Acknowledgement

Much as any other intellectual product, *Watching as a Way of Life* is a culmination of collective labour and support. Given that the dictionary is an attempt at communication with critical discourses on the surveillance regime, it fundamentally owes to the scholars and activists who have invested labour and time in theorising and teaching surveillance. The taxonomy presented in the dictionary owes all its essence to the ecosystem of intellectual thought that pre-dates it.

Essential to this project is the consistent encouragement of NALSAR University of Law, specifically Professor Srikrishna Deva Rao (Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad) and Professor Nimushakavi Vasanthi (Registrar & Professor of Law, NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad) in ensuring that the work done by The Square Circle Clinic is uninterrupted.

Extensive gratitude is reserved for the unwavering trust and confidence that was shown by Professor Anup Surendranath (Co-Founder & Executive Director, The Square Circle Clinic) in the potential of this project at its most pre-mature stage. His mentorship is central to the development of the project and in ensuring that the dictionary reached its culmination despite any and all hindrances. Immense thanks to Maitreyi Misra (Co-Founder & Director, Research, The Square Circle Clinic) for her invested supervision. Without her laborious review and guidance, the dictionary could not have demonstrated the substantive depth and methodological robustness that it is obligated towards.

A big thank you to Nishant Shah (Professor of Global Media & Culture, Chinese University of Hong Kong) for their valuable insights on the project.

The dictionary is indebted to colleagues at The Square Circle Clinic who became an audience to each articulation of each term. Their feedback both as readers and as professionals with diverse intellectual competencies charged the rigour of the project. A special thanks to the Administration and Finance team at The Square Circle Clinic for their continued support in the logistical requirements underlying the production of the dictionary.

Finally and most importantly, the project is dedicated to people and communities who confront the disciplinary powers of the state across multiple roles and at multiple sites, and who resist the dangers that accompany watching as a way of life.



Saniya Rizwan
October, 2026