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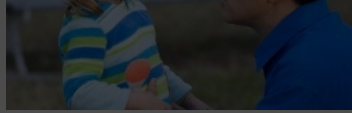
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Privacy Is Not Dead – Here’s Why It’s an Important Social Justice Issue

April 16, 2017 by [Robot Hugs](#)

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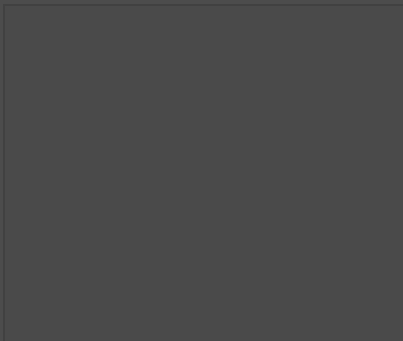
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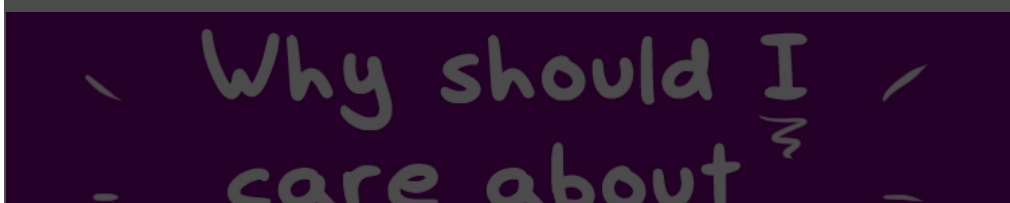
Photos of everything from breakfasts to nude bodies can be found on social media these days – so do you believe the idea that privacy is dead?

This comic will help you take the crucial step of putting the real meaning of privacy in perspective. Not only is privacy not dead, but privacy rights are more important than ever – and often misunderstood.



So find out what privacy means to marginalized people, why it’s a social justice issue, and what you can do to help your community have a healthier concept of privacy.

With Love,
The Editors at Everyday Feminism



privacy?



Have you seen what people put on social media these days? Nude pictures, what they eat for breakfast every day, posts about their periods... privacy is dead!

Not only is privacy NOT dead, but it's more important than ever!



And it's an important social justice issue!

A lot of people think privacy means 'keeping certain things to yourself'.



These are usually what we consider very personal things like details about our sex, certain body parts, and medical conditions.

One of the problems with thinking that specific things should be private is that it consequences people who deviate from those norms...

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I'll pick you up at your place!

No, how about we meet downtown?

I just think it's hypocritical to make blog posts about having threesomes, but then suddenly clam up anytime someone asks where you live

Actual message from a dating website.

There's also a sense privacy is an earned thing — that you have it, or you don't, or that you don't deserve it!

Which leads to saying things like...

I don't see how someone who has done as much nude modelling as her can get all bent out of shape when a sex tape gets released!

Translation: She violated a common privacy norm by making her naked body public, so she doesn't have any right to complain when someone else makes it public without her consent.

A better way of thinking about privacy is that it is really about...

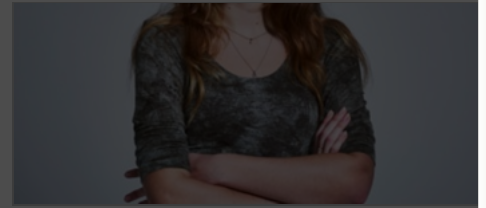
consent and autonomy.

Privacy is the ability to control what you share with other people, for whatever reason.

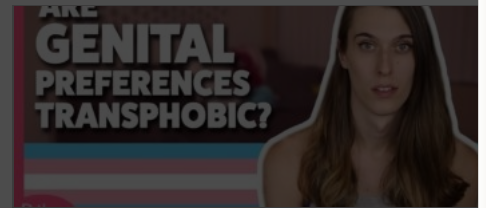
This is easy to demonstrate when you contrast what sharing feels ok versus what feels invasive:



5 Ways We Ignore Children's Agency That Perpetuate Rape Culture



6 Signs That You Might Not Really Respect Your Transgender Loved One



Can Having Genital Preferences for Dating Mean You're Anti-Trans?



Outdoor Recreation Isn't Free - Why We Need to Stop Pretending It Is

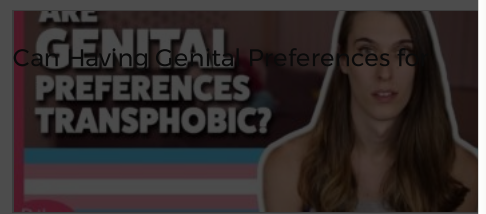
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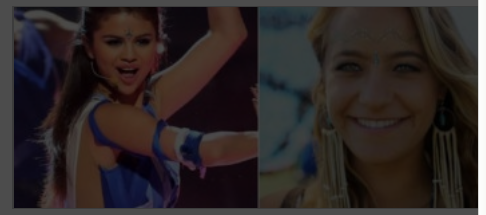
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Dating Mean You're Anti-Trans?



Here Are 5 Cultural Appropriating Outfits It's Time to Retire for Good



10 Types of Misogynist Men We All Need to Know About - And Then Call Out!

Having a well-known address is pretty normal in my community, but for me it is a very private matter.





A few people know where I live, but if they ever shared that location with someone else, I'd feel pretty violated.



Neither approach is wrong or unreasonable!

Ok, but why is this a social justice issue?

People from oppressed populations often have less privacy!



People, communities, and governments are more intrusive into the details of the lives of marginalized populations...

The genitals of trans people are often considered public knowledge...



So, have you had the 'surgery' yet? What bathroom are you allowed to use?

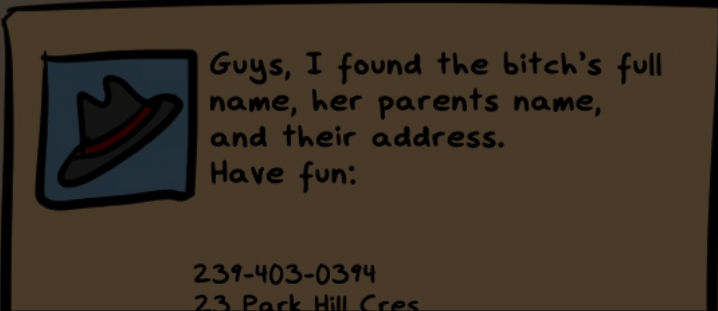
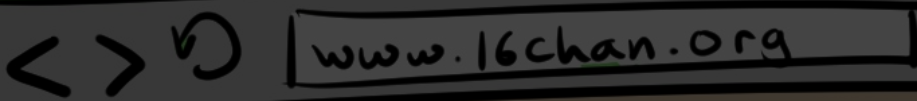
Racist policing places increased state scrutiny on the bodies and lives of people of colour...

I'm going to need you to step out of the car and put both hands on the hood.





Women and femmetypes who violate social norms, who are outspoken, or who are otherwise non compliant are often punished by having their private details published...



Disabled folks get asked intrusive questions about every aspect of their bodies...




This is really concerning when you look at government surveillance into private lives, which targets minorities and then uses that information against them...

“Predictive data mining discriminates by design, designating certain groups as threats relative to others.

Thus, persons with Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds will disproportionately bear the burden of this surveillance technique and the innumerable mistakes it produces.”

- Keith Guzik, Discrimination by Design



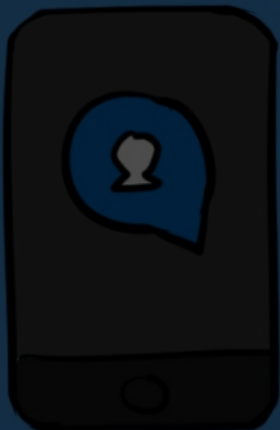
So, I'm basically the most normative guy in the world. The fact that I don't worry about privacy very much could be an expression of privilege — my identities don't make me vulnerable to social or institutional risk.

That's right!

Even if you don't think that privacy and surveillance affect you personally, they may be much more important to the safety and autonomy of your loved ones!

You can be a good ally by engaging with some basic privacy and information security activism.

Try these easy things!



Use secure messaging tools like Signal. This helps to normalize people exercising their right to keep their messages private.

Use a password manager like lastpass, and enable two-factor authentication on your accounts where possible. This makes it much harder to access your information, which helps to protect you and your friends from information leaks and doxxing.



Speak up when people suggest that certain people can't expect privacy because of their identities or actions. Push back against equating the right to privacy with moral purity.

I don't see how those have anything to do with each other.



Just because she's a porn actress doesn't mean she is public property.

Treat information sharing the same way you treat consent! Ask first before sharing someone else's information, and avoid sharing information that could non-consensually 'out' queer and trans people.



Hey, my friend thinks you are pretty cool and wanted to know if she could get in touch. Can I share you email address with her?

There's a lot of complicated conversations about privacy and information security, but the first steps are easy:

DOXXING

SNOWDEN

SURVEILL



Don't share information you don't own without permission.

Fight back against intrusive systems that gather information.

Speak out against normalizing privacy violations as punishment.

PGP

XOR

CRYPTO

2FA

You're right, privacy isn't dead!



an **everyday feminism** comic

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www.robot-hugs.com

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To learn more, check out:

- [3 Reasons Why Internet Harassment Is Not 'Freedom of Speech'](#)
- [3 Ways to Cope with Body Hate Bullsh*t on the Internet](#)

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to share here - thanks!*

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K is a Contributing Comic Artist at Everyday Feminism. K is a Canadian, non-binary, genderqueer, peoplequeer, mentally ill, critical feminist robot. They have a background in linguistics, information, privacy, and categorization, and human-centric design. They are the artist and writer for [Robot Hugs](#), a twice-weekly webcomic about (among other things) gender, identity, feminism, mental health, and cats. In their spare time, they provide peer education and workshops on negotiation, consent, and identity. In their spare-spare time, their hobbies include worrying about things they can't control and knitting. Check out their comics [here](#)

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HI THERE
EVERYONE!

I'M
WHITE!!





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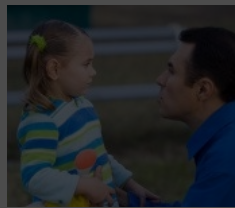
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