# SHOULD I COLLECT AND ARCHIVE THESE VIDEOS?

Video collections can be used in many ways to protect and defend human rights – illuminating patterns, telling fuller stories, or as evidence to strengthen advocacy campaigns or legal efforts for justice. But collecting and archiving videos takes time, persistence, and resources, and can put people at risk. Before you go down that road, ask yourself these questions to make sure it's the right move!

## DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR REASON FOR COLLECTING OR ARCHIVING THESE VIDEOS?

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE**
- Ask yourself key questions from the El Grito/WITNESS Project Planning Workbook.
- Q&A with Berkeley Copwatch is an example of one group's reasons.

## DO YOU HAVE THE RESOURCES (TIME, SKILLS AND TOOLS) NEEDED TO COLLECT, ORGANIZE AND ARCHIVE THESE VIDEOS?

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE**
- WITNESS's Activists Guide to Archiving Video outlines what is involved.
- In case you want to verify a video before collecting, use WITNESS's Verifying Eyewitness Video guide.

## FROM AN ETHICAL STANDPOINT, ARE YOU THE RIGHT PERSON TO COLLECT THESE VIDEOS? (FOR INSTANCE, ARE YOU PART OF THE MOVEMENT OR CONSULTING WITH THOSE INVOLVED?)

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE**
- Consider this Call To Action: Archiving State-Sanctioned Violence Against Black People
- Pause and follow Project STAND's SAVE Methodology

## DO YOU HAVE UP-TO-DATE INFORMED CONSENT FROM THE VIDEO CREATOR(S) TO COLLECT AND ARCHIVE THEIR WORK?
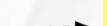
**YES**
Go to next page.

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE**
- Follow the steps in WITNESS's Obtaining Informed Consent tipsheet.

For more resources visit library.witness.org

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**COLLECTING AND ARCHIVING CAN CREATE NEW RISKS FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE VIDEOS (E.G. SAVING A VIDEO THAT SOMEONE DELETED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES OR OTHERS). HAVE YOU TAKEN STEPS TO REDUCE THESE RISKS?**

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE** ⇢

• Assess who could be impacted and the risks with WITNESS's Getting Started with Digital Security post.
• El Grito/WITNESS Project Planning Workbook has a security worksheet and sample assessment.

**DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU WILL CONTROL WHO CAN (AND WHO SHOULDN'T) HAVE ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION?**

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE** ⇢

• Consider impact on individuals filmed, creators, and audiences with WITNESS's Ethical Guidelines on Using Eyewitness Video in Human Rights Reporting and Advocacy
• Be aware that confidentiality agreements do not give archives legal privilege and may not protect you from a subpoena. Learn from The Belfast Case.

**DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR SUSTAINING (OR, IF NEEDED, INTENTIONALLY DESTROYING) THIS COLLECTION IN THE LONG RUN?**

**YES**

**NO**
Go to page 3.

**NOT SURE** ⇢

• WITNESS's Archive! Video gives examples of the long-term value of collections.
• WITNESS's Planning to Preserve Video for Human Rights video explains what you need to plan.
• Use The Blackivists' Five Tips on Donating Your Materials if working with archival institutions.

▶ **ARCHIVE!**

Visit archiving.witness.org for tips on how to get started.

For more resources visit library.witness.org

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☐ Identify why you are archiving these videos and for whom. This will help inform your decisions going forward.

☐ Build trust with movements. Consider supporting existing community-led initiatives and/or archiving in collaboration with others (e.g. community archives, peer groups or trusted institutions) to share time and labor, skills, and resources.

☐ Getting clear and voluntary consent is a key ethical and legal obligation. If you feel it's important to collect in situations where it is not possible to obtain consent, carefully consider how to reduce harm and protect individuals' safety, security, and dignity.

☐ Circumstances change or pople may change their minds. Have a plan for **obtaining ongoing or up-to-date consent,** and/or a mechanism for people to request removal of their materials from your collection.

☐ Consider who can be impacted and the seriousness of the risks (e.g. legal exposure, possessing incriminating evidence), and whether you can mitigate them. If you're likely to cause harms that you cannot address, do not proceed.

☐ Put appropriate access controls in place, and familiarize yourself with up-to-date methods and tools to restrict content (e.g. editing/redacting, scrubbing metadata, blurring faces, etc.)
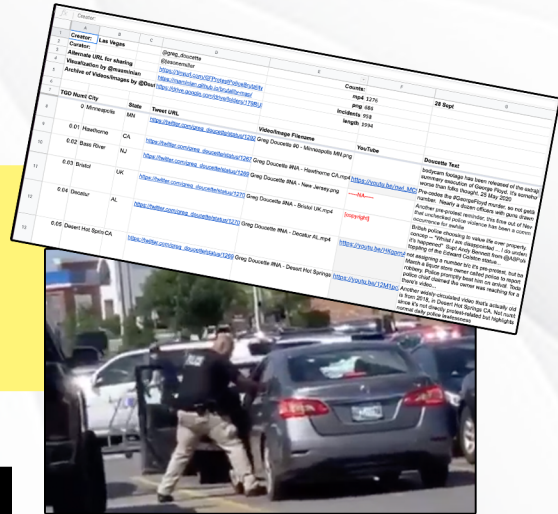
☐ If your collection has long-term informational, cultural, historical, or legal value, devise a plan, which could involve collaborating with other organizations, to preserve the collection. Also consider whether the records should or need to be destroyed.

For more resources visit
library.witness.org

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# COLLECTION EXAMPLES

## GREG DOUCETTE

A lawyer named T. Greg Doucette has collected hundreds of videos of police brutality, mainly crowd-sourced from Twitter, to serve as a resource for advocates and activists and to promote changes to policy and discourse around police misconduct.
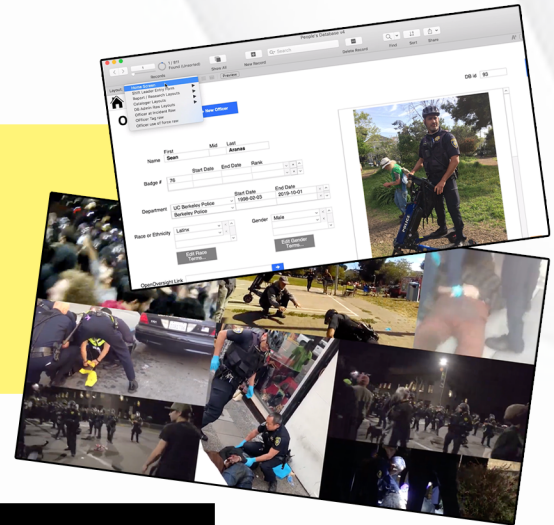
## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International collected 500 videos documenting 125 incidents of police violence in 40 states and the District of Columbia committed by federal agencies, state and local police departments, and National Guard soldiers between May 26 and June 5, 2020.

## BERKELEY COPWATCH

Berkeley Copwatch maintains a People's Database for Community-Based Police Accountability that documents daily abuses by police, such as illegal searches, racial profiling, and harassment. It serves as an internal resource for the group, and is used for organizing purposes and shared with trusted sources and community members.

## TEXAS AFTER VIOLENCE PROJECT

Texas After Violence Project records, shares, and archives interviews and other materials in the aftermath of state-sanctioned violence, including police killings, incarceration, and the death penalty. Because they work carefully and in close partnership with their interviewees, who are often moving through their own trauma, it can sometimes take months or even years to archive and publish archival materials.

For more resources visit library.witness.org

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