

GUIDELINES FOR DEMONSTRATORS

Heckling and verbal abuse should be ignored. Do not rise to the opponent's bait. Responding to heckling or abuse legitimizes it, if only in the eyes of the heckler.

If confrontation with an opponent goes beyond heckling to physical assault (shoving, spitting on you, grabbing your sign, etc.) avoid making a violent response. It helps if you have friends standing with you. Isolated, you are more vulnerable. Do not allow yourself to be separated from fellow demonstrators in your group. Don't allow yourself to be lured or herded into blind alleys or other traps. If possible, avoid confrontation.

If stopped by the police: Be polite and respectful. Do not provoke them. Stay calm and in control of your words, body language, and emotions. Do not argue with police. *Keep your hands where police can see them.* If stopped, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RUN AWAY. DO NOT TOUCH POLICE OFFICERS, THEIR CARS OR EQUIPMENT. *Do not resist*, even if you think you are innocent of wrongdoing. You may ask, "Am I under arrest?"

If you are arrested, do not make statements about the incident. You may be being audio-recorded or filmed by police body-cameras. Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest. Remember the arresting officer's badge and patrol card numbers. If injured by the police, take photographs of the injuries as soon as possible, and make sure to seek medical attention—both for treatment, and to log-in an official record that the injury occurred. If you feel your rights have been violated, contact a lawyer, and as soon as possible write up an accurate narrative of what happened, with dates, names of parties and witnesses, who said what and who did what. Subsequently, such an account can be very useful.

In the event of a police charge to remove demonstrators from an area, or the deployment of tear gas, pepper spray, or other means of crowd control, do not panic, but make an orderly and judicious retreat. DO NOT THROW GAS CANISTERS, BOTTLES, OR OTHER PROJECTILES BACK AT THE POLICE, WHO MIGHT BE SEEKING A PROVOCATION OR REASON FOR FURTHER AGGRESSIVE ACTION. It would be wise to designate in advance at least one person in your group whose job will be to take pictures if the police *do* perform aggressive actions.

Look out for the welfare of your fellow demonstrators. Guard your flank and watch your own and your friends' backs. Be prepared to be a witness if something negative goes down (and immediately write an accurate record of what happened.)

There is strength in numbers, so hang together. DO NOT LET YOURSELF BECOME ISOLATED FROM THE GROUP. Be aware of your total environment at all times.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFILTRATORS AND AGENTS PROVOCATEUR AMONG THE DEMONSTRATORS WHO URGE VIOLENCE, PROPERTY DAMAGE, LOOTING, UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION. If not merely thrill-seekers or criminals, they may well be tools of the opposition or of the police by which the opposition tries to discredit the legitimate demonstrators and precipitate a police response. Demonstrators must establish *in advance of the demonstration* sets of protocols and procedures for handling and neutralizing provocateurs.

Observe the group discipline that has been established for the event. If the demonstration occurs in public space and on public property, avoid what could be conceived as trespass onto private property (which could serve as a provocation for a police response). *Make sure your entire group is orderly and calm in the face of opposition or confrontation.*

In demonstrating, one of the most dangerous times is the demonstration's conclusion. Prior to a demonstration, a specific time should be established for the demonstration to conclude; participants should all know this cut-off point and be planning for it. The demonstration should terminate precisely at the appointed time, and the demonstrators should depart immediately *as a group*. There should be no stragglers, or people lingering behind or wandering off on their own. For safety and solidarity, *everyone should leave at the same time in the company of others.*

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