Guidance.pdf</p>
The National Immigration Law Center (NILC)	<p>The <i>NILC</i> is one of the leading advocacy organizations in the US dedicated to advancing and defending the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their loved ones.</p>	<p>For Immigrants: nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration For Community Members: nilc.org/resources/immigrant-and-refugee-children-a-guide-for-educators-and-school-support-staff</p>
The National Immigration Project	<p>The <i>National Immigration Project</i> is a membership organization of attorneys, advocates, and community members who are driven by the belief that all people should be treated with dignity, live freely, and flourish.</p>	<p>Community Trainings: nipnlg.org/events/community-trainings Resources for Community Advocates: nipnlg.org/work/resources</p>