

## CAIDP Update 7.12

*March 31, 2025*

Welcome to CAIDP Update!

EU lawmakers are pushing back against attempts to weaken the AI Act's mandatory provisions while the US Senate has confirmed Michael Kratsios to lead the White House science office. China has unveiled new data protection regulations with penalties for serious violations, and Switzerland has joined 40 other nations in signing the Council of Europe's AI Treaty.

UK parliamentary report finds government AI initiatives hampered by outdated technology and widespread skills shortages. State attorneys general across the US have issued urgent warnings to 23andMe customers following the company's bankruptcy, urging them to protect their genetic data. Meanwhile, Kenya has stepped forward with its first national AI Strategy through 2030.

Registration is open for CAIDP's April 3rd AI and Democratic Values Roundtable, where we'll present the latest AI and Democratic Values Index and honor this year's AI Policy Leader Awards recipients. We continue our advocacy by submitting child protection recommendations to Congress, urging Uruguay to join the CoE AI Treaty, and accepting applications for our Fall 2025 AI Policy Clinics.



**CAIDP AI Policy Leader  
Award Recipients**

**2025**

Dr. Saffya Noble, UCLA  
Author, *Algorithmic Oppression*

Miya Wiley  
President, Leadership  
Conference for Civil Rights

Amandeep Singh Gill  
United Nations Under-  
Secretary General

Dr. Sasha Licciard  
Scientist, Hugging Face

April 3, 2025 | Washington D.C. & Online



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & DEMOCRATIC VALUES**

**SPECIAL REMARKS**  
*"Advancing AI guardrails in the United States"*

**Sen. Richard Blumenthal**  
United States Senator for  
Connecticut

April 3, 2025 | Washington D.C. & Online



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & DEMOCRATIC VALUES**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
*"AI Alignment, Human Values, AI Risk, and Global Governance"*

**Stuart Russell**  
Distinguished Professor of  
Computer Science, UC  
Berkeley

April 3, 2025 | Washington D.C. & Online



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & DEMOCRATIC VALUES**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
*"Musk, DOGE, and AI: The Next Steps"*

**Skye Perryman**  
President and CEO  
Democracy Forward

April 3, 2025 | Washington D.C. & Online

## EU Lawmakers Fight to Preserve Strict AI Rules Amid Pressure to Soften Regulations



European lawmakers are fighting back against what they describe as "dangerous" efforts to weaken the European Union's landmark AI Act, as powerful technology companies push for less restrictive oversight.

Following "intense lobbying," the European Commission is considering making key sections of the EU's AI Act optional rather than mandatory, according to the Financial Times. At issue is the draft "code of practice" that would guide implementation of rules for powerful AI systems.

This potential change would allow major tech companies like OpenAI and Google to avoid requirements designed to prevent harmful content and election manipulation from their powerful AI models. The provisions were originally intended to establish safeguards for these advanced systems.

"It is dangerous, undemocratic and creates legal uncertainty to fully reinterpret and narrow down a legal text that co-legislators agreed on, through a Code of Practice," wrote a coalition of EU lawmakers in a letter to the Commission's digital chief Henna Virkkunen. The signatories include most MEPs who negotiated the AI Act and former Spanish minister Carme Artigas, who led negotiations for EU member states.

"If providers of the most impactful general-purpose AI models were to adopt more extreme political positions, implement policies that undermine model reliability, facilitate foreign interference or election manipulation, contribute to discrimination, restrict the freedom of information or disseminate illegal content, the consequences could deeply disrupt Europe's economy and democracy," the lawmakers added.

CAIDP has added its voice to these concerns, stating: "We express significant concerns with the 3rd Draft Code, as the requirements move further away from the spirit of the EU AI Act, transparency and protection of fundamental rights." The Center is "deeply concerned that the latest Draft Code downgrades the assessment of risks to fundamental rights - including discrimination, privacy violations, and threats to democratic processes - to 'optional'."

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## US Unveils New AI Initiatives and Leadership Changes



The US government announced several AI developments in late March, including new leadership appointments and technical standards frameworks.

On March 24, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) published guidance on "Adversarial Machine Learning," providing frameworks for identifying and managing security vulnerabilities in AI systems. The report includes taxonomies of attacks against both predictive and generative AI, which NIST plans to update annually.

The Senate confirmed Michael Kratsios as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in a bipartisan 74-25 vote. Kratsios, who previously served as chief technology officer during the first Trump administration, will oversee the development of the administration's [AI action plan](#) expected this summer.

In a March 26 letter to Kratsios, President Trump [outlined](#) three priorities: securing US leadership in critical technologies like AI, strengthening America's science and technology enterprise, and ensuring scientific progress fuels economic growth.

NIST also announced its "[AI Standards Zero Drafts](#)" project, designed to expedite standards development while broadening stakeholder participation. The initiative will create preliminary drafts on topics including AI system documentation, testing methods, terminology mapping, and measures to address risks from synthetic content.

NIST is soliciting public input on these standards through email at [ai-standards@nist.gov](mailto:ai-standards@nist.gov).

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## China Expands Data Protection and Cybersecurity Regulations

China announced two major regulatory initiatives on March 28, 2025, targeting personal data protection and cybersecurity enforcement.



The Central Internet Information Office, alongside several ministries, outlined a series of [special actions](#) focusing on personal information protection. The initiative targets six key areas including mobile applications, software development kits, smart terminals, facial recognition systems, offline consumer scenarios, and criminal cases involving personal data.

In a separate announcement made the same day, authorities released [draft amendments](#) to China's Cybersecurity Law for public comment. The proposed changes would significantly increase penalties for violations, with potential fines reaching 2 million yuan (\$278,000) for data breaches and up to 10 million yuan (\$1.39 million) for critical infrastructure operators that cause "particularly serious harm to network security."

The amendments introduce a graduated penalty system based on violation severity and consequences. They also create stronger legal obligations for service providers to monitor and remove prohibited content, with potential business suspensions or shutdowns for non-compliance.

These regulatory developments come amid China's broader efforts to strengthen its data governance framework. According to the announcement, the draft amendments aim to coordinate with other laws including the Data Security Law and Personal Information Protection Law enacted in 2021.

The [public comment period](#) for the cybersecurity amendments remains open until April 27, 2025.

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## Switzerland Signs Council of Europe's Landmark AI Treaty

Switzerland has become the latest country to sign the Council of Europe's AI Treaty, officials announced on March 27.



The agreement, the first legally binding international instrument on AI, has now garnered endorsements from 41 countries, including individual member states of the European Union.

CAIDP has initiated a campaign encouraging countries worldwide to not only sign but also formally ratify the treaty, which would make its provisions legally enforceable within their jurisdictions.

## UK Government's AI Ambitions Hindered by Legacy Tech and Skills Gap

A recent parliamentary report warns that the UK government faces significant hurdles in its adoption of AI despite high ambitions to transform public services. The Committee of Public Accounts found that outdated legacy technology and poor data quality are putting AI initiatives at serious risk.



The Committee found that legacy technology, defined as systems that are "end-of-life, out of support, impossible to update, no longer cost-effective, or above acceptable risk thresholds," poses a significant barrier to AI implementation.

The report highlights that 21 of the 72 highest-risk legacy systems across government still lack necessary funding for remediation. Meanwhile, public trust remains a concern, with only 33 records published on the government's transparency website for algorithm-assisted decision making.

"AI relies on high quality data to learn, but too often government data is of poor quality and locked away in out-of-date legacy IT systems," the report states.

Digital skills shortages compound these challenges, with 70% of government bodies reporting difficulties recruiting and retaining staff with AI expertise. In 2024, approximately half of digital roles advertised in civil service campaigns went unfilled.

While numerous departments are conducting AI pilots, the committee found no systematic mechanism for sharing lessons learned, risking duplication of efforts and missed opportunities for scaling successful initiatives.

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## Multiple State Attorneys General Issue Warnings After 23andMe Bankruptcy Filing

Several state attorneys general have issued consumer alerts urging 23andMe customers to delete their genetic data following the company's bankruptcy filing.



New York Attorney General [Letitia James](#), Alabama Attorney General [Steve Marshall](#), and District of Columbia Attorney General [Brian Schwalb](#) all released similar warnings last week among others. "New Yorkers' genetic data is sensitive information that must be protected at all costs," Attorney General James stated.

The direct-to-consumer genetic testing company, which analyzes individuals' DNA for ancestry and health information, has accumulated data from approximately 15 million customers. Privacy experts worry this valuable genetic information could be considered an asset to be sold during bankruptcy.

Attorney General Marshall noted his office has been monitoring 23andMe since a 2023 data breach that exposed personal information of nearly seven million Americans. "Deleting your account may be the safest way to ensure sensitive information isn't obtained by those looking to do harm," he warned.

All three attorneys general provided step-by-step instructions for customers to delete their accounts, remove genetic data, destroy stored DNA samples, and withdraw consent for research use of their information.

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### Kenya Launches National AI Strategy

Kenya has [unveiled](#) its first five-year AI Strategy (2025-2030) at an event in Nairobi on March 27. The document outlines the country's approach to AI development and regulation through 2030.



The 88-page strategy document identifies seven priority areas: digital infrastructure, data governance, research and development, talent development, governance frameworks, investments, and ethics and inclusion.

According to [the strategy](#), Kenya aims to establish three AI-capable data centers within five years and create a national semiconductor manufacturing facility, though specific funding commitments for these projects weren't detailed in the announcement.

Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo Gitau described the strategy as aligned with the country's National Digital Masterplan and economic agenda, stating that Kenya would be "architects of our digital destiny" rather than "spectator" in AI development.

While the strategy envisions Kenya becoming "a regional leader in AI R&D, innovation and commercialization," it acknowledges significant challenges, including limited AI skills, regulatory gaps, data quality issues, and infrastructure constraints.

The collage consists of 24 individual photographs arranged in a 4x6 grid. The photos show a variety of activities related to the Center for AI and Digital Policy, including:

- Staff members in a library or office setting with bookshelves.
- Presentations and seminars, such as one titled "Privacy and AI" and another "AI Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence".
- Group photos of staff and partners at various events.
- Individual staff members in professional attire.
- Events like "Tech 4 Rights Summit" and "World Governments Summit".
- Staff members interacting with the public or other professionals.
- Stage presentations and panel discussions.

## Your contribution will

Advance the development of AI & Democratic Values Index Report, a vital resource for understanding AI's global impact in 80 countries.

Drive the implementation of key AI governance frameworks including CoE AI Treaty and EU AI Act

## CAIDP ACTIONS



**SAVE THE  
DATE**



## **AI & Democratic Values**

**April 3, 2025  
Washington D.C. & Online**

### **Registration Opens for CAIDP AI and Democratic Values Roundtable**

CAIDP will host its annual AI and Democratic Values Roundtable on April 3, 2025, bringing together leading experts to address critical challenges at the intersection of AI and democratic values. The event will take place in Washington, D.C. with online participation options.

The day-long program features keynote speakers including Stuart Russell, Professor of Computer Science at UC Berkeley, who will address "AI Alignment, Human Values, AI Risk, and Global Governance," and Skye Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward, presenting "Musk, DOGE, and AI: The Next Steps."

CAIDP President Merve Hickok will open the event with remarks on "AI and Democratic Values: The Challenges Ahead," followed by the presentation of the 2025 AI and Democratic Values Index, a comprehensive assessment of national AI policies worldwide.

A highlight of the event will be the presentation of the 2025 CAIDP AI Policy Leader Awards to this year's recipients:

- Dr. Safiya Noble, UCLA, author of "Algorithms of Oppression"
- Maya Wiley, President of the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights
- Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Under-Secretary-General
- Dr. Sasha Luccioni, Scientist at Hugging Face

Registration is open [here](#). For more information, visit our [website](#).

Please note that we've reached maximum capacity for in-person attendance, so only online attendance is possible now.

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### **CAIDP Urges Congress to Act on AI Harms to Children**

CAIDP submitted a [statement](#) to the House Energy and Commerce Committee for its hearing on "The World Wild Web:

Examining Harms Online."

The statement details how nearly half of American teens report being "online almost constantly," with approximately 60% using platforms like TikTok and Instagram. We emphasized that AI systems are being aggressively deployed in children-facing applications without adequate safeguards, creating significant risks.



"Children today navigate a digital environment that is not designed for their privacy, safety, health, or development," the statement notes, pointing to the alarming rise of AI-generated deepfake pornography targeting minors and "nudification" apps that saw advertising links increase by 2,400% on social media platforms in 2023 alone.

Our recommendations to Congress include:

- Passing the Americans Privacy Rights Act, COPPA 2.0, and the Kids Online Safety Act
- Moving forward legislation specifically addressing AI-enabled harms
- Requiring AI developers to disclose data sources and undergo third-party audits
- Banning the use of scraped personal data for training AI models
- Establishing liability frameworks for companies that create or host harmful AI systems

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### CAIDP Calls on Uruguay to Sign and Ratify Council of Europe AI Treaty

CAIDP has formally urged Uruguay to join more than 40 nations that have already endorsed the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI, the world's first legally binding international agreement on AI governance.



In the statement, we highlighted Uruguay's position as a Latin American leader in digital government, noting that the country already demonstrates strong alignment with the Treaty's foundational principles. Uruguay's National AI Strategy 2024-2030 establishes ten principles that include respect for human dignity and human rights, providing a natural foundation for Treaty participation.

"By endorsing the Council of Europe's AI Treaty, Uruguay would reinforce its status as a forward-thinking nation in AI development and regulation, setting an example for other countries in Latin America," the statement notes. Having participated as an Observer State in the Treaty negotiations, Uruguay is well-positioned to take this important next step.

In the next edition of CAIDP's Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values Index, we will report positively on countries that have endorsed the Treaty, reflecting our ongoing commitment to promoting responsible AI governance worldwide.

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# APPLICATIONS OPEN! AI POLICY CLINIC FALL 2025

Application deadline: 15 June 2025

Learn more and apply:

<https://www.caidp.org/global-academic-network/ai-policy-clinic/>

Enhance your AI policy research, analysis, writing, and presentation skills



## CAIDP Opens Application for Fall 2025 AI Policy Clinic

Applications are now open for the Fall 2025 CAIDP AI Policy Clinics. These intensive, interdisciplinary courses are designed to train future leaders in AI policy with no tuition or registration fees required. The application deadline is June 15, 2025.

The Introductory Course develops skills in AI policy analysis, collaborative research, identifying policy opportunities, and assessing AI policy instruments. Participants who complete the requirements earn the AI Policy Certificate.

An Advanced course is available for certificate holders, focusing on leadership skills and coordinating research teams. Graduates of both programs may join the CAIDP AI Policy Group, which addresses cutting-edge policy issues.

Please note that the application process is highly competitive. We received more than 1,200 applications for the Fall 2024 cohort and accepted about 300 participants. We strongly encourage applications from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the MENA region.

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## CAIDP AI POLICY EVENTS

- Regulating the Digital Space - Challenges in a Changing World Order, Digital Humanism, TU Wien with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), April 1, 2025
- Think7 (T7) with Sedef Akinli Kocak (CAIDP), Canada, Apr 1-3, 2025
- COE CDDH Drafting Group on AI advances on Handbook on Human Rights and AI 4th meeting, Strasbourg, Apr 1-3, 2025
- European Institute of Public Administration, Anti-Corruption in Public Procurement: Digital Solutions with Merve Hickok (CAIDP), Dirk Brand (CAIDP), Online & Maastricht, Online & Maastricht, Apr 2-3, 2025
- Release of CAIDP AI and Democratic Values Index 2025, Washington, DC, April 3, 2025
- Architectures of the Global. Global Legal Education with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Madrid, April 9-10, 2025
- AI Governance, The Path Forward with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Nathalie

Smuha (KU Leuven), John Shattuck (Tufts Fletcher School), and others, American Society of International Law annual conference, Washington DC, April 17, 2025

- OECD Expert Group on AI and Public Procurement meeting with Merve Hickok (CAIDP), Apr 18, 2025
- American Society of International Law, Traditions and Transitions in International Law with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Washington DC, Apr 22, 2025
- Tech for Climate Action with Christabel Randolph (CAIDP), AI & Energy Conference, Washington DC, May 21-22, 2025
- Computers, Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP); The World is Watching, May 22-24, 2025
- Digital Humanism Conference, with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Vienna, May 27, 2025
- AI, Data, Analytics Network with Merve Hickok (CAIDP), Responsible AI Summit 2025, Washington DC, Jun 17-18, 2025

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