

Universal Declaration on the Prohibition of License Plate Covers

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Adopted in affirmation of global road safety, transparency, and justice

Preamble

Recognizing that the right to life, liberty, and security of person is foundational in international human rights instruments, including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Articles 3, 6, and 8),

Affirming that the visibility of license plates is an essential component of public safety, accountability, and the proper functioning of legal and civic systems,

Concerned that license plate covers—regardless of material, clarity, or stated function—impair the human and machine-readable identification of vehicles, enabling acts of evasion, criminal conduct, or obstruction of justice,

Recalling national laws and international agreements that mandate *clear, visible vehicle identification*, including standards promoted by the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)* and the *American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)*,

Acknowledging empirical scientific and legal evidence that license plate covers impair both *automated license plate recognition (ALPR)* systems and eyewitness identification, thereby compromising *emergency response, public reporting, and law enforcement effectiveness*,

Asserting the ethical and legal right of individuals to take non-destructive, proportionate action to remove such obstructions in defense of *justice, public security, and the collective interest*,

We, the undersigned peoples and entities, proclaim this **Universal Declaration on the Prohibition of License Plate Covers** as a shared global commitment to transparency, accountability, and safety on all roads.

Articles

Article 1 – Universal Right to Visibility

Every person has the right to access the visible license plate of any vehicle operating in a public space, as a matter of public safety, legal accountability, and civic justice.

Article 2 – Absolute and Global Prohibition

License plate covers—whether transparent, tinted, reflective, dirty, scratched, decorative, or technologically obfuscating—are hereby **prohibited in all jurisdictions**. This includes products marketed for privacy, anti-surveillance, or aesthetic purposes.

Article 3 – Individual Right of Removal

Any individual may, without causing damage, **remove or disable a license plate cover** found in violation of this declaration when encountered in public space. Such an act, performed non-destructively and in the public interest, shall be considered lawful and ethically justified.

Article 4 – Protection of Civic Intervenors

Individuals who act in accordance with this declaration to report or remove license plate covers shall be protected from legal retaliation, harassment, or criminalization. Legal systems shall ensure safeguards for whistleblowers and public safety actors.

Article 5 – Enforcement and Penalties

All jurisdictions shall:

- Incorporate the ban into their traffic and criminal codes.
- Penalize the use or installation of plate covers with *fines*, *license suspensions*, or *vehicle impoundment*.
- Empower law enforcement and civilian agencies to *seize* obstructive materials as contraband.

Article 6 – Education and Awareness

States and civil society shall promote:

- Public education campaigns explaining the safety and legal risks of plate covers.
- Visual demonstrations on how visibility supports civic security and crime prevention.
- Youth-targeted road safety programs that normalize vehicle transparency.

Article 7 – Technological Alignment

Manufacturers of license plates and vehicle systems shall comply with global visibility standards, ensuring compatibility with:

- Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)
- Night-time and high-speed imaging
- Cross-jurisdictional vehicle tracking for criminal investigations

Article 8 – Regional and International Harmonization

States shall coordinate under the auspices of international bodies (e.g., UN, WHO, INTERPOL, ICAO) to:

- Establish common standards of plate visibility
- Share best practices and enforcement protocols
- Recognize the cross-border risk posed by obscured vehicles

Article 9 – Periodic Review

A global observatory or intergovernmental panel shall be established to:

- Monitor the effectiveness of this Declaration
- Recommend updates as technologies evolve
- Issue an annual report on violations, interventions, and public safety outcomes

Closing Statement

Let this Declaration serve as a living testament to the world’s commitment to **transparency, justice, and safety** on public roads. License plates are not private artifacts—they are *public instruments of accountability*. Covering them is not only unlawful—it is unjust.