

# SAFE MESSAGING APPS

Messaging applications are crucial for our activism as young feminists and environmental land defenders. Knowing the characteristics of some of these applications allows us to **make informed decisions** about the opportunities and risks of the communication channels we use.



FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund  
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# THESE ARE SOME ASPECTS THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A MESSAGING APPLICATION:

Some messaging or social media applications sell our information to companies or to the State.

**This is a risk when we are working on human rights and environmental defense.**

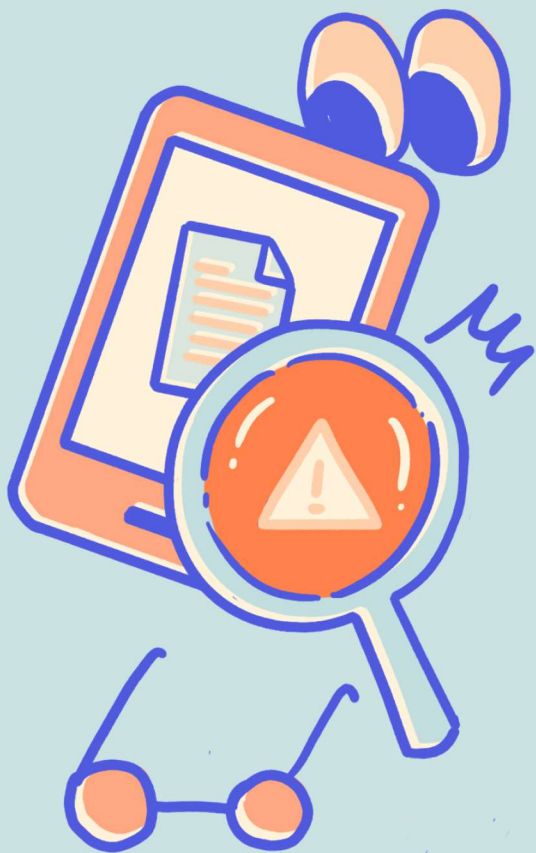
Messaging applications request access to different areas of our device. **Give these**

**applications access only to the spaces they really need to function.**

**Ask other organizations, groups or colectives**

about the messaging applications they use, and whether they consider them safe for the work they do.





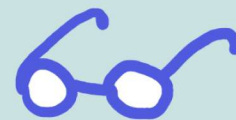
Find out if these applications are **open source**, which means they can be studied or audited **to know what they do with our data.**







Research the application's privacy terms, **and what they do with the data they collect from their users.**

**Choose messaging applications that allow end-to-end encryption**, meaning that your messages can only be read by the person sending and the person receiving them.

**Look for applications that have two-step verification.** You will receive an extra code to access the application. This prevents other people from entering and looking at your conversations.

# HERE WE GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOST USED MESSAGING APPLICATIONS:



Características Importantes	 WhatsApp	 Telegram	 Signal	 Facebook Messenger	 Instagram	 Wire	 Allo
End-to-end encryption	✓	Secret chat	✓	Secret chat	✗	✓	✗
Two-step verification (2PV)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Message self-destruction	✗	Secret chat	✓	Secret chat	✗	✓	✗
You can report and delete unwanted contacts or groups	✓	Yes and you can also report stickers	Only blocking	✓	✓	✗	✗
Block screen capture	✗	Secret chat	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Block the forwarding of messages	✗	Secret chat	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Open source	✗	More or less	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Involved in giving user data to intelligence agencies*	✓	✓	✗	✓	We don't know, but remember that Facebook owns it	✗	✓

\*Data taken from Secure Messaging Apps Comparison<sup>1</sup>, last updated in 2018.



## IMPORTANT!

No messaging application will be 100% secure, but if we take some digital care measures we can feel safer and more confident.

## LAST MESSAGE:

In this time of pandemic, much of our lives and activism take place on digital platforms. FRIDA |The Young Feminist Fund knows the importance of having safe spaces to organize ourselves as young feminists, and for this reason we decided to bring out a series of contents focused on digital care practices and tools. The content of this infographic is based on the information developed by organizations that work in digital rights and by hackfeminist collectives. We thank all of them for their efforts to make the internet and technologies safe spaces that help us to continue conspiring together.



### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Secure Messaging Apps "Secure Messaging Apps Comparison" <https://www.securemessagingapps.com/about/>
- Acoso.Online "¿Cómo expandimos nuestra sexualidad en tiempos de pandemia?" <https://www.instagram.com/p/CBg8nZTJLw5/?igshid=sgatocf4jjku>
- Social Tic "Apps de mensajería segura" <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Rc3VMJXVrQlaOYTUFoDCF8BZzzCE5v9IzRiYvMzt5nA/edit?usp=sharing>
- Ciberseguras <https://ciberseguras.org>
- Front Line Defenders "Guide to Secure Group Chat and Conferencing Tools" <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/guide-secure-group-chat-and-conferencing-tools>
- Security in a Box <https://securityinbox.org>

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