

Nonviolent Direct Action: Version II

A comprehensive guide about different methods of activism, the history of activism and much more; for individuals and groups to use.

This is an updated version which contains new information, more tactics and more resources than D.A.M's first version which was published in August 2019.



Nonviolent Direct Action: Version II

By Jessica Williams

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In partnership with The Direct Action Movement

Founded by Jessica Williams in 2017

www.thedirectactionmovement.com



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To view other literary works from the author, visit <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com>.

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Summary of what is covered

- About the author and The Direct Action Movement
- Facilitating meetings
- Different types of activism
- What is “institutionalised activism?”
- What is “direct action?”
- What is nonviolence and why is it important?
- Affinity group basics; structure, vouching systems, roles
- Consensus decision-making
- Preparing for direct action and other forms of activism
- Important supportive roles; police liaison, legal team, first-aid, community liaison
- Physical skills; linking arms and working as a nonviolent unit
- Violence vs nonviolence exercise
- Overview of civil disobedience including brief history of Australian civil disobedience
- Brief history of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements in America and Australia
- Overview of feminist-based civil disobedience
- Legal: common offences, sentences, process of arrest and **so much more!**

If individuals/affinity groups choose to host training sessions to disseminate the information in this guide:

- D.A.M has a “host copy” of this guide on our website, along with a PowerPoint presentation, that people can choose to use to host their own training sessions. The D.A.M website can be used to compliment sessions, but this guide (including the host copy) is set up so that using the website isn’t necessary, and it can be reviewed before and after sessions. Keep security culture and protocol in mind.
- It will take an entire day, possibly longer, to get through all of the information in this guide. Affinity groups can pick and choose which sections to cover and when, depending on current knowledge, timing etc., however, going through the entire guide is strongly advised. People can download/print a copy of the guide to review in their spare time, if needed.
- Training sessions may need to be split into different days. If a longer session is planned, there will need to be plenty of breaks. Attendees should bring snacks/a meal and water or this should be provided by host(s).
- Attendees should wear suitable footwear to protect their feet during the physical skills part of the session(s). Plenty of space will be needed to spread out and move during the physical skills part of the session(s).
- Consider holding sessions at times where the night hours can be used to test “dark play.” It can be a great learning experience to see how shadows can be beneficial; what ‘you’ see is not what ‘they’ see. Test that.

Introduction to the author and D.A.M

The Direct Action Movement (D.A.M) was established in 2017 by Jessica (Jess) Williams. Members of the D.A.M crew are community-builders, political lobbyists and direct-action activists and are based in Australia.

Message from D.A.M Founder:

I created the D.A.M website and published this guide to share knowledge and information about activism in a way that is accessible to people from all over the world and all paths of life.

Hundreds of hours were put in to this guide and it is a reflection of decades of my accumulated knowledge and experiences, years of collective experiences from the D.A.M crew and insight & knowledge that others have shared along the way & throughout history.

Through lived experiences in America and Australia, including incarceration in America, surviving non-state torture¹ & other forms of violence, genuinely engaging with Australian First Nations people, nonviolent direct action training & experience, political experience and meeting amazing activists & feminists from all over the world, I developed core values which became the foundation of The Direct Action Movement.

A very important part of shaping those core values was understanding that within current social, economic and political systems & structures, living beings are separated by, and oppressed based on, biological sex, economic class, ethnicity & race, species and more. These barriers keep us from genuinely connecting with one another, which undermines our human nature.

I believe that our true 'human nature' is one of kindness, compassion and empathy that we naturally want to extend to all living beings (humans, animals and nature), but due to the barriers between us, and due to those repressive social & political structures and economic pressures, we have been pushed away from our true human nature.

Over time, we have been conditioned to not interfere when we see injustice occurring out of fear of the sacrifices we may have to make, and we have been collectively oppressed to the point that most of us feel we cannot spare the time and energy, or risk the loss of income or freedom, to fight against the incredible number of ongoing injustices occurring around the world. As a collective, we have been conditioned to care mainly for ourselves and close family members or friends, and to close ourselves off to anyone that doesn't agree with our opinions or political values, no matter how fleeting they may or may not be.

We must rise above this conditioning and we must rise above the barriers that have separated us. We must unite!

For any number of humans to come together as a united front against injustice is, in and of itself, an act of resistance; resisting the oppressive structures and systems that have kept us separated and distracted for so long. In order to overcome these oppressive structures and systems, and in order to create a fairer and more equitable (global) society, more of us must unite, organise and fight against injustice.

This guide will help make that happen. Use wisely.

J. Williams

¹ Term coined by Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson – Persons Against Non-State Torture - <https://nonstatetorture.org/>.

Categories of activism

Here are some examples of categories, or groupings, of activism. Each category can be represented through various methods (tactics/actions). People & groups participating in ongoing or larger campaigns & protests may engage in multiple methods of activism, from different categories, simultaneously or throughout the campaign. An individual may decide that they prefer only one category of activism and they'll participate in different methods within it. Others may find that they like to float around, so to speak, to all/multiple categories and engage in a wide range of tactics from those categories.

Institutionalised activism

Activism is defined as a doctrine or practice that emphasises direct, vigorous action especially in support of, or opposition to, one side of a controversial issue. However, there are fundamental differences between institutionalised activism and direct action.

The verb “institutionalize/institutionalise” means to establish something, typically a practice or activity, as a convention or norm in an organisation or culture. Our elected leaders, past and present, and law enforcement have established numerous ways that we can protest within the limits of laws, regulations and policies. These institutions have instituted ‘norms’ for taking action, and this is why we refer to these forms of activism as ‘institutionalised’.



Tabling petitions, holding permitted events, protests, rallies and marches, campaigning for or against certain issues; these methods have their place and have the potential to produce important positive changes, but there may come a point in a movement or campaign where methods of institutionalised activism no longer bring about the desired and necessary outcomes.

D.A.M would like to acknowledge that many people cannot participate in direct action, whether it is nonviolent or not. Individuals are not at the same risks when participating in illegal activity. Marginalised people (women, disabled people, racial minorities) may be at much higher risks of harassment, violence, arrest and more. Furthermore, physical disabilities, poor mental health, financial problems and other circumstances may keep people from doing as much as they wish they could. Institutionalised activism still has, and will always have, an important role within our society and within strategies for change. Support is beneficial for those that participate in direct action. Fundraising, technical support, media engagement, social media presence and so much more is needed for movements and campaigns to be successful. Everyone has a role and everyone can benefit social and environmental justice movements. Furthermore, a mix of tactics and forms of activism can often be used to reach desired goals.

The D.A.M crew regularly engages in political lobbying and we have led numerous successful campaigns which did not include any forms of arrestable activism or NVDA. Changing laws through lobbying (and/or a mix of forms of activism) is a big deal and can enact positive change in an entire sector and/or solve a pressing issue via legislation for an entire state or country (or group of people etc.).

Community-building

When we look back through the history of successful campaigns and movements, we can see that there is at least one common thread that runs through all of them, and that is community-building. Methods of community-building are at the core of all justice movements whether it's through people bringing food for protestors, groups door-knocking to raise awareness for a specific campaign, community-led support groups providing food, education and other important & vital services or from groups defending community members from violence. Community gardens, rubbish clean-ups and community-led support centres are other examples. Community-building is at the core of what makes our society thrive. Marginalised communities (women & girls, racial minorities, disabled people) have depended on community-building for connection, education/sharing information, empowerment and survival throughout centuries of violent oppression. Put simply, community-building is when a community of people identifies a problem, and then works together to create a solution. Community-building will most likely be part of the types of actions you participate in as an activist, especially if you are involved in any ongoing campaigns, particularly those involving environmental protection efforts.



Our human nature is one that longs for connection with our fellow human beings and we thrive and flourish when we have the support and encouragement of our peers. The oppressive systems and institutions that humans are forced to cope with have conditioned many of us to live in a solitary way that is contradictory to our human nature, but when we resist that conditioning and unite with others, we become stronger and more efficient as a community.

Civil disobedience

Civil disobedience, also called passive resistance, is the active, professed refusal of a citizen to obey certain laws of the state, and/or demands, orders, and commands of a government, or of an occupying international power. Although it is similar to, and can include methods of, direct action, civil disobedience is regarded as being passive, where opposition is shown through peaceful acts of political protest and direct action is not a requirement of civil disobedience. DA can also include 'violent' actions that are outside of the scope of civil disobedience. Civil disobedience is a broad term that describes much of the actions you may be involved with as an activist. Civil disobedience has played an incredibly important role throughout history, particularly for marginalised communities.

Although civil disobedience is considered to be an expression of contempt for law, Martin Luther King Jr. regarded civil disobedience to be a display and practice of reverence for law; for as "Any man who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail in order to arouse the conscience of the community on the injustice of the law is at that moment expressing the very highest respect for law."²



² [Brooks, Ned-NBC Universal Media. Retrieved 22 November 2017.](#)

Direct action

"Direct action" is a category of activism in which participants act directly, ignoring established (or institutionalized) political and social procedures. Operating within the boundaries of laws and the requirement to demonstrate peacefulness are not elements of direct action. Examples of direct action are strikes, boycotts, sabotage, blockades, tree-sits, Black Bloc, obtaining secret footage, lock-on's and riots or a combination of methods like a planned march + lock-on etc.



Direct action can have nonviolent and/or violent elements. Some activists may only participate in nonviolent forms of direct action, and others may choose to participate in more violent actions. Many activists may engage in both nonviolent and violent forms of activism at different times, and an individual's perception of whether an action is nonviolent or violent is subjective and may be heavily influenced by their own unique experiences (perspective). In a world where war, rape, famine, poverty, systemic incarceration, genocide and other inhumane acts exist (and even worse, these deplorable acts and occurrences are often done intentionally), violence could possibly be viewed as justifiable or as a normal & acceptable response by some, especially if directed at a government, military or corporate body or at inanimate objects (i.e.: destruction of property).

Direct action originated as a political activist term for economic and political acts in which the actors use their (e. g. economic or physical) power to directly reach certain goals of interest, in contrast to those actions that appeal to others (e. g. authorities, general public).

Nonviolent direct action

Nonviolent direct action (NVDA) is, at least loosely, based on MLK Jr.'s Principles and Steps of Nonviolence (pages 21 & 22). NVDA can, and often will, look a lot different to civil disobedience mainly due to the "direct action" part of "nonviolent direct action." It means exactly what the name implies; NVDA involves direct action being taken to solve a problem, whereas civil disobedience is categorised by acts of resistance against unjust laws which serve to "arouse the conscience of the community on the injustice of the law," and may not result in a direct solution or an immediate end to the injustice.

Some NVDA actions may seem aggressive or 'violent' (i.e.: shouting, using explicit language) to members of the public and even to other activists, and this is another contrast to civil disobedience (passive). While violence is, in part, subjective to one's own perspective, it is a defined term. The dictionary definition of violence is:

'Behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.'

'Violence' is also defined medically, or institutionally. In a 2002 World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH), violence is defined by the World Health Organization as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation."³ "This definition emphasises that a person or group must intend to

³ https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/summary_en.pdf.

use force or power against another person or group in order for an act to be classified as violent.”⁴ These definitions vary from the legal definition of, or criteria for, assault (which has varying levels of severity) and they vary from one another (i.e.: “something” in dictionary definition). AG’s must have discussions about what constitutes violence, because violence must not be used during actions if you/your AG members want to be nonviolent activists and have your activism remain nonviolent.

NVDA is strategic and organised. Examples of NVDA are tree-sits, lock-on’s, sit-ins (occupations), boycotts and strikes. If marches and certain other types of protests are done without permits/permission and are done in conjunction with lock-on’s, sit-in’s etc. they may be considered direct action, rather than institutionalised forms of activism, and would most likely be classified as NVDA. Otherwise, non-permitted marches would most likely be a form of civil disobedience.

It is important to remember that nonviolent direct action heavily relies on individual and AG behaviour remaining nonviolent during actions. If you/your AG find MLK Jr.’s Steps and Principles of Nonviolence too restrictive or passive, you will need to reflect on this and have discussions to determine what nonviolence means to each group member and if nonviolent direct action is the category of activism that suits you/your AG best (a mix may suit you better or you may find NVDA is just right, or another category of activism may be best suited for you/your AG). There is more information in this guide to assist people when dealing with this complex topic.

Why is nonviolence important?

Nonviolence is a way of life and a system of politics that depends on people actively creating justice and peace in their lives and within their communities. Nonviolence requires us to be honest with ourselves about the injustice that we perpetuate individually and to think critically about the injustices occurring in society. Using nonviolence as an activist is important to consider because the concept of nonviolence centres around long-term solutions by ensuring there is education, rehabilitation and growth so that injustices do not repeat.

Furthermore, the sources of inequity and oppression in society that we all want (and need) to fight against are the economic and political institutions, policies and practices which create, support and encourage injustice. The truth is that the majority of human beings are victims of these oppressive institutions, policies and practices on some level and this mentality is crucial to understanding, and being able to effectively engage in, nonviolence as a form of activism.

When an affinity group is researching and planning for a nonviolent action or campaign, it is important to take into consideration who is most responsible for a particular injustice and who (or what) the most effective ‘target’ is for an action in order to end an injustice (or raise awareness about it/reach your intended goal). Is a multimillion-dollar company most at fault for an injustice, or is a sole customer of that company? Members of D.A.M assess the range of victims and perpetrators of any given injustice and use conclusions from that assessment to then plan steps to taking nonviolent direct action (or lobbying action etc.).

It is very important to note that ‘nonviolence’ is not the same for everyone. For some, a philosophical approach of loving their enemies, often including pacifism, is what nonviolence means. For others, nonviolence is a tactical approach only. They can and will feel however they want to about their enemies/opponents, but they commit to nonviolent tactics and methods during actions.

⁴ Violence: a glossary [Alison Rutherford, Anthony B Zwi, Natalie J Grove, and Alexander Butchart](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2652990/) - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2652990/>.

Violent Direct Action

While violence is, in part, subjective to one's own perspective, it is a defined term. The dictionary definition of violence is:

'Behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.'

'Violence' is also defined medically, or institutionally. In a 2002 World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH), violence is defined by the World Health Organization as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation."⁵

"This definition emphasises that a person or group must intend to use force or power against another person or group in order for an act to be classified as violent."⁶ These definitions vary from the legal definition of, or criteria for, assault (which has varying levels of severity) and they vary from one another (i.e.: "something" in dictionary definition).

Regardless of the definition of violence, you will come across grey areas as an activist. You will also find yourself disagreeing with other activists on what is or is not violent. There may also be situations where activists/AG's deem an act of violence as justifiable. No matter what our own views on violence/nonviolence may be, there are some tactics and actions used for activism that are violent, per definition. A nonviolent protest could suddenly become violent (per definition) if some protestors destroy public property (i.e.: break a window) or begin to throw objects at police.

While nonviolent direct action is strategic and organised, and calls for activists to consider the many potential outcomes for their actions, violent direct action may not be as organised and activists using violent direct action will most likely be less concerned with the consequences of their actions for themselves and/or others.

Situations can quickly escalate and/or unravel once violence has occurred, whether from a protestor, police or a bystander. If affinity groups or activists plan to be a part of a larger event with other activists/AG's that involves (or may involve) violent forms of direct action, it is best to have a plan of action to deal with emergencies or to have a Plan B if things go badly or if police respond and begin making arrests. There is more information in this guide to assist with these types of situations and more information can be found here:

[Civil Disobedience, Sabotage, and Violence in US Environmental Activism - Joseph M. Brown, The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Environmental Politics](#)

⁵ https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/summary_en.pdf.

⁶ Violence: a glossary [Alison Rutherford](#), [Anthony B Zwi](#), [Natalie J Grove](#), and [Alexander Butchart](#) - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2652990/>.

Anarchy

Anarchy refers to a society, entity, group of people, or a single person that rejects hierarchy or government. Anarchism is the idea that government (or the State) is unnecessary and actively harmful. The Oxford dictionary defines anarchy as:

- a state of disorder due to absence or non-recognition of authority or other controlling systems.
- absence of government and absolute freedom of the individual, regarded as a political ideal.

There are numerous interpretations and variations of anarchy and anarchist ideals. Anarchism is often considered a radical left-wing ideology that is reflective of anti-authoritarian interpretations of communism, collectivism and syndicalism. (*Simply put - communism is an ideology and movement whose ultimate goal is establishing the communist society which focuses on common ownership and distribution of products, goods and services based on individual needs and abilities. Collectivism is the principle of giving priority to the 'group' as opposed to the individual and syndicalism is a movement that advocates direct action by the working class to abolish capitalism*).

However, there are some that feel anarchy cannot be classified as being exclusively “left-wing,” especially when some anarchists have been seen to use pointless violent tactics and/or support the suppression of free thought & speech, and due to the history of some anarchist’s and anarchist groups/spaces being misogynistic and, in some instances, physically harmful toward women.⁷ It is also important to note that a wide range of activist spaces have proven to be harmful to women.⁸

Anarchists have typically been people who wish to live in a stateless society, whereas some socialists, liberals, and conservatives still believe in and wish to live under a government in some form. Anarchists can have many ideas about life without the state, including alternatives to government such as citizen’s assemblies, consensus decision making processes etc. and there may be anarchist/anarchist groups that organically form a hierarchy (one dependent on knowledge and experience).

Some people may base their activism on the common principles of anarchism, just as others may base their activism on the principles of nonviolence or on their own interpretations of justice/injustice.

⁷ Sharif Gemie (1996) Anarchism and feminism: a historical survey, *Women's History Review*, 5:3, 417-444, DOI: 10.1080/09612029600200123 <https://doi.org/10.1080/09612029600200123>; A message to "anarchist" men, and then some: <https://libcom.org/library/message-%E2%80%9Canarchist%E2%80%9D-men-then-some>.

⁸ Activist scenes are no safe space for women: On abuse of activist women by activist men: <https://libcom.org/library/activist-scenes-are-no-safe-space-women-abuse-activist>.

Principles of nonviolence (MLK Jr.)⁹

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.
 - It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.
 - It is assertive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.
2. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.
 - The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.
 - The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.
3. Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.
 - Nonviolence recognises that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.
 - The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil, not people.
4. Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform.
 - Nonviolence willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.
 - Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation.
 - Nonviolence accepts violence, if necessary, but will never inflict it.
 - Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.
 - Suffering can have the power to convert the enemy when reason fails.
5. Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.
 - Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as of the body.
 - Nonviolent love gives willingly, knowing that the return might be hostility.
 - Nonviolent love is active, not passive.
 - Nonviolent love does not sink to the level of the hater.
 - Love for the enemy is how we demonstrate love for ourselves.
 - Love restores community and resists injustice.
 - Nonviolence recognises the fact that all life is interrelated.
6. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.
 - The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win.

⁹ <http://nmmlksc.org/principles-of-nonviolence/>; <https://thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy/>.

Steps of nonviolence (MLK Jr.)¹⁰

Step 1: Gather Information

Learn all you can about the problems you see in your community through the media, social and civic organisations, and by talking to the people involved.

Step 2: Educate Others

Armed with your new knowledge, it is your duty to help those around you, such as your neighbours, relatives, friends and co-workers, to better understand the problems facing society. Build a team of people devoted to finding solutions. Be sure to include those who will be directly affected by your work.

Step 3: Remain Committed

Accept that you will face many obstacles and challenges as you and your team try to change society. Agree to encourage and inspire one another along the journey.

Step 4: Peacefully Negotiate

Talk with both sides. Go to the people in your community who are in trouble and who are deeply hurt by society's ills. Also go to those people who are contributing to the breakdown of a peaceful society. Use humour, intelligence and grace to lead to solutions that benefit the greater good.

Step 5: Take Action Peacefully

This step is often used when negotiation fails to produce results, or when people need to draw broader attention to a problem. It can include tactics such as peaceful demonstrations, letter-writing and petition campaigns.

Step 6: Reconcile

Keep all actions and negotiations peaceful and constructive. Agree to disagree with some people and with some groups as you work to improve society. Show all involved the benefits of changing, not what they will give up by changing.

RESPECT EXISTENCE OR EXPECT RESISTANCE

¹⁰ <http://nmmlksc.org/principles-of-nonviolence/>.

Want to take action?

An affinity group (AG) is a group formed around a shared interest or common goal, to which individuals formally or informally belong. For the purposes of this guide, an affinity group is formed around political or social issues and for other purposes regarding activism. Affinity groups can be based on a common ideology (e.g., anarchism, pacifism), a shared concern for a given issue (e.g., anti-nuclear, refugee rights, women's rights, animal rights) or a common activity, role, interest or skill (e.g., legal support, medical support, art/music, community-building).

Below is a summary of the steps to taking action as an affinity group (AG).

The following information is relevant when starting an AG, when starting a campaign and when engaging in political lobbying. These steps can be used when starting online actions/groups, too (adjust as needed).

Unite

- Find trusted friends/contacts that share your concern(s)/goal(s).
- Find others (if necessary/desired) through online groups and pages; do keyword searches on social media platforms for organisations and groups that are relevant to your interests, and do the same with general searches online for websites, events and other ways you can get involved with either local or online action.
- Meet as a group (AG).

Organise

- Take time to do your research and find factual information about the issue(s) at hand. The more informed you are, the better equipped you are. Be sure to review the *Conducting research* section on page 34, and it is advisable to read this entire guide.
- Recon may be necessary depending on the type of action you want to do.
- Discuss what the problems are, what your goals are and plan the best ways to achieve those goals through activism. Decide which form(s) of activism you/your affinity group want to be involved with. You will find information, examples and videos/images for all different forms of activism on the D.A.M website and there are images showing examples of many forms of activism in this guide.
- Your AG will most likely need to meet regularly.

Fight

- Execute your plan.
- Have fun and look after each other.
- Safety first! - Make sure to follow security protocol (see *Security Measures*), and there are some very important things to remember in the next section.

If you do not know anyone that is concerned about the same issues as you, try searching (online, through local papers etc.) for groups that are relevant to your concern(s) and/or goal(s). You may be able to find an online forum or physical space where relevant groups meet so that you can form connections with others that may be interested in joining an affinity group, or you may even come across an already established AG or campaign that you can join. You may be subjected to vouching processes when attempting to join an established AG, which are explained in further detail in the next section as well as in the *Vouching* section of this guide.

Important things to remember

When an AG begins, it is important to establish some ground rules and boundaries. In order for an affinity group to have longevity and to encounter as few problems as possible, trust is needed. You need to be able to depend on the people in your affinity group to fulfil their roles and you need to know that members of your group will comply with security protocol & measures to maintain privacy and treat one another with respect.

How is this achievable?

Each group and its members will vary and you will need to discuss this topic as a group, but here are some suggestions to get you started:

Vouching systems

At the start, you may need to use a vouching system to ‘filter’ who joins the group. You should have a core group of trusted members and you can build on that, if the group (or group leader, if applicable) agrees there is a need for this.

A basic example of a vouching system is: potential new members must be known by at least one, possibly two or more, active members that are trusted and previously vouched for. Obviously, the more “core” members that know the potential new member(s), the better. You can also devote some time to researching the potential new member(s). Privacy, safety and security are extremely important issues. There is more information about vouching in the *Vouching* section.

Welcoming versus elite

Activism and activist spaces should not be elite. People from all backgrounds, belief systems and capabilities are concerned about, and impacted by, injustice, and all types of people can be activists. It is important to create a ‘space’ where different types of people will be considered to potentially join your AG and be reasonably safe and comfortable within the group. If you have an affinity group that has very specific goals and will be engaging in actions that particular people may not be able to do, it is understandable to be selective with who joins your AG. Just try your best to keep an open mind and try to be accepting of each other’s differences to a practical and reasonable extent.

Communication

Open communication is very important. Group members need to be able to express their concerns about AG business. Have regular meetings to discuss plans for future actions and campaigns, and try to schedule routine catch-ups for members to ‘debrief’ and discuss any concerns or problems and to give positive & constructive feedback. It is best to keep strict boundaries around what is discussed at ‘business’ meetings and what is discussed at more casual catch-ups. It is not practical to persistently discuss political stances, emotional topics and other potentially volatile issues in an affinity group/activist environment (for strategy/planning/‘business’ meetings) and it can have negative impacts on your AG’s effectiveness and longevity.

‘Consensus’ is a commonly used process for group decision-making. When using a consensus decision-making process, the input of all group members is taken into consideration when arriving at final decisions regarding actions and policies within the group. This helps to promote fairness and unity within the affinity group. There can be difficulties with this process, but consensus is used widely by people around the world working towards a more just and equitable society. To learn more about the process and how to handle disagreements, see the *Consensus decision-making* section.

Accountability

Along with being welcoming comes being accountable. If complaints or problems arise, they need to be addressed thoroughly and promptly. Keeping in mind that ‘spaces’ need to be welcoming to a reasonable extent, they must also be safe, first and foremost. If any group member is causing consistent problems or has hurt someone etc., that issue must be addressed, and problematic people and/or perpetrators must be held accountable. Processes for dealing with these situations need to be put in place and may include steps toward resolution like mediation and education or ultimately having problematic members being asked to exit the group entirely. Mediation may not be a suitable option if someone has been harmed. Conflict that arises within AG’s can be attributed, at least partially, to stress, exhaustion and the pressure of being involved with high-intensity/high risk situations, so it is usually beneficial to approach conflict with compassion and patience.

Matriarchal Structures

Members of D.A.M believe that we humans can come together, as a global community, to take a stand against the injustices that occur every single day toward our fellow human beings, toward (non-human) animals and toward nature; the environment which we all depend on. We believe that empowering girls and women and steering our societal cultures toward matriarchal structures & systems, instead of patriarchal ones, is imperative to reversing much of the damage done to the rights of humans, animals and our environment.

When forming an affinity group, and/or when beginning a campaign, it is foolish and counter-productive to repeat or embed within your AG the very structures and systems we, as activists, oppose; the systems and structures that create and perpetuate the injustices of which we unite with each other to fight against. What is being referred to here is not simply a reversal or flipping upside down of our current (and historic) patriarchal governing systems and structures, but rather a different governing system altogether; a different way of cooperating with each other.

Historically and generally speaking, men have been responsible for creating laws and policies which govern our society; socially, economically and politically, and this has resulted in inherent biases creating inadequacies and inequalities amongst humans (and animals and against the environment). We must truly begin to restructure how our society addresses these inadequacies.

Matriarchal structures are not new, and you are encouraged to learn more about establishing matriarchal structures within your AG via the links below:

[International Academy HAGIA for Modern Matriarchal Studies](#)

[Modern Matriarchal Studies \(second-congress-matriarchal-studies.com\)](#)

[Matriarchies Are Not Just a Reversal of Patriarchies: A Structural Analysis by Heide Goettner-Abendroth](#)

More about this topic can be learned by reading [Invisible Women – Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men](#) by Caroline Criado Perez.

Patriarch = the male head of a family or tribe.

Matriarch = the female who is the head of a family or tribe.

Patriarchal = relating to or denoting a system of society or government controlled by men.

Matriarchal = relating to or denoting a form of social organization in which a woman is the head.

Facilitation of Meetings

Facilitate/facilitation means to make an action or process easier, and to help people deal with a process, or reach an agreement or solution, without getting too deeply involved in the process or discussion. Here are a few guidelines and tips to help people facilitate their first affinity group (AG) meeting and to help make meetings more sustainable and effective.

General tips

- Try to relax. You may be meeting with mostly known and trusted friends or with a mix of friends and relatively unknown people. Either way, the fact that you are facilitating a meeting to set in motion nonviolent direct action or another form of activism speaks highly of your character and initiative.
- Be confident and know that this is a casual thing, for the most part. It begins with discussions and getting to know one another. This guide is detailed and should serve as an effective tool for you/your affinity group.
- Although it may not be of particular concern during the first meeting, you need to consider a process for collecting phones and other devices before meetings, for security purposes. Ask members to turn their device(s) off and have someone collect them and place them as far away as possible without risking loss or damage. You may want to research and consider making a Faraday cage (aka Faraday box). Learn more here - <https://science.howstuffworks.com/faraday-cage.htm> and here - <https://backyardbrains.com/experiments/faraday> and further along in this guide.

Be sure to do your own research, too.

Location

Try to find a location that offers privacy. This may be your home, but if you are not comfortable with that you can:

- ask if a trusted group member can host it at their home
- look for a nearby or central park or,
- see if there are community organisations that offer spaces for meetings

Make sure the location you choose offers bathrooms and protection from any potential weather conditions.

Keep accessibility in mind. People with disabilities need to have access to the building/location.

Try to find a location that is close to public transport options for those that do not drive.

The option of carpooling should be chosen as often as possible.

Atmosphere

Asking attendees to each bring a plate of food or a drink to share is a great way to establish a sense of community. It can also offer insight into the background, preferences and lifestyle choices of your affinity group members. Bringing food to share also helps keep cost down for the facilitator of the meeting.

Bringing food/drink/plates etc. to share should not be a requirement, however. Keep in mind that not everyone can afford to buy extra food to bring for events or larger groups of people. Be sure to check with attendees about food allergies and diet preferences.

If you have pets, check in with attendees beforehand to let them know and check if anyone has fears or allergies.

Meeting structure

- Make sure you have a clear objective/purpose and an expectation of what the outcomes may be for the meeting. Too many meetings get side-tracked, and having a clearly outlined objective can help minimise the risk of this happening.
- Agree on set times for each topic for discussion, if possible. Have someone keep track of the time spent on each topic and alert the group when they are nearing the limit for each topic. This will further help to keep meetings on track and not allow them to drag out unnecessarily.
- Make sure all group members get their chance to speak about each topic. Don't let a few members dominate discussions.
- As you have more frequent meetings and discussions, you may find that certain topics always end up in an endless 'back and forth.' If these topics come up, it may be a good idea for the facilitator to close that topic and move on to the next one.
- If a specific discussion has the group 'stuck,' you may need to "park" that discussion for another time. It may be later in the meeting or it may need to be left for a separate meeting.
- Ask someone to scribe, or take notes, for the meeting. This becomes a security issue at times, so you may need to set up a process for dealing with notes after meetings. You can deliver notes through a secure method and destroy any 'paper trail,' but the group will need to sort out how you want to handle this.
- Members' feelings should not be dismissed, but meetings are best left to strict boundaries so that 'business' can be taken care of. If your meetings are long and draining, attendance may drop and then the activity level may drop as a result. You may find that scheduling separate times to 'debrief' serve your group well. Setting aside time for your AG to debrief is important so the group has space and time to process emotions, to discuss what was effective and not effective during an action and learn from all of that in order to implement more effective and sustainable strategies.
- Before moving on to new topics, make sure the group has reached consensus on the current topic (if using consensus decision-making), and recap as you go to make sure everyone follows the progress of decision-making. (If you have "parked" a discussion this is not applicable)
- You can also do a recap at the end to make sure all matters are settled, aside from any discussions that have been "parked."
- Have fun and treat mistakes as what they actually are – opportunities to learn and improve. We all make them; it's what we do afterward that really counts.
- Once you have had several meetings, you should settle into a routine.
- Your AG's routine may differ from what is explained in this guide. Do what works for your AG.

Check out these links for more tips and information:

[How to Facilitate a Meeting with Confidence](#)¹¹

[Tips for Facilitating Groups](#)¹²

[How to Improve Your Facilitation Skills \(and be a Great Facilitator\)](#)¹³

[Nonviolent Communication](#)¹⁴

¹¹ <https://blog.lucidmeetings.com/blog/how-to-facilitate-a-meeting-with-confidence>.

¹² <https://www.ksl-training.co.uk/free-resources/facilitation-techniques/tips-for-facilitating-groups/>.

¹³ <https://www.sessionlab.com/blog/facilitation-skills/>.

¹⁴ <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2021/11/05/nonviolent-communication/>.

Roles for Affinity Group members

Whether your AG has a hierarchal structure or a decentralised structure (or a mix), there are some formal roles or positions that are routinely needed/beneficial, primarily during meetings or when your AG is involved in a larger campaign and having to liaise with other AG's and activists. An affinity group may have all, some or none of these roles. The roles may be permanent or temporary and the group may opt to take turns in these roles, instead of having fixed roles assigned to people.

Spoke

The individual charged with representing the AG at a spokes-council or cluster meeting. Occasionally, the spoke will be granted a more general ambassadorial role by the AG.

Facilitator

A person or people who perform facilitation duties in consensus process of the group and also, to varying degrees, act as a dispute settler when internal conflicts arise, which is inevitable and a common part of being involved with an affinity group. (This may be slightly different to the role of facilitating training sessions or larger campaign meetings. The facilitator at an AG meeting needs to be able to get involved in the discussions and remain neutral)

Media contact

An individual who represents the group to the mass media. The group should discuss this role as it is important the media contact is reliable and "presentable" according to the general public. If you want to get support, it will help to be marketable, likable and relatable. This role is important for groups and for larger campaigns. Having the public's support is beneficial for our campaigns, actions and causes. Having the support of the media helps get you the support of the people.

Vibe watch

A person or people charged with monitoring the mood and feeling of the group. The reference is to vibrations in the colloquial emotional sense. In some affinity groups, the vibe watch is also charged with keeping the facilitator from using their role to favour any position or proposal.

Snap-decision facilitator

Also called "quick decision facilitator", this is a person charged with making decisions for the group in unplanned/unexpected, time-constrained and/or high-pressure situations. The position is rare and is almost always temporary. This is very handy for protests and larger actions as well as small AG actions that are more private.

Spokes-council

When you are involved with a larger or long-term campaign, you may work with multiple affinity groups. When this occurs, a spokes-council may form. This forms when each affinity group elects a representative to attend spokes-council meetings and communicate on behalf of their respective affinity group. This allows the network, or cluster, of affinity groups to communicate efficiently and coordinate with each other. Examples of different types of affinity groups are: legal support groups, medical/first aid support groups, banner/sign/creative groups, media groups, arrestable groups and so on.

**It is important to note that membership of an AG can change frequently and abruptly, which is why communication is important to help prevent issues arising, and also why security protocol is so important considering someone may leave the AG abruptly and without notice.*

Security measures

There is a lot of information about this topic on the D.A.M website under “Security Measures,” but here is some general information to get you familiar with online security culture.

We now live in a world of (mostly) free-flowing data, where any person with an Internet connection seemingly has all the information in the world at their fingertips. Yet, while the Internet has greatly expanded our ability to share knowledge, it has also made issues of privacy more complicated and widespread, with many worrying their own personal information, including their online activity, may be observed without their permission. Not only are government agencies able to track an individual’s online movements, but so too are corporations.

The Internet, at its most basic, is the series of connections between computers across great distance. In the beginning, computers were isolated, unable to communicate with each other. As the tech got more advanced, engineers were able to physically link computers together, creating early networks. These networks still required the computers to be relatively near each other, however. Eventually, advances in fibre optics enabled networks to connect across continents, allowing for the Internet to be born. Some computers house the data stored on the Internet, including web pages like Google. These computers are known as “servers.” A device used to access this information, such as a smartphone or PC, is known as a client. The transmission lines that connect clients to servers come in a variety of forms, whether fibre optic cables or wireless signals, but they are all connections.

Although clients initiate connections to get information from servers, the flow goes both ways. Data is exchanged across the Internet in packets. These packets contain information about the sender and the destination, and certain individuals and organizations can use this data to monitor who is doing certain things or accessing certain information on the Web. It is not just the server that can see this data. Traffic analysis is big business, and many organizations, both private and governmental, can monitor the messages flowing between clients and servers. So how can we protect our privacy and security online? Below are some tips to get you started.¹⁵

Internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome etc.) have optional “InPrivate” browsing or other forms of private browsing options that you can use to get you started.

Go through the settings (general, phone, microphone, camera, privacy, browsing, individual apps, location services etc.) on all devices (phones, laptops, iPads etc.) and turn off as much as possible.

Privacy

Tor

Tor is free software and an open network that allows users to browse the Web anonymously. Developed by the Tor Project, a non-profit organisation that advocates for anonymity on the internet, Tor was originally called The Onion Router because it uses a technique called onion routing to conceal information about user activity (layered security, like an onion). It can operate under Microsoft Windows, macOS, Linux and Android.

Tor can significantly increase a user’s privacy and anonymity online by defending clients against traffic analysis, a form of network surveillance that threatens personal freedom and privacy, confidential business activities and relationships, and state security. Tor protects you by bouncing your communications around a distributed network of relays run by volunteers all around the world: it

¹⁵ <https://www.digitaltrends.com/users/wnicol/>.

prevents somebody watching your Internet connection from learning what sites you visit, and it prevents the sites you visit from learning your physical location. Tor is often viewed negatively by the press and law enforcement agencies, but it has many positive benefits. Journalists and their sources rely on it to communicate securely and anonymously, without fear of government interference. You can use Tor to hide your IP address, browse the dark web, and run a server anonymously. Tor does not replace your VPN, as it only anonymizes your browsing and a few other select services (which need to be specifically configured).

Connecting to Tor through a VPN connection is a great way to maintain your internet privacy and security. Not only will it hide your browsing data from your VPN company, it will also hide your home IP address from the Tor.

Virtual Private Network (VPN)

A **virtual private network (VPN)** extends a private network across a public network, and enables users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network. In other words, a VPN replaces your actual IP address to make it look like you've connected to the internet from a different location: the physical location of the VPN server, rather than your actual location.

Applications running on a computing device, e.g., a laptop, desktop, smartphone, across a VPN may therefore benefit from the functionality, security, and management of the private network. Encryption is a common, though not an inherent, part of a VPN connection. Learn more by visiting this website - [What is a VPN and Why use one? A Non-Technical Beginner's Guide to Virtual Private Networks](#)¹⁶

.onion

.onion is a special-use top level domain suffix designating an anonymous onion service (formerly known as a "hidden service" reachable via the Tor network. Basically, it replaces the ".com" or ".org" suffix. Such addresses are not actual DNS names, and the .onion TLD is not in the Internet DNS root, but with the appropriate proxy software installed, Internet programs such as web browsers can access sites with .onion addresses by sending the request through the network of Tor servers. The purpose of using such a system is to make both the information provider and the person accessing the information more difficult to trace, whether by one another, by an intermediate network host, or by an outsider.

Sites that offer dedicated .onion addresses may provide an additional layer of identity assurance via EV HTTPS Certificates, and provision of an HTTP certificate also enables browser features which would otherwise be unavailable to users of .onion sites. Provision of an onion site also helps mitigate SSL stripping attacks by malicious exit nodes on the Tor network upon users who would otherwise access traditional HTTPS Clearnet sites over Tor. Learn more here - [Onion Routing](#)¹⁷

Encryption

Encryption is the process of converting information or data into a code, in such a way that only authorized parties can read it, and to prevent unauthorized access. Encryption does not of itself prevent interception, but denies the message content to the interceptor. There are free encryption tools/software and others that individuals can purchase. A couple of examples are BitLocker and VeraCrypt.

¹⁶ <https://proprivacy.com/guides/what-is-vpn-beginners-guide>.

¹⁷ <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/onion-routing/>.

It is advisable to research different secure chat platforms before beginning any secure chats. Ownership of these platforms is always changing as well as encryption and privacy laws. Do your research!

Faraday Cage

A Faraday cage, (or box or shield) is a container that, when made correctly, blocks whatever is contained within it from external electric/electromagnetic fields. Faraday cages can thwart others spying on phones and other devices (when enclosed).

You may want to research and consider making a Faraday cage. Learn more:

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/faraday-cage.htm>

<https://backyardbrains.com/experiments/faraday>

Be sure to do your own research, too.

Secure Chat Platforms

Some secure chat platforms you may want to research are Wickr, Threema, Wire and Jabber/OTR.

Codenames may be a good idea to use in chat and during actions as an added (onion) layer of security.

Test different platforms out to get a feel for them in order to see which one will fit you/your AG best.

Certain apps may try to sync with your contacts in your phone. Ensure this does not happen. Using real names (or images etc.) in secure chats is a no-no.

When creating a new group via secure chat platform¹⁸

Be intentional about the purpose and who you add. Consider what you would do with someone who gets unilaterally added at the beginning that maybe hasn't been double-vouched for, or that someone has concerns about. Also, don't add people to sensitive groups without getting their consent first.

After the group is created, state the purpose of group and take roll call right away. Roll call, (name, city, group), should be completed before conversation begins. [codenames may be preferred and this process may not be suitable for all AG's as it does present a potential security risk. Some AG's may simply require members to check the chat member list before engaging in discussions]

Do not add new people to threads/chats without asking group first, and give people a designated amount of time to be able to voice their concerns i.e.: 24 hrs., since many people cannot be active on their phones every minute of the day. Encouraging questions or elaboration about a proposed new member can help create a better dialogue than simply saying "vouch." Do a new roll call each time a new person is added so they know with whom they are talking (this may not be suitable for every AG).

Further security measures for chat platforms

Utilize the disappearing messages feature. Sometimes disappearing messages can get turned off automatically when someone reinstalls or a new person gets added. Make sure to reactivate disappearing messages.

¹⁸ <https://itsgoingdown.org/texting-tips-for-the-brave-guidelines-for-using-signal/>.

Leave all groups and uninstall the chosen chat platform app if you are attending an action or are in a situation that may lead to arrest and you have your phone with you. BUT... do not bring your personal phone into these situations if at all possible.

Leave all groups and uninstall app if you are crossing an international border. Laws protecting you from searches and seizures generally don't apply at international borders. Strongly consider not taking your regular phone/tablet/laptop/etc. if you are traveling abroad.

If there is a security breach, such as if you are arrested with your phone or your home is raided, designate someone to start a new thread and leave the old one immediately (aka burn the thread). Make sure the threat is not transferred to the new loop. Designate one person to stay on the old thread to make sure everyone leaves. After you leave the thread, delete it. Delete threads regularly.

In case of a lost/stolen phone or police confiscation, report immediately to a person you are in a thread with for them to alert others that they need to ditch the old thread with your number and restart.

Make sure that you set a passcode on your apps and phone. Use the two-step verification process when it is an option.

Clear chats, browsing history etc. often.

Remember, digital security is no substitute for relational security. All the security culture/InfoSec protocol in the world can't help you if one of the people you decide to trust with sensitive information turns out to be malicious, reckless, careless, or unaccountable.

Vouching

What is vouching?

According to the dictionary, to vouch means "to support as being true, certain, reliable" or "to attest; guarantee; certify." In the political context, to vouch for someone means to state that you believe someone to be committed to the purpose of the group, trustworthy, reliable, and accountable. Such "vouches" are important for people who may not have previous experience functioning as a group, yet require a certain level of trust and safety to comfortably & effectively work together.

How is vouching used?

A vouching system allows one or more people to use the trust that they've earned from the group and extend it to someone they want to bring in. The necessity of vouches varies depending on what it is you are working on. Remember that a vouch is a personal reflection upon you, so it is advised to not throw vouches around as it can undermine the safety, trust and cohesion of the group if it is an irresponsible vouch.

A vouch for whether or not someone should be able to access a group's members, conversations, goals and objectives, should be considered within the context of the objectives and risk of the group. The other members of the group are trusting you to use discerning judgement when providing a vouch.

Criteria and other important details

Some criteria that people have used for vouches include:

- having met in person a certain number of times
- having worked together on political projects for a certain period of time
- knowing a certain number of people who have worked with the person for a certain period of time
- knowing someone's strengths and weakness (personally and politically) and how they act under pressure or in the face of repression
- knowing how someone responds to criticism or feedback and how well they hold themselves accountable for their behaviour
- knowing someone's extended family, childhood friends, and entire life story (just kidding...maybe...)

Vouches should be given for: people who you know and trust, who you know understands the objectives and degree of security required for the particular group, and who you know participates in solid security culture. Vouches should not be given simply for "knowing they exist and do work" or "had a good conversation once or twice" though those things are a part of knowing and trusting someone. The stringency of a vouch will vary based on the sensitivity of the information and the risks that the group is taking. If this is something you have not considered, please read up on security culture.

Whatever criteria or standard you use for vouching people, it is important that it be communicated to everyone in the group ahead of time, and that everyone is on the same page. Vouching is a word that gets thrown around often without elaboration, and people often have different ideas about what it means. Our collective security is only as good as the individual with the least safe practices.

Conducting research

Introduction

Conducting research is one of the most important parts of a campaign and it may take a good amount of effort and time depending on the issue(s) at hand and how many people are contributing. Knowing the facts, public opinions, what the opposition is saying etc. for any given issue is important and contributes to a successful campaign/action. It also contributes toward a reputation of being credible and dependable.

You may need multiple people to conduct research depending on the extent that is necessary. Document your research, your findings, references etc. in a 'master document' (Google Drive is handy for this) and use that to form more coherent, digestible documents, statements, letters, social media posts etc. Always keep track of where you find information. Keep reference lists and make sure public statements, social media posts, and other forms of public/written content are well referenced and accurate. Trello is an excellent platform for organising and storing a lot of information in one place and there are many similar platforms. These are worth you/your AG checking out, but these types of platforms are not suitable for 'sensitive' information.

You will find some very handy research tips in the next section of the guide.

Research tips

**A hypothetical campaign regarding the rights of incarcerated girls and women in Australia is being used below as an example.*

When searching online for information, here are some tips to refine your searches and find the information you need:

1. Using **AND, OR & NOT** (all caps) in combination with keywords refines searches. (i.e.: prisons AND women AND policies OR laws NOT men)
2. Use “ ” (quotation marks) for strings of words that you want found together in search results (i.e.: “female prisoners in Western Australia”)
3. Site:URL (no www., no http/, no spaces) does a search on a specified website (i.e.: www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au becomes **site:correctiveservices.wa.gov.au AND prisoners 2021** in search bar)
4. If you are getting a pattern of results that you do not want, you can add **-word** at the end of your search text. For example, if my search for prisoners in 2021 in Western Australia was giving results for male prisoners, I would add **-male** at the end of my search to remove those specific results. There is no space between the - and the word.
5. Hitting 'control + F' on your keyboard should make a search bar pop up on any page you are on (website, social media page, document etc.) so that you can do a keyword search.

More information here - [Boolean search tips](#)¹⁹

Remember to stick to the facts!

¹⁹ <https://www.socialtalent.com/blog/recruitment/the-beginners-guide-to-boolean-search-terms>.

Group structures and leadership

Some groups may struggle with the concept of structure or be anti-hierarchical altogether, but without strong leadership, and depending on the experience levels of AG members, an AG may become stagnant or not as effective as it could be. AG's may need to explore and try out different structures, governing systems and decision-making processes before finding what works best for the people and goals of the AG. Consensus is a type of structure and decision-making process that is commonly used within AG's, but it is not suitable or the best option for all groups. Just like with different forms of activism, some affinity groups may end up using a mix of structures/hierarchies and decision-making processes.

Some basic information on group structures and leadership is linked below:

Further information

Material to read for more insight on this topic:

[Hierarchical Leadership vs. Non-Hierarchical Leadership](#)²⁰

[7 types of organizational structures](#)²¹

[Struggles Over Leadership in the Women's Liberation Movement by Carol Hanisch](#)²²

Hierarchical organisational structure

Hierarchical structures better define levels of authority and responsibility within an AG by having one person or small group leading and a ranking following of AG members dependent on experience and relevant knowledge. Your AG may have members that feel very strongly about being able to give input and be involved in decision-making (consensus, or leaning toward consensus) and hierarchical structures might make less experienced and/or less vocal AG members feel left out or unimportant, but perhaps not. These are all matters that need to be taken into consideration and efficient meeting and discussion facilitation can help with some the side effects of using a hierarchical structure.

Horizontal or flat structure

Horizontal, or flat, group structures have decentralized leadership, few or no levels of governance/admin/leadership and have transparency of information. This option spreads the responsibility of decision-making as evenly as possible throughout a group, and may have one person or a small group at the 'head' of the structure to guide the AG. This may be viewed as a fairer option by many AG's, but it may need to be considered that this type of structure might require more time & energy, and could potentially foster stunted planning, strategizing and success by allowing AG members that have little experience to have just as much decision-making power as more experienced activists. In contrast, it could, perhaps, foster more creative and robust ideas etc. All of these considerations (and more) should be reflected on when deciding on what structure your AG should have.

²⁰ <https://yourbusiness.azcentral.com/hierarchical-leadership-vs-nonhierarchical-leadership-8653.html>.

²¹ <https://www.lucidchart.com/blog/types-of-organizational-structures>.

²² <http://www.carolhanisch.org/CHwritings/Leadership.html>.

Matriarchal Structures

**This section has been included in the guide twice due to the importance of this topic being reflected on and considered by individuals and affinity groups.*

Members of D.A.M believe that we humans can come together, as a global community, to take a stand against the injustices that occur every single day toward our fellow human beings, toward (non-human) animals and toward nature; the environment which we all depend on. We believe that empowering girls and women and steering our societal cultures toward matriarchal structures & systems, instead of patriarchal ones, is imperative to reversing much of the damage done to the rights of humans, animals and our environment.

When forming an affinity group, and/or when beginning a campaign, it is foolish and counter-productive to repeat or embed within your AG the very structures and systems we, as activists, oppose; the systems and structures that create and perpetuate the injustices of which we unite with each other to fight against. What is being referred to here is not simply a reversal or flipping upside down of our current (and historic) patriarchal governing systems and structures, but rather a different governing system altogether; a different way of cooperating with each other.

Historically and generally speaking, men have been responsible for creating laws and policies which govern our society; socially, economically and politically, and this has resulted in inherent biases creating inadequacies and inequalities amongst humans (and animals and against the environment). We must truly begin to restructure how our society addresses these inadequacies.

Matriarchal structures are not new, and you are encouraged to learn more about establishing matriarchal structures within your AG via the links below:

[International Academy HAGIA for Modern Matriarchal Studies](#)

[Modern Matriarchal Studies \(second-congress-matriarchal-studies.com\)](#)

[Matriarchies Are Not Just a Reversal of Patriarchies: A Structural Analysis by Heide Goettner-Abendroth](#)

More about this topic can be learned by reading [Invisible Women – Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men](#) by Caroline Criado Perez.

Patriarch = the male head of a family or tribe.

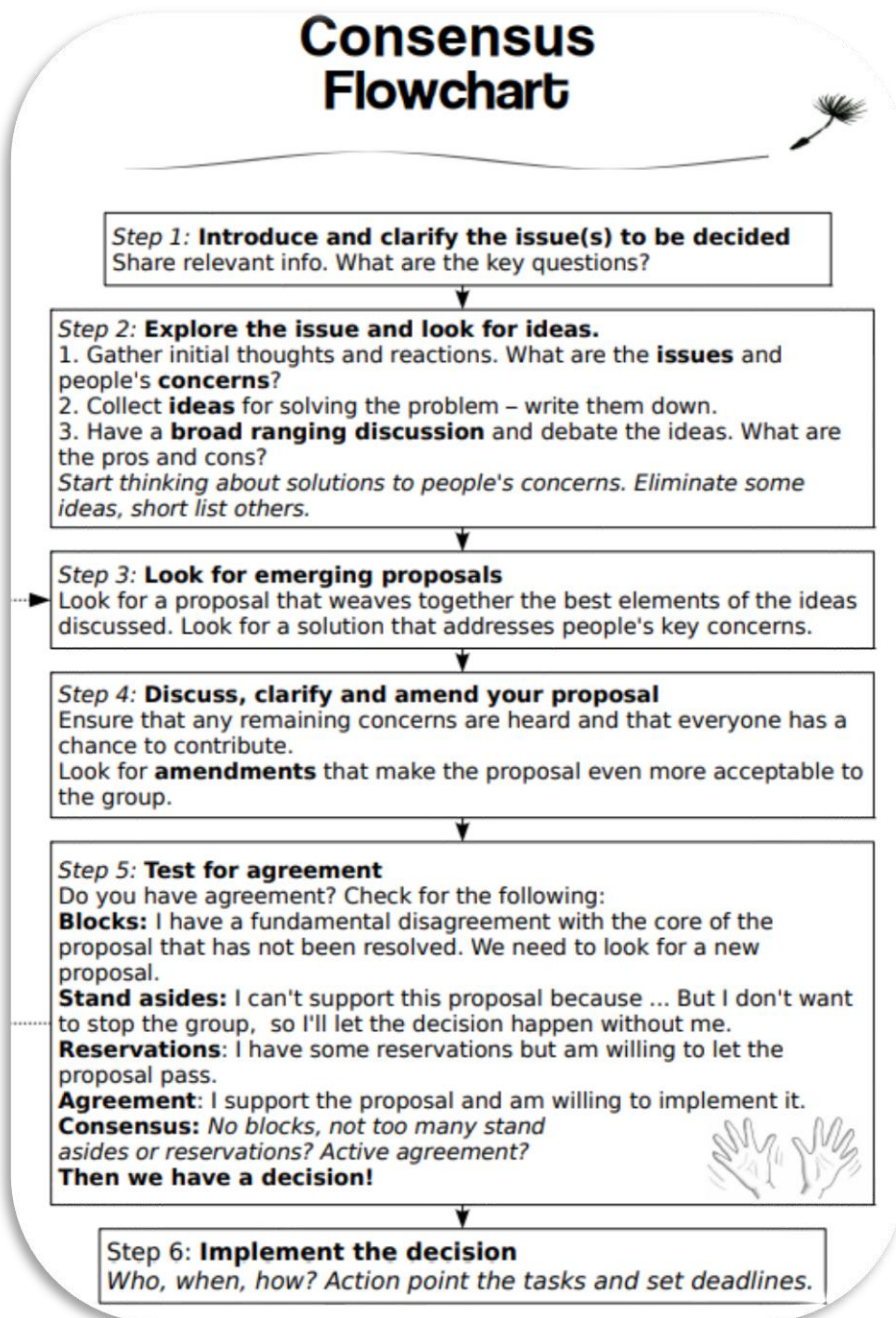
Matriarch = the female who is the head of a family or tribe.

Patriarchal = relating to or denoting a system of society or government controlled by men.

Matriarchal = relating to or denoting a form of social organization in which a woman is the head.

Consensus decision-making

Consensus is a desirable structure for many activists because, when using consensus structures, no one should be forced to go along with an action that they do not agree with and because all AG members are given the opportunity to have input on strategy, planning, decision-making and other group matters. Consensus-based group structures generally take more time and energy to reach decisions and to take action because the input of all AG members is needed and agreement must be reached before moving forward. Potentially requiring more time, energy and trust is not necessarily a negative regarding using a consensus-based structure, but these potential limitations need to be considered by affinity groups in regards to the duration of meetings and the range of levels of experience within the AG etc.



The Consensus Flowchart image shows a simple explanation of the consensus process, and it is followed by a longer, more detailed, text explanation + example of what the consensus process (discussion) may be like for an AG.

Conditions for using consensus

It is much easier to use consensus in an ongoing way if the right conditions are in place; below are some key factors. If your group is struggling, this checklist should help identify underlying issues you need to address in order to have a better experience of consensus. Alternatively, if your group is far away from meeting these conditions you may decide that consensus isn't right for you at this moment.

When involved in a larger campaign, AG's may find that the consensus model isn't the most effective decision-making process. The infrastructure model of smaller AG's coordinating through a spokes-council may be more suitable and some AG's may have a hierarchy to provide management of the group's long-term interests, or if the group is large enough to require the delegation of responsibilities to other members or staff.

Common Goal

Everyone present at the meeting needs to share a common goal and be willing to work together towards it. This could be the desire to take action at a specific event, or a shared vision of a better world. Don't just assume everyone is pulling in the same direction – spend time together defining your aims and how you expect to achieve them. If differences arise in later meetings, revisiting the common goal can help to focus and unite the group.

Commitment to reaching consensus

Consensus can require a lot of commitment and patience to make it work. Everyone must be willing to really give it a go. This means being deeply honest with yourself (and the rest of the group) about what you really need to happen, and what is just a preference. Consensus requires flexibility and being open to alternative solutions. It would be easy to call for a vote the first time you struggle to reach agreement, but in the consensus model, differences help to build a stronger and more creative final decision. Difficulties can arise if individuals secretly want to use majority voting, just waiting for the chance to say "I told you it wouldn't work."

Trust and openness

Consensus relies on everyone giving honest information about what they want and need - and being clear about the distinction between the two! This is hard if we don't trust everyone's good intentions. When we think that other people are manipulating the process or exaggerating what they need in order to get their own way, we are much more likely to do the same. Another common behaviour when we don't trust people is to close down and not express our own needs and views at all. Either way, the group does not end up with the accurate understanding of everyone's needs that enables us to look for win-win solutions. Trust can also break down if decisions are made and not implemented. As mentioned earlier in this guide, accountability is very important; both individually and collectively.

Sufficient time

You will need sufficient time for making decisions and for learning to work by consensus. Taking time to make a good decision now can save wasting time revisiting a bad one later.

Clear process

It's essential for everyone to have a shared understanding of the process that the meeting is using. There are lots of variations of the consensus process, so even if people are experienced in using consensus, they may use it differently to you. There may also be group agreements or hand signals in

use that need to be explained. Hand signals are sometimes used to express consensus choice on a specific decision when speaking may not be suitable due to security protocol concerns.

Active participation

If we want a decision we can all agree on then we all need to play an active role in the decision making. This means listening to what everyone has to say and pro-actively looking for solutions that include everyone, as well as voicing our own thoughts and feelings.

Good facilitation

When your group is larger than just a handful of people or you are trying to make difficult decisions, appoint facilitators to help your meeting run more smoothly. Good facilitation helps the group to work harmoniously, creatively and democratically. It also ensures that the tasks of the meeting get done, that decisions are made and implemented. If, in a small group, you don't give one person the role of facilitator, then everyone can be responsible for facilitation. If you do appoint facilitators, they need active support from everyone present.

Knowing who should be included

A consensus decision should involve everyone who will be fundamentally affected by the outcome - rather than the people who happen to attend the meeting where it is discussed! In groups where there are different people at each meeting it can be hard to know which of the new people will end up getting fully involved. And to complicate things further, many groups have members who are involved in carrying out decisions, but can't (or don't want to) come to meetings. Getting clarity about what kind of involvement people want, and being flexible about different ways to input into a decision can help individuals have their fair share of influence.²³ Of course, this may not be possible depending on security protocol and agreements that AG members have made.

The consensus process

Examples of how the consensus process can work

Stage 1: What's the issue

"The bit of wasteland that we've used as a park for the last ten years is going to be sold by the council."

[More information is shared.]

"So, I guess the decision we need to make right now is whether we want to do anything about it, and if so, what."

Stage 2: Open up the discussion

"Let's go round and see what everyone thinks."

"I guess it's time to find somewhere else for the kids to play."

"I can't believe it. I've been so much happier since I've lived next to a park."

"But I don't think we should give up that easily! There's lots of things we could do..."

Stage 3: Explore ideas in a broad discussion

²³ <https://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus#conditions>.

"Let's collect some different ideas of what we could do, and then decide if we want to go ahead with any of them."

"Let's raise money and try to buy the park."

"What about squatting?"

"Mmm... not sure squatting is for me! I'd be happy to look at how to raise the money, though."

[more ideas are talked about]

Stage 4: Form a proposal

"So, what are we going to do? Some of you feel that we should build treehouses in the park to stop the developers, but we think we should try and raise money to buy the land."

"But nobody's said that they're actually against squatting the park – just not everyone wants to do that. And squatting might slow the council down so we have time to raise the money. Let's do both!"

[Lots of nodding; some people speak in agreement]

"That idea had lots of support, let's go round to see how everyone feels about it as a proposal."

Stage 5: Amend the proposal

"I like the idea of both squatting and trying to raise the cash to save the park, but people have been talking about separate groups doing those. I feel that we really need to stay as one group – I think if we split, they might try to play one group off against the other."

[Everyone else has their say]

"OK, so there's a suggestion that we amend the proposal to make it clear that we stay as one group, even though we're both squatting and raising funds at the same time."

Stage 6: Test for Agreement

"Right, we have a proposal that we squat the park, and at the same time we start doing grant applications to raise the money to buy the land to save the park for everyone. We're want to be clear that we are one group doing both of these things. Does anyone disagree with this proposal? Remember, the block stops the rest of the group from going ahead, so use it if you really couldn't stay in the group if we followed this plan. Stand aside if you don't want to take part in the plans. If you think we should consider any reservations you have then please let us know, even if you're still going to go along with it."

"Yes, I've got reservations about the fundraising idea - I don't think it's realistic and I'm worried it's a waste of time. I won't stop you though, and I'm happy to help a bit."

"Does anyone else disagree? No? OK, I think we've got consensus. Let's just check – hands up if you agree with the proposal... Great, we have consensus, with one reservation."

Stage 7: Work out how to implement the decision

"OK, so we've taken on two really big jobs! Shall we split into two groups for now, and start idea-storming what needs doing for each, then we can bring it all back together at the end of the meeting?"²⁴

²⁴ <https://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus#process>.

Options for agreement and disagreement

There are many different reasons why someone might not agree with a proposal. For example, you might have fundamental issues with it and want to stop it from going ahead, or you might not have time to implement the decision or the idea just doesn't excite you.

Consensus decision-making recognises this – it's not trying to achieve unanimity but looks for a solution that everyone involved is OK with. Not all types of disagreement stop a group from reaching consensus. Think about it as a gradient or spectrum from completely agreeing to completely objecting to a proposal.

The words used to describe the different types of agreement and disagreement vary from group to group. It's important to be clear in your group what options you are using and what they mean. Here are some common options:

Agreement

"I support the proposal and am willing to implement it."

Reservations

"I still have some problems with the proposal, but I'll go along with it."

You are willing to let the proposal pass but want to register your concerns. You may even put energy into implementing the idea once your dissent has been acknowledged. If there are significant reservations the group may amend or reword the proposal.

Standing aside

"I can't support this proposal because... but I don't want to stop the group, so I'll let the decision happen without me and I won't be part of implementing it."

You might stand aside because you disagree with the proposal: "I'm unhappy enough with this decision not to put any effort into making it a reality."

Or you might stand aside for pragmatic reasons, e.g., you like the decision but are unable to support it because of time restraints or personal energy levels. "I'm OK with the decision, but I'm not going to be around next week to make it happen."

The group may be happy to accept the stand aside and go ahead. Or the group might decide to work on a new proposal, especially where there are several stand asides.

Blocking

"I have a fundamental disagreement with the core of the proposal that has not been resolved. We need to look for a new proposal."

A block stops a proposal from being agreed. It expresses a fundamental objection. It means that you cannot live with the proposal. This isn't an "I don't really like it" or "I liked the other idea better." It means "I fundamentally object to this proposal!" Some groups say that a block should only be used if your objection is so strong that you'd leave if the proposal went ahead. The group can either look for amendments to overcome the objection or return to the discussion stage to look for a new proposal.

Variations on the block

The block is a defining part of the consensus process; it means no decision can be taken without the consent of everyone in the group. Ideally it should be a safety net that never needs to be used - the fact that the option is there means the group is required to take everyone's needs into account when

forming a proposal. Because it is such a powerful tool, some groups have developed additional 'rules' about how and when it is to be used.

Limiting the grounds on which someone can block

Some groups introduce a rule that the block is only to be used if a proposal goes against the core aims and principles of the group, or if a proposal may harm the organisation rather than because it goes against an individual's interests or ethics. For example, a member of a peace group could legitimately block others from taking funding from a weapon's manufacturer. On the other hand, if they had a strong objection to receiving money from the tobacco industry this would be seen as a purely individual concern, and they wouldn't be allowed to stand in the group's way.

Some people object that placing this kind of limitation on the reasons for blocking goes against the principle that every decision should have the consent of everyone involved. Also, in practice, it can be hard to find agreement on whether a proposal is or isn't against the aims of the group. On the other hand, particularly in groups where 'natural' commitment to the collective is low (for example because the membership is constantly changing, or the group is a very small part of people's lives) then placing a limit on the reasons for the block can prevent abuse of power.

Requiring people who block to help find solutions

A variety of groups require anyone blocking to engage in a specific process to find a resolution, such as attending extra workshops or additional meetings. This provides a clear process for finding a way forward. The time commitment required for this also 'raises the bar', with the assumption that people will only block if they feel really strongly and are committed to finding a solution. Be aware though that 'raising the bar' like this will make it disproportionately hard for some people to block, for example if their time and energy are limited by health problems or caring responsibilities.²⁵

²⁵ <https://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus#agreement>.

De-escalation

Introduction

It is advisable that you review this licensed document for more information on de-escalation, grounding and other important tips: [Protest Safety Training Guide by Susan Schorn](http://box5163.temp.domains/~susansd1/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ProtestSafetyTrainingGuide.pdf)²⁶

We have included some information that can be found here: [Guide to Trauma-Informed De-Escalation](https://opentablenashville.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Guide-to-Trauma-Informed-De-Escalation-During-Actions-and-Protests-Updated-PDF.pdf)²⁷

De-escalation skills are handy for individuals in general, but can be especially beneficial for AG's both within their group and during protests.

Protests and actions can be stress-inducing environments. People from all walks of life are bringing their beliefs, grievances, values, and their past experiences and traumas to the public sphere. Given the legitimate anger at situations of injustice, it is important to be sensitive in our responses. Some people have experienced oppression and exploitation directly. Some people could be frustrated because they may frequently interact with a multitude of people who try to silence them or don't understand why they are so angry. Consequently, their frustration level(s) can become elevated, even in the smallest of conflicts or misunderstandings. Whatever has happened, it is our task to meet people where they are in their frustration, anger, and hurt and to believe them.

It is important to remember never to take a person's negative or aggressive behaviour personally. [unless they are threatening or hurting you. You are not obligated to try and help someone if they are distributing dangerous behaviour: not from original source; added by author of this guide] There are reasons for the person's frustrations and behaviour and 99.9% of the time, you are not the reason. Regardless of the person's actions, it is imperative that our reactions do not encourage further negative behaviours or responses. Instead, we can employ simple intervention strategies when a person begins to act in aggravated, aggressive, or harmful ways.

Guidelines for engaging people who are agitated

Strategies for responding to people who are agitated should begin with the least invasive tactic for helping the person feel heard and stay safe and not advance to the next level unless absolutely necessary. The three levels of intervention are:

Level 1: Prevention Level 2: De-Escalation Level 3: Action Focused on Safety

Our goal of preventing violence can be achieved by effectively employing these basic steps: self-awareness, observation, assessment, and skilled listening, communication, and action.

Level 1: Prevention

The first and best method for responding well to people who are agitated is to anticipate and prevent. We can do this through self-awareness, observation, and assessment of needs.

Self-Awareness

Take a deep breath. How is your body reacting to this situation? Are you able to respond in a present, centred, and calm way? Is everything tense or are you able to be open and relaxed with your body language? If you intervene, introduce yourself by telling the person your name, who you are and that you're there to help. If you can't respond, it's okay—find someone else who can. Be aware of your

²⁶ <http://box5163.temp.domains/~susansd1/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ProtestSafetyTrainingGuide.pdf>.

²⁷ <https://opentablenashville.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Guide-to-Trauma-Informed-De-Escalation-During-Actions-and-Protests-Updated-PDF.pdf>.

own privileges and how you come across to others. How do people of other racial/ethnic identities experience [or perceive; added by author of this guide] you? [How do members of the opposite sex affect you in a protest environment? Added by author of guide] Before attempting to provide care, ask yourself if you are the best person to engage this person/situation or is there someone else on your team who could be perceived as 'safer' and more trustworthy? Do your best to be self-aware, mindful, and sensitive when engaging someone you don't know.

Observation

In protest settings, it is common to see people who are shouting loudly and outwardly showing defiance. Things that are typically warning signs for escalating tensions like "a challenging demeanour," "excessive swearing," "clenched fists," and "increased volume of voice" can be part of the action—part of expressing anger at injustice. It's important to be able to notice and discern tensions that are rising that are different from the behaviours of most protesters. For instance, maybe you notice someone who is alone on the edges of the protest and begins to taunt people or direct their anger at individuals. Maybe an argument is developing between two protesters or someone is triggered by somethings someone is wearing or has on their sign.

Look for these signs before things escalate. Check in with the person. Introduce yourself. Ask, "How are you feeling? What do you need right now?" Offer something tangible like a piece of gum, bottle of water, healing oils, or a cigarette.

Also, remember that your understanding of behavioural norms may be different from other people and groups. If someone is just being loud or rowdy because they are angry or excited but is not posing a threat to anyone, it is not our job to police or control their expressions.

Assessment

What is the person telling you about their needs through their behaviour, words and body language? Can you meet these needs? If not, what options can you offer them? What are they trying to gain? What are they trying to avoid? Is the person's thinking or behaviour impaired? If so, they may respond in unpredictable ways. Keep assessing throughout the encounter. Is the way you're responding helping? If not, adjust your response or find someone else who can help.

Level 2: De-escalation

Skilled listening

The listening and attending skills of therapeutic communication are the most effective tools of averting violent behaviour. Even though the situation may be tense, pay attention to what the other person is trying to tell you. Practice reflective listening. This involves finding out information about what a person is thinking and feeling, and what may be done about a problem. Don't assume you know. Listen carefully to what is said. Simply spending a few minutes interacting with the person may prevent an altercation. The more information you have, the better you will be able to work toward a solution. If you are genuine when you listen, this can build rapport and help someone feel like they can trust you.

Steps for Effective Listening

Tune in to your personal anxiety level. Assess your feelings and ask yourself if your feelings are interfering with your communication skills. Acknowledge the other person's feelings. Identify the anxiety or anger and acknowledge the potential for violence. You might say, "You seem very upset" or "I'm concerned about your safety and the safety of others who are here." - Be sincere and assertive. Convey calmness, confidence and a willingness to help.

Communicating

Some researchers say over 90% of communication happens through our tone of voice and body language. That means that less than 10% comes from words. While talking, take an open stance and be aware of your voice. The tone of your voice will have an immediate effect upon the person. It is imperative that your voice remains calm and soft, yet firm. De-escalating relies on listening and is dependent upon embodying and demonstrating a positive regard and respect for others.

If you become angry or aggressive like the person, you will not be helpful. Again, try to communicate a genuine concern for their well-being, even if you don't agree with what they are saying.

The do's and don'ts of therapeutic, effective communication

The Do's – Verbal

- Do ask, "What can I do to help?"
- Do suggest getting out of a crowded or intense area. Create space around the person so they are as removed as possible from the source of tension.
- Do use reflective listening. Help them feel heard. Reflect back what they are saying to you through their words and body language. "I hear how angry and passionate you are about this situation."
- Do ask open-ended questions and give brief, direct statements.
- Do ask opinions: "In what way do you feel that we could help you?" or "How would you like to see the situation resolved?"
- Do offer choices and alternatives: "If being here is not working out for you, can I help you get somewhere else?" Try to leave the person with options. - Try to create rapport that communicates that you are on their team. Ask, "How can we work together to make this better and make sure everyone stays safe?" - See if there is any common ground you can agree on together. Say something like, "I hear your side of things and I know you're passionate about this. My role is to make sure people are safe and I'm wondering if we can find a way to work together to make sure everyone on our side stays safe."
- Do encourage verbalization of anger rather than acting out. (Express your limitation with this verbalization, however, such as expressions or language that is too offensive and not necessary.)
- Do assume that the person has a real concern and that they are understandably upset.
- Do recognize and acknowledge the person's right to their feelings. - Sometimes changing the topic or providing a distraction can help. Asking something like, "Are you from around here?" or "I really like your shirt. Where did you get it?" or noting something about the weather can help shift the conversation. If this doesn't work, go back to the other strategies.

The Don'ts – Verbal

- Don't threaten the person or demand obedience.
- Don't argue with the person about the facts of a situation.
- Don't offer lengthy explanations or excuses.
- Don't tell the person that they have no reason to be angry.
- Don't try to control the person or tell them to "calm down."
- Don't become defensive and insist that you are right. Don't go against or over them.

- Don't offer placating responses such as "Everything will be OK" or "You're not the only one."
- Don't belittle them or dismiss their anger or frustrations.
- Don't use your title or authority.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Don't challenge the person or call their bluff.
- Don't criticize or laugh at the person.
- Don't argue with the person! (Try to find common ground!)

Level 3: Action Focused on Safety

Taking Action. Everything discussed so far culminates when we take action. A key concept in de-escalation is to try to decrease the person's sense of powerlessness and helplessness in order to minimize their frustrations. The following steps promote helpful interactions.

The do's and don'ts of helpful interactions

The Do's – Actions

- Do follow your instinct and intuition. Use common sense.
- Do detect danger signals. Are you safe? Is the person safe? Are others in the area safe?
- Do prioritize safety and know your surroundings:
 - Identify an escape route convenient to you and the person.
 - Position yourself close to an exit without making them feel trapped in.
 - Assess the environment for potential weapons.
- Do identify a code word that will alert the need for additional help.
- Do ask if the person will find a place to sit down with you. Or try walking with them away from the area of tension. If they smoke, can you find a cigarette for them?
- Do establish and maintain eye contact.
- Do decrease environmental stimuli by minimizing the presence of distractions and other people. - Make sure someone knows where you are at all times.
- Do attempt to meet as many of their reasonable requests as possible.
- Do remind the person that they are responsible for their own actions.

The Don'ts – Actions

- Don't ignore the person.
- Don't come too close to the person or stand/hover over them.
- Don't touch the person.
- Don't analyse, interpret, or judge the person's motivations. Try to observe and assess without assuming or projecting.
- Don't take the person's anger or frustration personally.
- Don't try to control the person.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.

If a conflict does escalate to verbal confrontation between two people or more, be most present to talk to the person who is most agitated. You might need to position your body, if possible, in between the people in conflict. Face the person who is most agitated. Ask the other person/people to give you space while you talk. Introduce yourself. Let them know you're there to help keep everyone safe. Listen to their concerns. Use a non-threatening stance and a calm tone of voice. Try to find common ground. Try to meet whatever needs you can that are reasonable. Try to enlist their help in helping you make sure that everyone stays safe. Enlist additional help if needed. *[Your safety is just as important. Please only do this if you are comfortable and make sure that others are keeping an eye on the situation and are ready to assist if needed. Do not risk your safety: not from original source; added by author of this guide]*

If the person's thinking is impaired by drugs, alcohol, or severe emotional or mental health issues, they may respond in unpredictable ways. Arguing with them or trying to use points that may seem logical to you often doesn't work in these situations. Speak calmly at a reasonable pace. Repeat yourself using simple, direct statements. [In this scenario] Try using brief, closed-ended questions to gain their participation in resolving the situation. Often, people in this state can be distracted or redirected from the agitation long enough to cool down and move on. Changing the subject by saying something like, "How are you doing today? Are you from around here?" If that doesn't work, you might say something like, "Can you help me/us make sure that you/everyone here is safe?" or "Will you be able to calm down enough to stay here or would you like to go somewhere else?"

If what you're doing isn't working and things continue to escalate, see if you can pull in outside help. Is there someone else they would be willing to talk with? Is there someone in the area or someone they know whom they could call? Are things at the point where you need to call for emergency help? **Because police can make situations more dangerous for black people, women and other marginalised people, and because their presence can easily escalate situations, many protesters are distrustful of police intervention. Calling the police should be a last resort and should be avoided when possible.**

Simple ways to get your message out

After you have covered affinity group basics, if you/your group decide that you want to participate in methods of non-arrestable/low risk activism, listed below are some easy ways to get going. These are examples of methods of institutionalised activism. Some of these are good to remember regardless of what category or methods of activism people/groups choose. For example, messaging, the way in which you convey information, is very important when you need to communicate something important or urgent to the wider public or media, regardless of what type of activism you are engaging in, and the small space for a message on a flyer, banner or sign needs to be used wisely.

It is very important to understand that not everyone can participate in civil disobedience and/or arrestable action. This can be for many reasons; parental status, risk of violence from police/men, physical ability/disability, mental health factors and more. Those of us with less risks of unfair treatment, more money to cover potential fees & costs of arrestable action and so on, are more likely to be safer and not suffer ongoing negative outcomes. This does not remove the right to choose that we each have. No one should ever be forced to participate in actions or to take on an arrestable role.

Educate and negotiate

The power of education and reaching out to someone for negotiation should not be underestimated. If a problem exists, the opposing person is most likely a victim of the same oppressive systems you are fighting against. Give them a chance to be reasoned with. Do they even know the problem exists? If so, do they know how to solve the problem? At times, you may end up reaching a compromise. As long as the group members have discussed and agreed about this option, compromise may be a viable solution.

Public outreach

This is a very effective way of educating the general public and getting information to people so they can support your campaign/protest/petition/cause etc. As any form of activism can, public outreach takes many forms. You may just want/need to hand out flyers or leaflets or you may want/need to plan a more elaborate event or creative action. You can learn more about this form of activism in the *What Type of Activism Suits You?* section.

Leaflets, flyers and stickers

You can print off some flyers or leaflets and hand them out on campus, at work or anywhere there is a lot of foot-traffic; these are very effective and efficient ways to spread information. The same applies to stickers, buttons/pins and other items. You can use a free graphic design platform like Canva, or you can design flyers/pamphlets etc. on printing company websites and there are sites where you can design stickers, too, like <https://stickerapp.com/>. If you are not comfortable with online designing or not sure how to, design a flyer/poster by hand and make copies at home, your local library or a local office supply store. You can find sticker sheets to do your own printing for stickers, too, if preferred over paying for printing through a third-party site/company.

Signs and banners

If you cannot afford professional printing, make your own signs and banners. You can go to many different businesses and ask for cardboard they would otherwise throw away or recycle, and use that cardboard for your signs. Markers/sharpies, paint or spray paint is all you need from there.

You can go to your local thrift store/op shop and find sheets and other materials to use for banners. Use cable ties to secure banners to bridge railings and other structures where drivers and/or

pedestrians will see the message your AG wants to convey (on the banner). It is wise to cut slits into the banner in a few areas to allow wind to pass through.

Social media

Using #hashtags is a great way to focus attention on your campaign or message as well as “tagging” relevant businesses and/or individuals. Having a network, or community, of people to share information, posts, links etc. is very beneficial. In fact, you can run an entire campaign through social media! It can be very easy to build public interest and pressure if you are informed. You can create social media accounts on different platforms for your campaign/cause. Use a free platform like Canva to design eye-catching graphics to compliment your online campaign and messaging.

Make a petition

Making petitions and collecting signatures may seem old fashioned, but it can be a very effective approach to changing laws and policies. Just google "making a petition in (insert your city/town/suburb)" and you should be redirected to a local government website with all you need to know about making and tabling a petition in your area. These websites may even have usable templates for paper petitions, and there are many platforms for online petitions including GetUp!, iPetitions and Change.org. Some governments facilitate e-petitions through Parliamentary websites. Reach out to your community, friends and family to help collect signatures and gain support for your cause.

Contacting media

This can be very effective when you need to get exposure quickly or if you need to get some public pressure on a business or individual. It is easy to contact multiple media agencies, journalists and other media sources in a short amount of time using social media, hashtags/“tagging” them in posts and by sending them emails and messages. You/your AG can take a more formal approach by releasing a media statement. Remember to stick to the facts from your research and work as a group to contact as many media sources as possible. Do not be intimidated by their professional position. The media is there for us to use to our benefit. When they won't, we can do it ourselves with the help of our communities and networks of support (and a great blog post and/or media statement).

Other ways to support positive change

Whether you're a campaigner, a nonviolent direct action activist or an anarchist, or if you are not able to participate in the methods of activism you prefer, there are ways we can all practice nonviolence, compassion and community-building within our daily lives.

Donate money to local sanctuaries, rescues and organizations that are fighting for positive change and/or helping the victims of injustice.

Donate your time and energy to volunteering with local sanctuaries & rescues, with women's rights groups, services and organizations and other groups that are supporting the causes that you are passionate about.

Share petitions, announcements, events, legislative news and other important information from organizations and groups that are fighting for positive change.

Practice non-violence within your own life and community. Educate others on the importance of getting back to our true human nature and uniting against injustice to change the oppressive systems and policies that are to blame for most of the environmental destruction occurring around the world, and for much of the oppression humans and animals face.

Raise awareness and get public support & engagement for your cause through leading online campaigns via email, video outreach and social media. Starting a newsletter or blog is a good option to consider ([Substack](#), WordPress etc.), and social media and video sharing platforms (YouTube, Vimeo etc.) can be very effective tools for outreach and for getting people to pay attention to your campaign. If you are comfortable with being on camera, you/your AG can start a YouTube channel. If you collect footage, create videos, podcasts or do interviews, having a YouTube channel (or an account on a similar platform) is handy. Share your digital media on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. Video editing is relatively easy to learn and you can research everything you need to know. Canva is a fantastic graphic design platform that makes it free and easy to make eye-catching graphics for social media, videos and more.

Remember, do your research and stick to the facts.

Messaging: tips and tools

This is set up for political campaigns/elections, but can be adapted to suit any type of action or campaign to sort out the best strategy for messaging.

One of the most useful tools to ensure your message contains important contrast is the Message Box. The message box is a simple square with four separate quadrants, each of which covers a specific aspect of the electoral debate between a candidate or political party and their strongest opponent. These quadrants are: what we say about us, what we say about them, what they say about us, and what they say about themselves.

The two quadrants at the top of the box are about what we are going to say in our campaign. The first focuses on the message we have already constructed based on our research, our values, our strategy and what we want voters to think and feel about this election. Next to it is what we might choose to say about our opponent, essentially their weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and the reasons why we are challenging them.

The bottom half focuses on what our opponent is saying. In one quadrant we list what they say about us: our weaknesses and vulnerabilities. In the final column we analyse what they are likely to say about themselves: their strengths, values, and what they want target voters to think and feel about this election.

The message box helps us test our message for contrast, to ensure we are highlighting what makes us different and better choice for voters than our opponent. (This is set up for political campaigns, but it can be used for planning messaging for protests, campaigns etc. Just think of who the people are that oppose your stance. For example: if you are protesting live export, the people opposing your stance may be farmers and some politicians)

<p><u>What we say about us</u></p> <p>The reasons people should vote for you (support you/your cause/protest)</p>	<p><u>What we say about them</u></p> <p>The reasons people should vote against your opponent (oppose the 'culprit' in this campaign)</p>
<p><u>What they say about us</u></p> <p>The reasons people should vote against you (not support you/your cause/protest)</p>	<p><u>What they say about them</u></p> <p>The reasons people should vote for your opponent (what the 'culprit'/opponent says about itself)</p>

To use the message box in an election with multiple competitors, you must first figure out who your primary opponent is. To do this, consider who you are competing with directly for votes. If you're not competing with another party or candidate for votes, even if they are attacking you, they are not your opposition. When you are facing challenges from multiple candidates or parties, create message boxes for all of your significant opponents.

When working with the message box, it is important to include all factors that may play a role in the election campaign, including things that may go unsaid or charges that can be made by implication.

For example, if you say that you are the more experienced candidate, you can also be implying that your opponent(s) lack the necessary experience. By saying you are the more honest choice, you suggest that your opponents are dishonest, untrustworthy or corrupt.

Keep in mind that your opponents can do this to you as well. For example, your opponents may focus on your lack of experience or say you don't have any real plans or policies. A message box helps you anticipate these types of attacks, see where there are contrasts that are beneficial to you and think through how you will respond to both stated and implied charges.

The message box also helps you see your campaign or your party from the perspective of your opponent, which is not always easy to do. We're not used to seeing our opponents positively and ourselves negatively. However, being able to think through these dynamics clearly will make a significant difference in how effective your communications are during the campaign.

For more useful tips check out this document – (above information pulled from this document)

[Message Development - Creating Powerful and Persuasive Messages](#)²⁸

²⁸ https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/CS%20Handook_Module%206_EN.pdf.

Media tips

In this section you will find tips on liaising with the media, media interview tips and tips on recording video footage during protests.

What is the media?

Separate from social media, we have journalists, editors and broadcasters that serve the community by reporting on important information, events and other matters that concern politics, the economy, weather, human rights, social matters and much, much more. We have international media companies along with national, state and local/community level ones. There are newspapers (yes, still!), magazines, blogs, and, of course, radio stations and television channels and the companies that own them. All of these forms of media are worth considering.

Contacting the media

Contacting the media is very effective when you have important information that you want to spread rapidly or when you need to get exposure quickly, or if you need to get some public pressure on a business or individual.

It is easy to contact multiple media agencies, journalists and other media sources in a short amount of time using social media, #hashtags, by "tagging" them in posts and by sending them emails and messages.

You can easily find email addresses for writers and editors by searching online or by calling and asking.

Keep a media contact list to reference when needed. This will need to be updated regularly as editors and journalists/writers may often switch employers.

For formal communication, like a media/press release, you would usually email these to media companies. You can opt to also send them through snail-mail, but you need to ensure plenty of time for your letters to arrive, and you still need to send emails closer to the date of your event, or a suitable date relevant to the information included in your media/press release.

Be cautious when divulging information with the media. It is not wise to share information with them that you do not want to be shared publicly. However, they do operate within rules and codes. If you are clear that certain information is not to be used, and you do this in writing, they should be bound to honour that request.

You can look up media/reporting/journalistic codes, guidelines and other relevant policies online.

Interview tips

Whether we like it or not, the general public want to see clean-cut, well-mannered and articulate people on their news segments, and media companies know this. If you/your group need to liaise with journalists and/or you or someone in your group will need to do an interview, there are some considerations to make and some general rules that will help make your interview successful.

- Dress professionally when on camera or meeting a journalist.
- Be clean in appearance, making sure hair is not too 'free' that day.
- Remove excessive piercings and cover as many tattoos as possible.
- Speak slightly slower than you normally would, making sure to pronounce words clearly.
- Do not use words or terms that you do not understand, or that are not common in society.

- Keep it professional, but also natural.
- Always ask journalists for a set list of questions that they will be asking. This is your right.
- Once you have the list of questions, answer them (write them down) so that you can practice your interview beforehand, **numerous times**.
- Make sure to use consistent messaging and to convey your key points and information.
- Remember to breathe! If you are doing a live interview, breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth to steady your heartbeat and calm your nerves.

More tips and information can be found here:

[Learn from the journalist's and politician's point-of-view](#)²⁹

[Preparing For Your First Interview With the Media](#)³⁰

[Doing an interview over the phone](#)³¹

[News media interviews: What to say when you can't say](#)³²

Recording video footage during a protest

When you want to record video footage during a protest, rally or another event, there are a few things to remember to simplify the process and to help you get the most usable footage out of your recordings.

- 1) Livestreams produce poor quality videos (audio + visual) and are not usually editable. It is best to record video footage, not livestream. If you do want to livestream from your location, make sure to have another person/device recording raw footage.
- 2) Recording from your phone is convenient, but will produce lower quality videos. Once you upload videos to social media platforms, the quality of your video is undermined. Capturing high-resolution recordings is ideal. It is best to use a GoPro, a high-resolution camera or another high-resolution recording device.
- 3) Recording raw footage also allows you to manipulate/edit the footage afterward so you can make shorter clips and promotional videos etc.
- 4) Be sure you have a wireless charger for your devices.
- 5) Designating someone to record footage is advisable. This is separate from a Legal Observer and their role of recording interactions between police and protestors (and counter-protestors etc.).

Review the *Supportive roles* section of the guide to learn more about the Legal Observer role and other important roles for protestors/affinity group members.

²⁹ <https://www.crikey.com.au/2018/06/14/art-political-interview-tips-news/>.

³⁰ <https://amycarrcommunications.com/preparing-for-your-first-interview-with-the-media/>.

³¹ <https://crystalclearcomms.com/media-interview-read-these-tips-to-be-successful-on-the-phone/>.

³² <https://crystalclearcomms.com/news-media-interviews-what-to-say-when-you-cant-say/>.

What type of activism suits you?

Here are some images and/or descriptions to give you an idea of what different categories and methods, or types, of activism can look/be like.

Supportive roles

Police Liaison

A Police Liaison's (PL) role is to speak directly with police to inform them of planned events and actions (when applicable). PL's negotiate terms of interaction with activists and their right to protest, the level of Police response and the boundaries of arrestability, so to speak, both before (if applicable) and (always) during protests/actions. PL's should wear high-vis vests during events/actions to be easily identifiable.

If people have not previously filled the role of police liaison, or if they have but don't feel confident about it yet, it is very useful for them to do a facilitated discussion exploring the feelings and issues involved. The following is a sample agenda for this.

The following information (Police Liaison) was pulled from [How to do Police Liaison - Anita McKone](#)³³

**The following information regarding police liaison is attended as a guide only, and is not intended to be used in relation to actions where information and details should be kept secure. Furthermore, some AG's may feel that this is not in line with direct action. AG's should discuss this role and the boundaries of it for specific actions. [not from original source, added by author of guide]*

Agenda (2 hours approx. depending on the number of people)

- 1) Personal sharing – How are participants feeling today? (1 and 2 can be combined)
- 2) Sharing – Why do you want to do police liaison? What do you want to get out of this session?
- 3) Working out or presenting the agenda – facilitator either works one out on the spot according to what people have said they want or presents the following format and checks that it includes everything people want to do.
- 4) Feelings – What are people's feelings around dealing with the police in general and particularly in a liaison situation? Give each person plenty of time and reflectively listen to their feelings.
- 5) Why do we do police liaison? – let people brainstorm, then fill in any major gaps. People will probably come up with a combination of reasons related to principles, tactics and strategy. The list should include points related to:
 - openness and honesty
 - taking responsibility for, and pride in, our actions
 - minimizing the risk of violence
 - developing relationships beyond the stereotyped roles people normally play
 - increasing opportunities over time for individual police to decide that they support your cause.
- 6) How do we do police liaison? – Brainstorm every issue that needs to be covered in a meeting with the police, or present the following general agenda for people to comment on/adapt to the particular circumstance.

³³ <https://anitamckone.wordpress.com/nva-resources/how-to-do-police-liaison/>.

- Arrange a meeting with the police who will be dealing with the action. Find out which police to talk to well in advance of the action. Ask for about half an hour of their time (depending on the complexity of the action).

- Work out in advance who will be talking through each part of the meeting so that new people, particularly, can prepare what they are going to say.

6.a) Points to be covered in the meeting with police:

- Introductions – use police officers’ titles unless they ask you to use their names, encourage them to use your first names. Shake hands.

- Chitchat – Try to chat about something not related to your action to make things a bit more relaxed before you begin (it helps if you already have a relationship with the particular police officer from previous actions).

- Agenda – Run briefly through the different points you’ve planned to talk to them about to make sure they give you space to say what you need to, and to reassure them that you’re not going to rave at them for half an hour about the issue.

- Who is organizing the action – Explain briefly what your action group does. If you have no previous connection with this particular police officer, explain the group’s connection with the Australian Nonviolence Network (if this is applicable) and find out if the police are familiar with other ANN groups such as the Melbourne Rainforest Action Group. Explain how all ANN groups use the same nonviolent discipline in their actions.

- Find out if the police officer is aware of your group’s previous actions, give them names of police involved as a reference.

- Why we are doing the action? – Explain briefly the issues involved in the action (plan for three or four sentences). Judge whether the officer is ready to hear more or less about the issue – if you feel that the officer does not want to hear about it, don’t push it and go straight on to what will be happening in the action.

- What the details of the action are – Give the police a time-line and a diagram of how the action will be set up (if this is appropriate) and go through these step by step. Be prepared to give an estimate of the numbers you expect at the action – this is usually the first question the police ask.

- How we will be carrying out this action – Talk about your adherence to nonviolent discipline, specifically:

- no physical violence

- no abuse of police or workers

- no damage to property

- intended response to arrest

- role of peacekeepers

- asking people to take part in the action only on the basis of accepting nonviolent discipline.

- Give the police a copy of the ‘nonviolent discipline’ leaflet you will be handing out to people at the beginning of the action (if this is applicable).

- Police officers’ questions or concerns – Ask if they have any concerns and discuss these. If police ask you to change any part of the action, take time to consider whether or not the changes would

affect the fundamental integrity of the action. You might discuss the issue among yourselves there and then and come to an immediate decision, or ask for time to refer back to the whole group to get a consensus decision, depending on how complicated the issue is and how confident you feel in making an appropriate decision on the spot.

- Requests of the police – Is there anything they can do for you (e.g., organizing parking spots for cars, talking to other parties involved, close off streets...)?

- Concluding bits – Swap names and phone numbers. Arrange to send any extra information they might need or organize a future date to talk to them again if necessary. Indicate that you will be responsible for police liaison at the action and that you will be available for consultation before, during and after the action.

7) Police threats – If, during your liaison with them, police threaten to behave violently towards activists if the activists perform a certain action (such as trespass, climbing fences or obstruction) reiterate the activists' commitment to nonviolence and state that, obviously, it is the police officers' choice how they decide to respond. Depending on the political climate in your local situation, this type of threat may be given only in order to scare you off: if you maintain your calm determination to proceed as you have planned, despite arrest or violent responses from the police, there is considerable likelihood that no actual violence will occur (though activists most probably will be arrested).

Obviously, if the police have been ordered to behave violently by political authorities above them, they may do so, but violence will be more difficult for them to enact if they see your relative fearlessness of their violent response and your calm determination to act according to your conscience while remaining nonviolent despite their provocation. Refraining from insulting police during the action and being willing to give up an immediate physical goal in favour of achieving a longer-term strategic goal (by having mass arrests without physical tussles, for example) will also reduce the risk of police violence. If the police still behave violently despite the activists behaving in such a dignified way, this is likely to gain wider public sympathy and support for the activists and their cause.

Legal Observers

Legal observers are individuals who attend public demonstrations, protests and other activities where there is a potential for conflict between the public or activists and the police, security guards, or other law enforcement personnel. The purpose of legal observers is to monitor and record these protests or other activities, and report on any unlawful or improper behaviour. It is very important to document any arrests. Legal Observers need to ask what police station the arrested group member(s) will be taken to and make sure to arrange pick-up for each arrested group member (if AG members have not done so).



Legal or human rights observers act as an independent third party within a conflictual civil protest context, observing police behaviour in order to keep police accountable for their actions. Legal observers can write incident reports describing police violence and misbehaviour and compile reports after the event. The use of video and still cameras, incident reports and audio recorders are

common. The evidence that legal observers collect can be used later, during potential court proceedings for those that are arrested and charged during acts of civil disobedience and/or direct action. Legal observers should wear high-vis vests during events/actions. Each supportive role should be represented by different coloured high-vis vests.

It is thought that the concept of using legal observers first emerged during protests in the 1930s in the East End of London, where police agent's provocateur was used during protests by the British Union of Fascists (BUF). There were large counter-protests and it was alleged that the police sided with the BUF. Another case of legal observing was that carried out by the Black Panthers in the United States.

Legal observers were used by Liberty (then known as the National Council for Civil Liberties) in Wapping, London, during the mid-1980s. The Wapping demonstration was in response to large protests by labour unions against the industrial relations policies of media magnate Rupert Murdoch.

In the United States, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) holds registered trademarks for the words "legal observer" alone, as well as the words "legal observer" on a green background. The National Lawyers Guild Legal Observer certification program was established in 1968 in New York City in response to protests at Columbia University and citywide anti-war and civil rights demonstrations. That same year, guild students organized for the defines of people swept up in mass arrests at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The NLG Legal Observer certification program requires legal observers to take a training course and is part of a comprehensive system of legal support designed to enable people to express their political views as fully as possible without unconstitutional disruption or interference by the police and with the fewest possible consequences from the criminal justice system. Legal observers are trained and directed by National Lawyer Guild attorneys. The presence of legal observers may serve as a deterrent to unconstitutional behaviour by law enforcement during a demonstration.

Some other sources of information and/or specific legal observer training are:

[Green & Black Cross - UK](https://greenandblackcross.org/)³⁴

[Melbourne Activist Legal Support](https://melbactivistlegal.org.au/)³⁵

First-aid

This is a very important role that should take priority at all rallies, protests and actions. Even small, sneaky actions need someone designated as the first-aid role so that any injuries or medical issues can be quickly addressed.

When organizing public rallies, demonstrations etc., you need to ensure that someone with up-to-date accreditation or certification takes the role of first-aid officer or organizers may be held legally responsible for any incidents that may occur resulting in injury or sickness.



It is up to affinity groups, campaigns etc. to decide whether or not you want to get public liability insurance.

³⁴ <https://greenandblackcross.org/>.

³⁵ <https://melbactivistlegal.org.au/>.

First-aid officers need to have a first-aid kit and be prepared to deal with anything ranging from overheating to snake bites depending on temperatures and weather conditions, the location of protest/action and many other factors.

Are police using mace/pepper spray? Will you be outside or inside? What is the temperature expected to reach? Will there be protection from the sun and/or weather conditions? Does anyone in your group have allergies or medical/other conditions that should be discussed? What is the protest area like? Will there be a high risk of sprains or other similar injuries?

First-aid officers need to be prepared to handle a range of situations and injuries. Make sure first-aid officers are trained and knowledgeable. Ideally, nurses, first-aid officials and other medical professionals can assist with this role or with training others for this role.

Pepper spray remedies

*Information pulled from cross-referenced online sources.

Since pepper spray is oil based (derived from oleoresin capsicum) it simply won't wash away with just water unless applied over an extended period of time (say 30 minutes or more). If you have been contaminated with pepper spray (especially in the face), DO NOT RUB the contaminated area because it will not remove or stop the side effects. Resist this urge as much as possible.

Pepper spray is an inflammatory agent. It is designed to inflame your capillaries and cause a horrific burning sensation. When you touch a contaminated area, you aid the pepper spray in opening up the capillaries. Doing this may increase the burning sensation tenfold and make it spread.

Stopping the Burn

There is no easy or pain free way to cure pepper spray contamination and people may react differently to pepper spray. The removing techniques that work for some may not work for others. The tips below may assist.

The L.A.W mix is used by some street medics. This is a solution made of half liquid antacid and half water. This only applies to aluminium (aluminum) hydroxide or magnesium hydroxide-based antacids. Simethicone based antacids have not been used to our knowledge.

One recommendation for pepper spray removal is to start with applying whole milk to the affected area. You can apply it to the affected area via a spray bottle, splash it directly on your skin, saturate a clean towel and lay it over the affected area or submerge the affected area. The milk should help take the burn away. However, this will not remove the oils in the pepper spray. For getting the oils off it is recommended to use the below antidote.

Removing the Pepper Spray Oil from Your Skin

Use a solution of 25% dishwashing detergent and 75% water. Use cold water and make up at least a gallon because you are going to have to wash the affected area at least 7 to 8 times.

If your face is contaminated mix the detergent in a bowl that that is deep enough to immerse your face in for 10 or 15 seconds at a time. Let the detergent start to do its job of breaking down the oils. Do not use your hands or a cloth to wipe the solution away. Just let it sit. Once you have done this a few times you can start lightly using your hands (after they have been dipped in the solution) or use a solution-saturated towel to work the detergent into your skin. This is most likely going to activate your capillaries and the pepper spray. This is normal so try to remain calm and patient. Decontaminating yourself from pepper spray can take as little as 15 minutes to as long as 45 minutes before symptoms subside. Recovery depends greatly on your skin type.

Once you can touch your face without too much discomfort you can use a little more pressure to work the solution in. Once you are to this point rinse your face between the applications of the solution. You may even wish to make up a new smaller batch of solution that is clean and does not have any oil residue in it. Because your skin will absorb some of the oils you will not be able to completely wash it out. But by this time at least the effects will be tolerable.

If you get pepper spray in your eyes when wearing contacts, take them out as soon as you possibly can. Throw them away: getting the pepper spray off them will be practically impossible. Blinking helps wash the capsicum from the eyes, which isn't much comfort to someone who has to spend the next half hour waiting for the pain to diminish. You can also try flushing eyes with saline solution.

Community Liaison

This role serves to inform the general public about why an action is occurring when it is in a public setting. This can be done through flyers or chatting to them individually or addressing a group of pedestrians/members of the public with a megaphone or microphone (if needed). People that perform this role also serve to de-escalate members of the public (for example, when blocking a street or walkway) and/or other activists if their behaviour escalates. High-vis is needed but should be a different colour of vest from the other supportive roles. (Each role needs its own colour of vest or other identification). Community Liaisons need to be trained/experienced in de-escalation skills and tactics. Using humour can be beneficial.

Messaging is very important! You will most likely only have a few seconds to catch someone's attention and make a positive impression. Be sure to check out the *Messaging tips and tools* section. People that prefer activism categorised as community-building may find that they enjoy supportive roles. People that choose to have an arrestable role probably wouldn't want to take on a supportive role.

Marshal

FOR MARCHES & OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS

Marshals “[serve](#) in a position of special responsibility as a demonstration marshal for an event. You are being asked to step away from being a participant and to accept the responsibility for helping the organization conduct the event and ensure the health and safety of participants. You will need to be ready and able to respond to orders given by the organizers and law enforcement, and be able to work within the chain of command. You will also need to lead the people for whom you are responsible.”³⁶ This is a serious and important role.



³⁶ <https://www.justice.gov/archive/crs/pubs/demonmarsh.pdf>.

The Basics

Marshals need to be supplied with high-visibility (high-vis) vests (or another form of identification) by event organisers. The usual colour for marshal vests is orange.

Marshal duties vary depending on what type of event or demonstration it is, but there are some basic principles and duties that are consistent throughout any event:

- Being a marshal takes physical endurance and can be physically taxing.
- You must behave in an orderly fashion and follow instructions from event organisers and/or police.
- There should be a chain of command for marshals. For example: event organisers > Lead Marshals > Marshals.
- Having a few marshals designated as “runners” is beneficial. They relay messages between organisers and Lead Marshals etc.
- Schedule a day of marshal training, if possible, and at the very least, plan a marshal briefing an hour or so before the event begins so that all marshals understand their role, know the event format & other important details and receive their vests (or another form of identification for the event).

Other Tips

- Wear comfortable clothing, and bring clothing suitable for weather conditions.
- Wear protective and comfortable shoes.
- Bring extra water (and snacks if you will be there for an extended time).
- Wear a hat and other protective items if the event is taking place in warmer temperatures.

Detailed information for march & rally marshals

- [Sample information pack for marshals](#)³⁷ (to be given on the day of event).
- Check out this amazing resource for very important information on how to successfully marshal marches. It is also a great example of what type of information to provide your volunteers.

[SAMPLE GUIDE FOR MARSHALS at rallies & marches](#)³⁸

³⁷ <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2021/08/28/marshal-information-pack-sample/>.

³⁸ <https://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/Sample-Marshal-Guide-Womens-March.pdf>.

Political lobbying

The information included in this section is useful for all campaigns and actions.

Lobbying politicians through organised letter writing + email campaigns and face-to-face meetings is a powerful method of activism that can produce positive results for you/your AG and, of course, for your community and for our society. Political lobbying in conjunction with social media/media campaigns can be even more effective, and has the potential to reach a higher number of people that may engage with your campaign and support your efforts by lobbying politicians, too.

Organising a successful political campaign

It is recommended that you/your AG review a document for your state/country that is similar to [Judge for Yourself - A Guide to Sentencing in Australia](#)³⁹ which has information on the Australian Parliament, government branches and much more.

**A hypothetical campaign regarding the rights of girls and women in prison is being used as an example for this section.*

Getting started

Talk to friends and trusted acquaintances to see who else is concerned about the same issue(s) and wants to take action. Bring everyone together onto the same platform (i.e.: Facebook messenger chat, in person meeting, Zoom meeting etc.) to discuss concerns, initial information and thoughts. See who can commit to taking action on this issue and on what level (time commitment, role, skills).

Facilitating meetings

Online or in person, here are some tips on facilitating meetings:

[Zoom](#) and [jitsi](#) are good platforms for video meetings, and there are many others to choose from.

During your meetings, here are some matters to discuss/actions to take when your group begins:

- Brainstorm – you will come up with a lot of ideas and questions initially. Many of your ideas will end not being used and that is normal. The questions you all have should be noted and looked in to.
- Think of everyone that is impacted by the issue you are campaigning about, on all ends of the spectrum (i.e.: campaign re: incarcerated girls and women stakeholders could be Prison Officers Union/current penal system employees, prisoner advocacy groups, ex-incarcerated women, retired prison board/staff members, women’s advocacy groups etc.). Consider them stakeholders for this campaign. Keep track of them and relevant information.
- Assign/volunteer for roles (social media, writer/editor, media contact, meeting facilitator, admin/campaign director, researcher(s) etc.). Ask group members what skills they have and what they are comfortable doing and go from there.
- Make initial agreements if necessary (process of adding new members & vouching, ethics/Code of Conduct, goals etc.).
- Decide on things like logo/design, group name etc. if necessary.

Tips on group decision-making can be found in the *Consensus decision-making* section of the guide and information on vouching can be found in the *Vouching* section. Be sure to review the section on facilitating meetings, too, as well as the [D.A.M website](#).

³⁹ https://www.judcom.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/judge_for_yourself.pdf.

Background research

Conducting research is one of the most important parts of a political campaign and it may take a good amount of effort and time depending on the issue(s) at hand and how many people are contributing. Knowing the facts, public opinions, what the opposition is saying etc. for any given issue is important and contributes to a successful campaign/action. It also contributes toward a reputation of being credible and dependable.

- You may need multiple people to conduct research depending on the workload.
- Document your research, your findings, references etc. in a 'master document' (Google Drive is handy for this) and use that to form more coherent, digestible documents, statements, letters, social media posts etc. Always keep track of where you find information. Keep reference lists and make sure statements, posts, and other forms of content are well referenced. Trello is an excellent platform for organising and storing a lot of information in one place and there are many similar platforms. These are worth you/your AG checking out, but these types of platforms are not suitable for 'sensitive' information.
- Find out what the media has said about the issue(s) & which journalists/companies previously covered the issue(s).
- Get as much official data as possible from government websites & well-known organisations.
- Track changes to relevant laws and policies, which politicians made changes and which ones opposed the changes etc. and use state, federal and international law to suit your needs.
- Find out which politicians you need to lobby. Look on government websites at lists of members of Parliament to see which Minister portfolios are relevant enough to lobby and to get their contact information.
- What other people and groups are working on this issue or have worked on it in the past? What did they do and was it successful? What can you/your group learn from that? Can you work together (stakeholders)?

Research tips

When searching online for information, here are some tips to refine your searches and find the information you need:

1. Using **AND, OR & NOT** (all caps) in combination with keywords refines searches. (i.e.: prisons AND women AND policies OR laws NOT men)
2. Use “ “ (quotation marks/inverted commas) for strings of words that you want found together in search results (i.e.: “female prisoners in Australia”)
3. Site:URL (no www., no http/, no spaces) does a search on a specified website (i.e.: www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au becomes **site:correctiveservices.wa.gov.au AND prisoners 2021** in search bar)
4. If you are getting a pattern of results that you do not want, you can add **-word** at the end of your search text. For example, if my search for prisoners in 2021 in Western Australia was giving results for male prisoners, I would add **-male** at the end of my search to remove those specific results. There is no space between the - and the word.
5. Hitting 'control + F' on your keyboard should make a search bar pop up on any page you are on (website, social media page, document etc.) so that you can do a keyword search.

More information here - [Boolean search tips](#)⁴⁰

⁴⁰ <https://www.socialtalent.com/blog/recruitment/the-beginners-guide-to-boolean-search-terms>.

Action

1. Contact stakeholders and get further information and insight from them, and, if groups are keen, extend an invitation to stakeholders to join a temporary alliance (or another term) for the campaign or to be involved on some level (make public statement, recurring media releases/social media posts, support campaign in other ways etc.).
2. Raise awareness through online platforms - social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit), email campaigns (newsletters) and other platforms like news forums, blogs etc.
3. Raise awareness in your community through stickering, placards, flyers, getting petition signatures and other actions (depending on level of action agreed upon).
4. Once enough information is gathered and research has been conducted (sure of facts etc.) start lobbying politicians via letters, emails, calls, social media posts (tag them, post to their walls, reply to comments) and do 'call-outs' on all online platforms for others to do the same. Providing generic email/letter templates for people to use is a great idea, and so is setting up an (automatic) email campaign to lobby politicians. Do Gooder is a great platform that is used frequently by groups - <https://dogooder.co/>. Having a mix of automated responses (high volume) and personalised responses (usually lower volume) is preferable. The personal emails and letters do tend to carry a bit more weight, so to speak, but a high number of responses also makes an important impact.
5. Plan rallies, forums, protests, meetings with stakeholders/politicians/media as needed & necessary and as possible.
6. Contact media & release media statements. Keep track of all contact information for media companies and journalists/reporters.

Other tips

Messaging is very important. Having clear, cohesive messaging is imperative. Doing research on any opposition messaging to dispel myths/answer questions and counter arguments is very beneficial to campaigns (stick to the facts!). Check out the *Messaging: tips and tools* section of the guide for more information.

Do not be intimidated by politicians. When corresponding, remain professional/civil, but be firm with boundaries, expectations, questions etc. They work for us. Record and store contact details and correspondence to and from politicians.

It is easy to think that a political party's members are all in agreement about everything, but that is not always the case. Most, if not all, political parties have what is often known as "factions" within them. Members within a party (politicians and civilians) have different opinions and stances on different issues, just like all of us do. This means political parties have members that are liberal ('left'), conservative ('right') and in between/a bit of both ('centre').

When running a political campaign, it is very important to remember that ALL elected members (serving/current politicians) in your state and country are your representatives. Corresponding with all current politicians is strategic and may serve to benefit your campaign/cause greatly.

Do your best to stay away from 'polarising' politicians and/or issues. Outside of scientific terms, polarisation usually refers to how people think, especially when two views emerge that drive people apart. It is important, and strategic, to remain open to many 'sides' of an issue, especially in regards to political lobbying, even when seemingly in opposition to your view or stance on that particular issue.

Do not be intimidated by journalists. They are just people, like us. Most groups will designate one or two members to be media contacts, which means they are the group members that will go on camera or do any other type of interview, sign media statements etc. When communicating with journalists be crystal clear what information is ok to be used publicly and what information is not. It is always best to correspond in writing with media, and it is strongly recommended to ask for questions ahead of an interview, and to confirm they are set questions so you are not surprised at any point during an interview. Write an informal script to rehearse before your interview and practice with another group member as much as possible beforehand. Dress cleanly and professionally and speak slower than you would in an average conversation.

Creating a new email address, google drive and social media accounts etc. may be necessary and is usually beneficial for political lobbying/campaigning purposes. It may not always be necessary or preferred, but is always worth considering.

More information:

[Road Raging - Top Tips for Wrecking Roadbuilding. Chapter 4: Branching out](#)⁴¹

[Check out the D.A.M website to see some examples of ongoing and/or successful past campaigns.](#)⁴²

⁴¹ http://www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk/toolkit/action_resources/guides_to_taking_action/road_raging/ch4.html.

⁴² <https://www.thedirectactionmovement.com/dam-campaigns-and-actions>.

Creative actions - banner drops, chalking, graffiti, projector 'bombing' and more

These are typically, but not exclusively, methods from the category of institutionalised activism. Creative AG's might also take on supportive roles like making banners and signs for other AG's to use during actions within larger/ongoing campaigns. There can be a range of risks and levels of arrestability involved with these types of actions depending on when, where and how you display your creative messages.

If you/your AG want to place stickers around your area, or if you want to do some graffiti, be wary of CCTV/cameras and of city officials (Rangers/Council staff etc.). When placing a sticker, act natural and have the back of the sticker already removed. Cup the sticker in your hand and place somewhere there are already other stickers (light posts, exterior walls and other inner-city areas), if possible. It doesn't have to be perfectly straight or smooth. Graffiti is a more serious potential charge than placing stickers, generally speaking.

<https://www.thedirectionmovement.com/chalking-banners>





Public outreach, events, beach clean-ups and more

These are typically, but not exclusively, methods that fall under the category of institutionalised activism. There can be a range of risks and levels of arrestability depending on things like if you have/do not have a permit, levels of noise etc., but these are usually considered to be low risk types of actions. If your preferred category of activism is community-building, the following methods may be appealing.

<https://www.thedirectionmovement.com/campaigns-outreach>

TRIVIA
NIGHT



www.istart.com - EXIPAB



Protests, rallies & marches

These methods can fall under both institutionalised activism and direct action, violent and nonviolent, and there can be a range of risks and levels of arrestability involved with these types of actions, especially when combined with other actions like lock-on's (DA/NVDA) etc. Some groups may want to get permits for rallies/marches and other groups may not. Getting permits in and of itself makes an event/rally/march institutionalised.

<https://www.thedirectactionmovement.com/protests-rallies>





Blockades, sit-ins and occupations

These methods are not examples of institutionalised activism. There can be a range of risks and levels of arrestability involved with these types of actions. As you can see in some of the images, you do not always have to use 'bodies' for blockades. Hypothetically speaking, things like fallen trees, debris, god-lines/webs (rope), cars etc. may possibly make great blockades, saving arrests for later. These actions/methods are examples of direct action and/or civil disobedience.

<https://www.thedirectactionmovement.com/blockades-and-sitins>





Lock-ons, tree-sits, tripods

These types of actions are forms of direct action and civil disobedience. These methods are not institutionalised.

Please note that all/many methods, from multiple categories, may be needed at times or for certain issues, and/or to support the activists that engage in direct action.

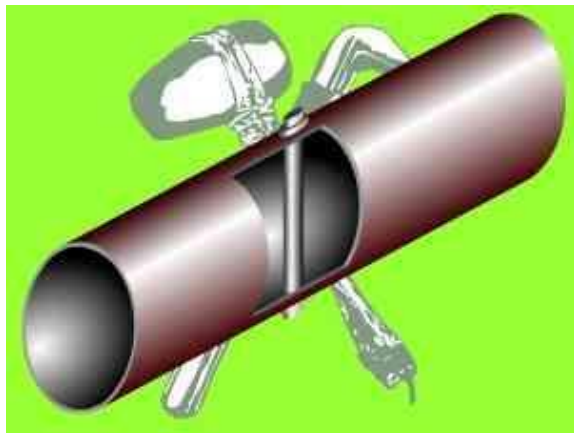
Lock-on's, tree-sits and tripods are examples of "red level" types of direct action. This means performing the lock-on or tree-sit will most likely result in an arrest.

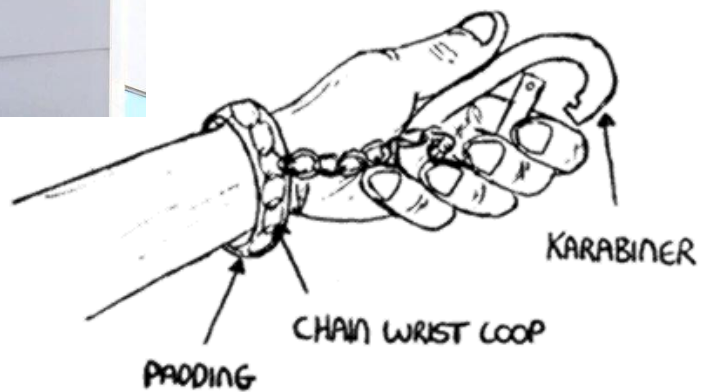
Traffic light system

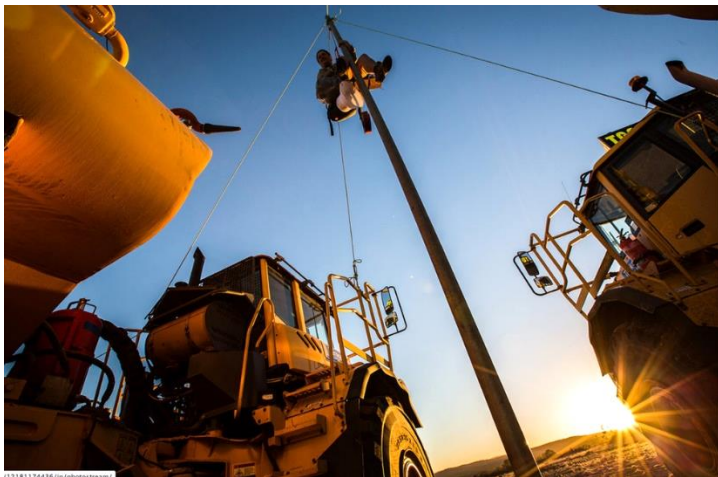
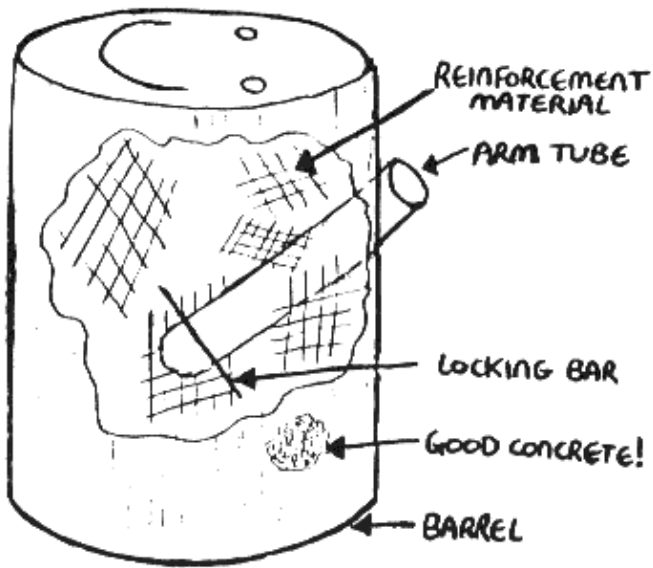
In an activist setting, the terms "red" "green" and "yellow"/"orange" can be referred to as the "traffic light system" and it is a way of categorizing a person's level of arrestability (willingness to be arrested). **Green** = not arrestable at all; **Yellow/Orange** = possibly arrestable and may need more information or training etc. -or- willing to be first wave of civil disobedience that receives lesser consequences (move-on notice, or the chance to leave without repercussions); **Red** = arrestable role.

If people in your AG (or in other AG's involved in a collective campaign) are locking on, they need support. AG members need to make sure there are Police Liaisons, Legal Observers, people covering media (on site and media release etc.), social media and at least one person that Police Liaison's try to negotiate being direct support for the arrestable; negotiating for them to be next to the person that is locked-on to give them water, food, provide shade etc.

<https://www.thedirectactionmovement.com/lockons-treesits>







Collecting footage

Activists may choose to enter facilities under the cover of darkness to collect footage for awareness-raising campaigns, cruelty investigations or other breaches of laws and regulations. This is “red level” direct action.

Items needed

- 1) Black clothing including clothing/accessories to cover tattoos etc.
- 2) Activist tool kit (red level, details on page 87)
- 3) Biohazard gear (masks, gloves, booties etc.)
- 4) GoPro's and other tech gear
- 5) Encrypted/secure USB (these cost a good bit of money but are worth it)
- 6) Waterproof shoes may be beneficial (i.e.: wetsuit/diving 'shoes')
- 7) Change of clothes (“normal” clothing for ride home – may not be possible to change but worth considering)

General information

Doing recon during the night and day is advisable; take note of any electric fences or other potential hazards. Rubber doormats may help protect activists from electric shock when climbing over electric fences as well as provide protection from cuts from barbed wire fences.

Consider the traffic conditions when deciding on time of action; will there be heavy peak-hour traffic?

Make a Plan B (back-up route).

Know the area and where the nearest hospital is in case of emergency.

Have a meeting point confirmed in case the group gets split up.

Find nearest police stations so a general idea of police response time is known/estimated.

Do not take an ‘everyday’ phone on site of action. Preferably only one person will carry a burn phone for emergencies.

Remember security measures and protocol when doing online research for recon and planning.

Know the weather forecast and plan accordingly. Do not count out a day/evening just because of bad weather. It may be beneficial (background noise, visual ‘cover’), but this needs to be considered as a group.

Remember - designate specific roles like first-aid to AG members, and AG members may want to consider other roles like lookout, driver, footage collector. AG's will normally elect one member to carry memory cards out of the facility (out of cameras). This is an arrestable role (as are most, if not all, roles for this type of action, but the person with the proof is definitely at risk of arrest). AG's may elect one person to ‘stay back’ in the case of being caught, to allow all others to escape (particularly the person with the memory cards), however, all efforts should be made to get everyone home safe and sound. All of this is hypothetical, of course.

If AG's choose to be around animals during these actions, it is advisable to learn about the animals and their nature and specific biosecurity concerns associated with the potential action. There is a lot of information that is publicly available online about facilities and business practices etc.

If AG's have money to spend, it may be best spent on tech gear as there may be nothing quite as disheartening as an AG working for hours to collect footage that is entirely unusable, and not knowing that until after the action is complete.

Do not assume that certain people will always fit certain roles. Who fits what role is something that AG's will learn as they work together more often and share their skills and shortcomings.

Night Action

AG's may want to practice moving as a unit in the dark, making sure the gaps between legs when walking do not cause light to catch the eyesight of others. Should AG's walk in a single-file line or beside one another? What viewpoints are there going to be for others to see you? What "they" see is not what "you" see. Practice this and have fun with it. After all, it is just for fun...

AG's may want to practice "rolling" their feet when walking to cause less ground disturbance, or other ways to step/walk. If anyone in your AG has been in a marching-band, they should know what "rolling feet" means (roll from heel to toe versus walking flat-footed or on tips of toes first).

Be aware of zippers, clasps, designs/labels on clothing, bags, gloves etc. that may be reflective, bright or otherwise easily seen.

Other 'red level' methods

Smoke Bombs

Using smoke bombs during protests, rallies and other forms of activism is something that has become popular in recent years. You can easily purchase coloured smoke bombs online from numerous vendors, and this is typically legal in most countries. Using them is typically legal, too, as long as you are over 18 years of age, although **AG's must check local laws to make sure of the legalities around using smoke bombs in public** and you may need permission to do so without risking arrest.

If you/your AG members are concerned about making an online purchase for smoke bombs, you can make your own from everyday ingredients. Below is a step-by-step guide on how to make a coloured smoke bomb.

**The following instructions were taken from <https://www.thoughtco.com/ultimate-colored-smoke-bomb-605967> and adapted for Australian spelling.*

The classic smoke bomb is a great project for the home or lab, producing lots of safe smoke, with purple flames. If you get dye and consider the shape of your creation, you can make a smoke bomb that billows clouds of brightly-coloured smoke. Adult supervision is required.

Coloured Smoke Bomb Materials

- 60 g (3 tablespoons) [potassium nitrate](https://www.thoughtco.com/salt-petre-or-potassium-nitrate-608490)⁴³ (sold as saltpetre/saltpeter in garden supply shops)
- 40 g (2 tablespoons) sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 60 g (3 tablespoons) powdered *organic dye* (such as synthetic indigo or an aniline-based dye, found in some craft & hobby shops; not common water-based dye)
- Cardboard tube (you could use a toilet paper roll or section of paper towel tube, or even a rolled/taped paper tube)
- Duct tape
- Pen or pencil
- Firework fuse (hardware, rocketry, construction, or hobby shops, or scavenge it from a firework)

⁴³ <https://www.thoughtco.com/salt-petre-or-potassium-nitrate-608490>.

- Cotton balls
- Saucepan

Make the Coloured Smoke Bomb Mixture

1. Mix 60 g potassium nitrate with 40 g sugar in a saucepan over low heat. It's a 3:2 ratio, so if you don't have grams, use three large spoonful of potassium nitrate and two large spoonful of sugar (3 tablespoons and 2 tablespoons, if you feel the need to be precise).
2. The sugar will [caramelize and brown](#).⁴⁴ Stir the mixture continuously until it resembles smooth peanut butter.
3. Remove the mixture from heat.
4. Stir in a spoonful of baking soda (a rounded teaspoon is fine). [The baking soda](#)⁴⁵ is added to slow down the combustion when the smoke bomb is ignited.
5. Add three large spoonful's (3 tablespoons) of powdered organic dye. Blue dye and orange dye are said to produce better results than the other colours. Stir to mix well.
6. Construct the smoke bomb while the mixture is still hot and pliable.

Assemble the Smoke Bomb

1. Fill a cardboard tube with the warm smoke bomb mixture.
2. Push a pen or pencil down into the centre of the mix (doesn't have to be all the way to the bottom but should be enough that the pen stands in the mixture). You could use a different shape, but the cylinder works really well.
3. Let the mixture harden (about an hour).
4. Remove the pen.
5. Insert a firework fuse. Push pieces of cotton balls into the hole to tamp the fuse securely inside the smoke bomb. Be sure there is fuse left outside of the tube so that you will be able to light your smoke bomb.
6. Wrap the smoke bomb with duct tape. Cover the top and bottom of the tube, too, but leave the hole area with the cotton and fuse uncovered.
7. Go outside and light your smoke bomb! You should test your creation.

Tips for Success

- The key to producing vibrant coloured smoke is using an appropriate dye. The colour is produced by vaporizing a dye from the heat of the smoke bomb, not from burning a pigment, which always produces normal smoke.
- Getting a good display also depends on the geometry of the smoke bomb. When the dye is vaporized, the pressure from combustion forces it out to produce the smoke. There needs to be enough pressure inside the smoke bomb to push the smoke out, but not too much pressure or else it will burst. This is why cardboard and tape are used. You can control the opening for the smoke. The materials are strong enough to contain a certain level of force but will rupture rather than explode if the pressure is too great.

Fireworks and the chemicals contained within them are dangerous and should always be handled with care and used with common sense. **You are responsible for your own actions.**

⁴⁴ <https://www.thoughtco.com/maillard-reaction-and-why-foods-brown-604048>.

⁴⁵ <https://www.thoughtco.com/test-baking-powder-for-freshness-607384>.

Black Bloc

The Black Blocs are often associated with anarchist-based movements, but a Black Bloc is an organisational tactic, not a politically affiliated ideology or group. Participants in Black Bloc tactics dress in head-to-toe black clothing and will wear masks (or other types of face coverings), gloves and other items to fully hide their identities and usually operate as a large unit. The Black Bloc tactic/strategy most likely originated in West Berlin in the 1970's and swept across Europe in the 1980's. Black Blocs might be used to occupy a large space/area or to form a blockade against police or military advancement. Protestors might vandalise buildings and other objects while participating in a Black Bloc, and like most activism, many different methods might be used alongside a Black Bloc tactic.

Many are quick to associate Black Bloc tactics with violence, and, in many cases, that association is correct. However, when Black Bloc tactics are used against military forces, toward buildings and other inanimate objects, the question of whether the actions used are violent or not is left to one's own perception of violence and whether or not it can be justified (and of course, it is also left to the law of the land where these acts are committed). Activists that tend to align with nonviolent principles and tactics would probably want to consider the people that will suffer the most from their actions before deciding to use what may be viewed as, or what may actually be, violent tactics.

It is important to note that a Black Bloc does not require violence or vandalism. This tactic has been used to accomplish things like squatting in large buildings which is an act of community-building to many. Learn more here:

<https://viewpointmag.com/2012/02/12/on-the-black-bloc/>

<https://timeline.com/black-bloc-started-1980s-e228bf3981b4>

Sabotage/monkeywrenching

If you were asked to think of examples of sabotage, chances are you would think of pipeline or [railway](#)⁴⁶ sabotage. There have been numerous headlines over recent years about different pipelines being sabotaged throughout the United States of America, however, sabotage is certainly not a new tactic. There are (and have been) saboteurs of hunts, railways, pipelines, factories, machinery, reputations, businesses and technology amongst many other types. However, sabotaging state/federal property, or sabotaging something that could result in injury to a person or persons or to the environment can carry the risk of extremely serious charges, even terrorism in some cases. Acts of sabotage (aka monkeywrenching) are very serious and should always be treated as such, hypothetically speaking, of course. There are some very handy resources included below:

[Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching \(shared via The Anarchist Library\)](#)

[To Dismantle a Gas Pipeline and Sell it as Scrap Metal - A Story of Yaqui Women \(Earth First!\)](#)

[Simple Sabotage Field Manual – Strategic Services](#)⁴⁷

[Brian Martin, Nonviolence versus Capitalism \(London: War Resisters' International, 2001\) - Sabotage](#)⁴⁸

⁴⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/29/activists-sabotaging-railways-indigenous-people>.

⁴⁷ <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/26184/page-images/26184-images.pdf>.

⁴⁸ <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2021/12/11/sabotage-brian-martin-nonviolence-versus-capitalism-london-war-resisters-international-2001/>.

Preparing for direct action

The information below is for established affinity groups that have been through NVDA training and/or have gone through the entire D.A.M NVDA Guide (or website). This information is for AG's to take steps to prepare for direct action, whether it is nonviolent or otherwise, and is also relevant for AG's when attending protests, rallies, marches etc.

While violence is, for the most part, subjective to one's own perspective, it is also a defined term. The dictionary definition of violence is:

'Behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.'

'Violence' is also defined medically, or institutionally. In a 2002 World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH), violence is defined by the World Health Organization as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation."⁴⁹

"This definition emphasises that a person or group must intend to use force or power against another person or group in order for an act to be classified as violent."⁵⁰ These definitions vary from the legal definition of, or criteria for, assault (which has varying levels of severity) and they vary from one another (i.e.: "something" in dictionary definition).

Violence must not be used during actions if you/your AG members want to be nonviolent and have your activism remain nonviolent, too. AG's will need to reflect on this and you can use information from throughout this guide to help you with this complex topic, particularly on pages 85 & 86.

The following summary is for educational purposes

Taking potentially illegal action should always be taken very seriously and be thoroughly planned, coordinated and supported, however, this may not always be possible. Those with more privilege, and less risk of systemic violence or other unfair treatment from police, may want to consider taking the responsibility of arrestable roles. It is still a personal choice and no one should ever be forced in to an arrestable role. If there is an ongoing campaign that your AG would like to be involved with or an ongoing issue that your AG would like to address through direct action, below are some things to remember and consider including steps to taking your chosen form of direct action.

Neither D.A.M or the author are suggesting that any particular reader get themselves arrested. Again, it is a personal choice and a decision that AG's need to discuss.

Plan

As explained in a previous section of the guide, members of your AG should meet and discuss the problem(s), your goal(s) and ways to achieve the goal(s). Follow security protocol and research the issue thoroughly. If time allows and your AG uses consensus, go through that process. Your AG may plan to do a solo act, so to speak, or you may be working within an ongoing campaign which involves people outside of your AG. AG's should consider the outcomes and potential consequences for other individuals and/or groups that are involved with larger campaigns, protests and/or actions. Our

⁴⁹ https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/world_report/en/summary_en.pdf.

⁵⁰ Violence: a glossary [Alison Rutherford, Anthony B Zwi, Natalie J Grove, and Alexander Butchart - https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2652990/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2652990/).

actions do not happen in vacuums. Go through roles for the action and assign to AG members. You may need to do recon. Organise all of the steps your AG needs to complete before taking action.

What to bring

Methods of direct action are physically and mentally exhausting, and you may end up participating for much longer than planned. Amongst other things, it is important to take a backpack with food and water, a first aid kit, clothing that is suitable for current weather conditions and any protective clothing that may be needed. Also consider bringing a portable phone charger (or two or three).

If you take regular, prescription medication you may need to take your next dose with you, but please note that it is advisable to have proof of your prescription and/or original packaging or else you may catch an extra charge if you are placed under arrest.

An example showing suggested items is shown below.



- Some of the suggested items may be illegal. Carry at your own risk.

- If you/your AG will definitely be engaging in arrestable activity, or if you are planning a 'sneaky' action, you may require different items in your tool kit. Check out the *Activist tool kit (red level)* section of the guide for more information.

Is there a risk of arrest?

Consider whether your action will be one that carries the risk of arrest. Make sure you are aware of the possible charges, fines and legal consequences associated with any action you are planning.

(PLEASE NOTE - this is not legal advice and some of this information may not apply to you depending on where you live. You must look in to this for yourself. THIS IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO BE USED AS LEGAL ADVICE OF ANY SORT. D.A.M is not responsible for any outcomes of, or for, any actions or persons in relation to this guide or any information herein)

The police should tell you they are arresting you and why. You should be able to see the officers name and badge number or be given that information if you ask.

Except for giving your name, address and date of birth, you should have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer their questions unless otherwise specified. **Please research this for your area.*

Police have broad search powers once someone has been arrested. Once at the ‘cop shop’ your belongings will be taken and be returned after you have been ‘processed.’ Your fingerprints, photo and other information will be taken/asked for. You may be asked for a DNA sample (saliva, urine).

You should have the right to make a phone call to family or a lawyer.

You may be charged and given a list or explanation of your charge(s), or released without charge. If you are charged, you should either be released on bail or refused bail and not released. Bail is an agreement between you and the police that you will appear in court on a specified date. There may be conditions set during the bail period and that should be specified on your paperwork. It is advisable to seek professional legal advice if you have been charged. Other paperwork one might see during or after this process: consent form(s), Statement of Material Facts, Bail Undertaking, Notice of Conviction, Prosecution Notice and/or Conditional Release Order.

Have a legal team to support you, if possible. This can be on-site during protests and/or representation for any potential court proceedings. On-site legal support team roles can be referred to as Police Liaisons and Legal Observers.

A Legal Observer’s role is to record and document any and all interactions between activists and police. Wear high vis and introduce yourself to police and explain your role.

A Police Liaison’s role is to speak directly with police and negotiate terms of interaction with activists, Right to Protest and level of Police response, amongst other things. A Police Liaison will also negotiate terms of arrest(s). Wear high-vis and introduce yourself to police and explain your role. It is very important to document any arrests. Police liaisons need to ask what police station the arrested group member(s) will be taken to and make sure to arrange pick-up for each arrested group member.

*The police officers have most likely dealt with a Police Liaison and/or Legal Observer previously.

*Please review the sections on Police Liaison and Legal Observer roles in the section titled “*What type of activism suits you?*” as well as the extensive legal info section.

Traffic light system

“Red” “green” and “yellow”/“orange” = this can be referred to as the “traffic light system” and it is a way of categorizing a person’s level of arrestability (willingness to be arrested). **Green** = not arrestable at all; **Yellow/Orange** = possibly arrestable but may need more information or training etc. -or- willing to be first wave of civil disobedience that receives lesser consequences (move-on notice, or the chance to leave without repercussions); **Red** = arrestable role.

De-escalation

De-escalation is a way of diffusing conflict by helping one or more people ‘regain control’ and stop the escalation of their emotions and/or behaviour. Having the necessary knowledge and skills to use de-escalation tactics can be extremely useful, both within the group structure and for protests and confrontations. D.A.M strongly advises that you/your AG learn more by reviewing the full *De-escalation* section of this guide.

Look out for each other and stay focused on your goal(s). Make sure you have covered the following information:

Physical skills

The following skills may be useful and beneficial for people to learn regardless of what category of activism they pull their methods/actions from, so it is recommended that AG's cover this section. These skills are especially beneficial for people/AG's that choose to engage in methods of civil disobedience and direct action.

What you will cover

- Nonviolent movement and nonviolent body/verbal language
- Non-violently 'resisting arrest'
- Linking arms and hands + stance; standing and sitting as a unit while linked
- Moving as a unit while linked; removing targeted activist

Nonviolent movement, verbal/body language

Try not to swear. Not only does this escalate situations but it can also be a charge if you swear at an officer. Try to keep your voice down, do not communicate threats, try not to make swift movements around police/horses/dogs/opposition and try to keep your palms open (no fists) and do not act as if you are going to throw/hit/swing anything. Smile instead of looking angry when possible. Humour is a great de-escalation tool. You can do some role-play to test the way each of you react and feel when different levels of escalation are reached. Remember the Principles of Nonviolence (MLK Jr.). Playing tranquil or fun music is also a positive way to help calm or lighten the mood/temper/emotions of protestors as well as (potentially) police and bystanders, too.

Making process of arrest last longer and use more resources

If police ask someone to move, that person may have planned to get a move-on notice, which is just a piece of paper and a 24-hour restriction from a specific area in relation to the protest/action (may not be a 'thing' in your area so please double-check), or they may have planned to get arrested. Police will eventually physically remove the individual. If an individual wants to make this process last a bit longer and use up more resources, they may want to tense their body (stiff as a board) or go limp (limp as a wet noodle/"dead weight"). Either tactic makes it more difficult for someone to be physically moved. Another tactic is to ask questions, or have Police Liaisons ask questions, about the process of arrest (why, when, are there other options, what does it mean, where will they be taken etc.), at times being purposefully obtuse and/or repetitive (to waste even more time). Be warned, however, that police usually have a low tolerance for this type of questioning/time-wasting.

People should not kick, punch or otherwise act in an aggressive manner. Individuals can choose to just lay/sit still and wait to be carried away and arrested. This is generally not considered an act of resisting arrest, but it is dependent on the laws in your area and level of police response. You are not running away or prohibiting them from arresting you, but you may end up with an extra charge for obstruction because you are not following their order to get up. The same may happen if you are locked-on and do not remove or unlock yourself.

Do some role-play. Have an even number of police and protestors. The protestors have decided to sit down and block an intersection. The police have tried to negotiate through Police Liaisons for the protestors to move, but they refuse. So now the police have decided to physically remove the protestors. Have some of the protestors try the "stiff as a board" tactic while the others test out the "limp as a wet noodle" tactic. Discuss the pros/cons of each and what situations they may work best in.

When in these situations, keeping your head down can help prevent personal/internal escalation. If anyone is anxious or their stress levels are increasing, they can take slow deep breaths and use the grounding skills previously covered in the guide. An individual's affinity group should also be aware so they can be supportive. There is a difference between facing police/opposition and turning one's back on police/opposition. This can go different ways with Police. It may be taken as an act of defiance if someone has already been addressed by an officer. It also may escalate situations between protestors and opposition, but at times, peacefully standing or sitting with backs facing opposition can be seen as peaceful and submissive. Discuss this and see if the affinity group can determine when each 'position' may be beneficial/appropriate. It is also a powerful visual image if very peaceful protestors are treated roughly by Police. (Remember the Principles and Steps of Nonviolence from MLK Jr.)

Linking arms & stance

This is another tactic that can be used to stall and to make process of arrest last longer and use up more resources. When standing/occupying a space that an affinity group does not want to be moved from, activists/protestors can stand with their feet approximately shoulder width apart and knees bent slightly. It is not advisable to stand with stiff, straight legs/locked knees or one may lose their balance easily. In order to be more difficult to move, AG members can link arms with those around them.

Linking arms is a very commonly used tactic by protestors to make themselves a solid unit. This is a tactic to stall and use resources. When groups do this, they should try their best to link arms with people that are of similar height. Any vulnerable or at-risk protestors should be flanked by stronger and more experienced activists. Try to wrap one of your hands around your other wrist after linking arms. This makes for an extra tight hold. When protestors are linked up like this, it becomes much more difficult to move them. *Role-play and see the difference between police moving a few protestors that are not linked vs moving a line or circle of linked protestors.*

Once comfortable with linking arms, practice this in a line, and then in a circle formation. This makes it even more difficult to remove/separate you. The protestors on either end will need to look for one another and link up quickly. Now, people can either be facing out, or facing in, when the group forms a linked circle. *Remember the discussion and role-play regarding facing police/opposition and turning backs to police/opposition and translate it into this exercise.*

Once ready to move on to the next level, take all that has been learned so far and practice sitting and standing in a linked line and linked circle. This takes practice to get balance and weight dispersion correct so that people are not falling backward. This needs to be clean and quick so that police cannot come and pick group members off. You will need to depend on those that flank you for support to stand and sit without losing your balance.

Finally, practice moving a targeted protestor out of the area. This is done by making that linked circle around an activist and quickly but safely moving the circle away from police so that the protestor can get away. If police are acting like they are going to target a specific protestor for arrest, the group can quickly link up and move to that protestor, circle them and move them away. The group will need to have already decided on an exit route that allows the protestor to have cover or have easy access to a getaway. Make sure that the circled protestor isn't being trampled on and that members of the linked circle do not lose their footing. This takes leadership and clear communication. It may be a good idea to nominate one or two group members to be the ones to call out during those instances; which direction to go, which protestor needs removal and so on. This tactic can also be used solely to move somewhere as a unit.

Violence vs nonviolence exercise

This exercise is a tool that will help affinity group members understand how the concepts of nonviolence and violence are subjective, and how each of us can have very different opinions on what is or is not violent and even whether or not violence can be justifiable in certain situations. For some, a philosophical approach of loving their enemies, often including pacifism, is what nonviolence means. For others, “nonviolence” is a tactical approach only. They can and will feel however they want to about their enemies/opponents, but they commit to nonviolence during actions.

Having different perspectives on what is violent/nonviolent, and if/when violence is ever justifiable, does not mean that group members cannot work together. To the contrary, a wide variety of perspectives makes things interesting, and having different opinions involved with discussions and planning can be very beneficial. Having a commitment to nonviolence is the key factor, if your AG chooses to engage in nonviolent methods of activism.

This exercise is one that should open doors to conversations and lead to a better understanding of your fellow affinity group members and their stances on nonviolence vs violence, and when/if a violent act is justified. It may also give insight in to your own perspectives that you may not have been aware of previously. You should also begin to understand how, even if your actions are perceived as nonviolent by you and your fellow group members, others may perceive your actions differently.

There are no right or wrong answers. You are NOT saying “I would/would not commit this act” by viewing an act as nonviolent/violent. There should be no judgement during or after this exercise.

You can use your knowledge of the consensus decision making process and options for blocking when, in the future, potential actions raise concerns for members regarding their perception of violence or what they are willing to participate in.

Exercise

Ask group members to stand up, and then ‘draw’ a line on the floor/ground. If you have something to use as a marker for the line, go for it. Otherwise, just show where the ‘line’ is. One end of the ‘line’ represents ‘nonviolence’ and the other represents ‘violence.’ The line is a spectrum and gradually increases from nonviolent to violent (like a scale of 1 to 10, nonviolent being the 1 and violent being the 10).

Once this is all clear to group members, you will ask the following questions (or come up with your own similar questions), giving time after each for people to move up or down the line to where they feel the proposed action falls on this spectrum of nonviolence to violence. It is a great idea after each question to ask one or more of your group members to explain why they feel that proposed action is violent/nonviolent (or wherever they end up on that spectrum [line]). Rotate who you elect to answer and watch for social cues that someone may not want to be elected for this.

Proposed (hypothetical) actions

- 1) The act of screaming “AHHHHHHHH” very loudly when no one is around and no one can hear you.
- 2) The act of screaming at a child when they have misbehaved.
- 3) The act of screaming threatening remarks at officers that have assaulted a peaceful protestor at a nonviolent rally or protest.
- 4) Hitting a dog.
- 5) Purchasing and eating meat.
- 6) Removing a corporate-owned fence that is a boundary marker for an area of old growth forest that is being clear-felled.
- 7) Damaging a bulldozer, that is being used to clear a forest, by sabotaging the driving mechanism or the fuel system.
- 8) Burning down a facility where hundreds of animals are routinely, forcibly inseminated and killed every week.
- 9) Shooting the “enemy” during a war.
- 10) Making the decision to wage war against another country.

Activist tool kit (red level)

This toolkit is a bit different to one that you would have for a protest, rally or another similar action/situation (refer to page 81 for an example). Some of these items may be illegal to carry. Individuals need to research this and it is your decision whether to carry these items or not.

- Black backpack
- Multi-use tool
- Head-torch
- Spare batteries for all tech gear
- Portable charger
- First-aid kit
- Walkie-talkies
- Balaclava (may need to make one as it may be a security risk to purchase one depending on where they're available)
- Water/snack
- Tiny screwdriver set
- Duct tape/electrical tape
- Black gloves and/or biohazard gear + hand sanitizer
- Brick/burn phone
- Wire and/or bolt cutters

Lock-ons and tree-sits

[History is a Weapon - Locking Down with Lockboxes](#)⁵¹

[PVC Innovation - Make a Human Blockade Lockbox](#)⁵²

[Rope Guerrilla - Vertical Tools of Protest](#)⁵³

[Road Raging - Top Tips for Wrecking Roadbuilding, Chapter 12 - Tools for the Job](#)⁵⁴

[Tree sitting](#)⁵⁵

[Lock-on \(protest tactic\)](#)⁵⁶

[Lock-on devices](#)⁵⁷

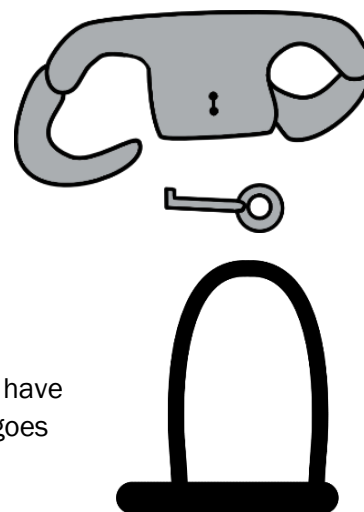
[Sleeping dragon \(manoeuvre\)](#)⁵⁸

[Manual: Single Rope Technique – Climbing Gear: Use and Care](#)⁵⁹

The following pictures (pages 88 - 95) were illustrated by Sarah Ward.

Devices

Thumb cuffs are commonly used to make it even more difficult for an activist to be removed from a lock-on. They can be used alone; with arms around a fence or similar object, or they can be used inside of the 'elbow' pictured later, in place of the carabiners that are pictured in the diagram. They should be tight enough that they cannot be pulled or worked off by police. They will pull very hard and may use oil or other things to loosen the cuffs. Thumb-cuffs can often be found at army supply stores.



U-Lock – Also known as a D-lock. This is a bike lock that some activists have used to lock on to fences, gates and other thinner objects. The device goes around the activist's neck and whatever object they are locking on to.

Activists can make their own devices with rope or wire, but wire can easily cut in to an activist's skin. Proper measures need to be taken in order to prevent injury. Research knots to learn the best ways to do this.



A metal carabiner is another device used to attach to lock-ons.

⁵¹ <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/lockbox.html>.

⁵² <https://pvc-innovation.wonderhowto.com/how-to/make-human-blockade-lockbox-0131067/>.

⁵³ <https://ropeguerrilla.org/2016/02/19/vertical-tools-of-protest/>.

⁵⁴ http://www.networkforclimateaction.org.uk/toolkit/action_resources/guides_to_taking_action/road_raging/ch12.html.

⁵⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_sitting.

⁵⁶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_\(protest_tactic\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_(protest_tactic)).

⁵⁷ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_\(protest_tactic\)#Devices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-on_(protest_tactic)#Devices).

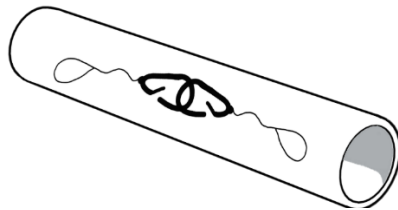
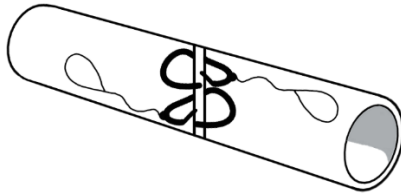
⁵⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleeping_dragon_\(manoeuvre\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleeping_dragon_(manoeuvre)).

⁵⁹ <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2020/10/28/manual-single-rope-technique/>.

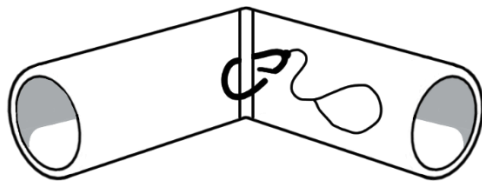
Guards for devices

If welding is an option, metal boxes may make excellent guards for devices.

Straight pieces of PVC pipe make great guards for the device chosen for use. Pictured is a PVC pipe with a wooden or metal dowel (drilled) through the middle to connect the device to. Carabiners with rope are pictured. Activists put their wrist through either loop at the end. Activists can also use two carabiners to lock-on. This 'pattern' or method can be repeated as many times as is necessary to accommodate as many activists that want to lock-on. AG's can make a straight line (blockade) or a circle etc. This method works well when people don't have a lot of time to prepare.

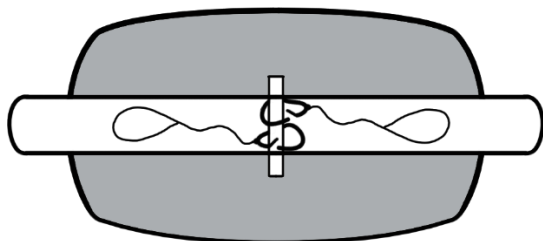


This is an elbow. It can be made from plastic, but metal is a better material to use if you have the tools to do that. For 1 or 2 people, it's like the first pipe pictured above, with a dowel through the middle to connect to. Thumb-cuffs can be used instead of carabiners.

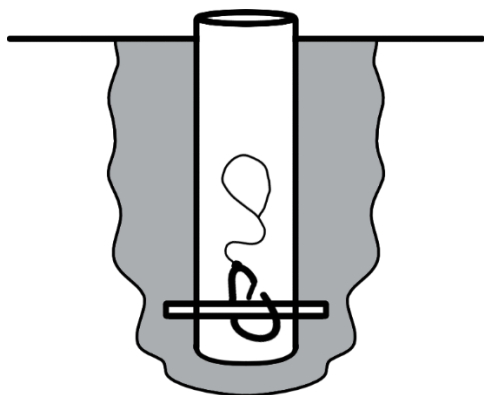


Lock-ons

This is a barrel. AG's can use any larger, round and hollow item to make a barrel, but an actual barrel is the best item to use, hence the name. The same PVP pipe from before is being used through the middle of the barrel and it is surrounded by concrete. It is best to use quick-set cement, and AG's can also fill it with metal and/or plastic bits of crates or other objects to make cutting through it even more difficult. There would be an activist at both ends of the barrel. For the following diagram, imagine the barrel has been cut in half.



This is a dragon. It may be referred to by different names, but the idea is the same. It is like the inside of a barrel, and it is entirely underground aside from the very top where an activist will place their arm through to lock on. That means the activist will be laying down on the ground most likely, once locked on. The dowel is at the end of the pipe instead of the middle like the other examples. It may be best to construct the dragon "on site," pouring the quick-set cement straight in to a hole that you have dug. These are commonly used during forest blockades at the base of large trees; making sure to not damage root systems. Imagine the following dragon is cut in half. The black line at the top is 'ground level'.



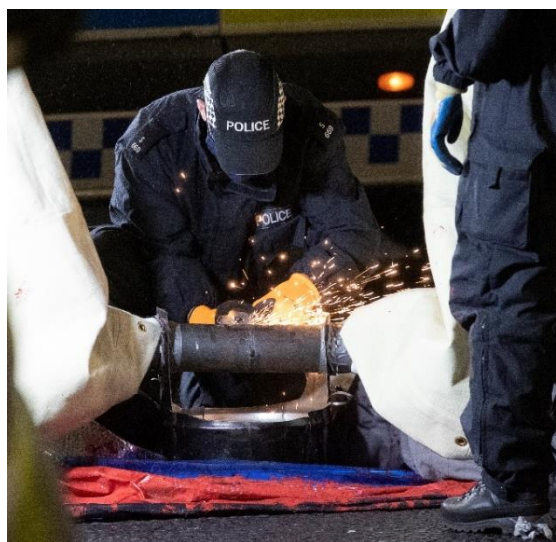
Measure the pipes to make sure they won't be covered with cement, whether making a dragon or barrel. If making a dragon, make sure the hole is deep enough for the full length of an arm to fit. AG's can choose to go in halfway instead, but this makes it easier to remove the activist. Make sure the activist wraps arm(s) in rags or something else that will fill up any extra space in the pipe so that police cannot see how they are locked on, and so they cannot get their hands or any tools down the pipe to remove their arm from the lock-on.

Removal of devices and lock-ons

When police respond to an activist or a group of activists that are locked-on to something (machinery, gate etc.), several things may happen:

- the police that responded to the action may have another police unit attend the site in order to remove the activist(s),
- the additional unit that attends may have tools like bolt cutters, which they will use to attempt to cut activists free, or they may have heavier (handheld) machinery like a reciprocating saw or another type of electric saw,
- the police will most likely attempt to verbally negotiate with an activist before using any tools or machinery, and AG's need to discuss this and how activists are to respond to police (if at all),
- activists may be cut free from any lock-ons/devices by any means necessary by police or another official, and
- police should hold up a tarp or similar type of protective material before using any tools or machinery, and/or provide safety goggles and other safety equipment to activists.

It is recommended that you/your AG review this police document which discusses, in length, how police respond to protestors that are locked-on - [DEALING WITH THE REMOVAL OF PROTESTORS: FASLANE 365 2006 - 2007](#)⁶⁰



(Above image)
Tech. Sgt. John E. Hillier

<https://www.188wg.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2002111976/>

Arkansas State Police officers practice cutting open a “sleeping dragon” barrel to remove protesters during Operation Phalanx, held March 30-31, 2019, at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. The operation is a joint exercise hosted by the Arkansas National Guard for civil and military organizations to train their members’ tactics and techniques for responding to a civil disturbance.

⁶⁰

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/FoI%20publication/Disclosure%20Logs/Uniformed%20Operations%20FOI/2014/003%2014%20ACPO%20Response%20att%2001%20of%201%20Faslane%20365.pdf>.

Tree-sits

Tree-sitting is a form of environmentalist civil disobedience in which a protester 'sits' (stays) in a tree for what is often an extended period of time, usually on a small platform built for the purpose, to protect it from being cut down (speculating that loggers will not endanger human lives by cutting an occupied tree). **There is a very real risk of injury and/or death associated with tree-sits.** Affinity groups/individuals really need to do their research and planning for actions like tree-sits. A tree-sitter must be trained and efficient in rope/gear use, knots, climbing and more. Information can be found here - [Manual: Single Rope Technique – Climbing Gear: Use and Care](https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2020/10/28/manual-single-rope-technique/),⁶¹ however, in-person training/experience is needed in order to reduce risk of harm.

For professional training, check out local forest alliance/protection groups and other environmental groups that actively participate in blockades and other forms of direct action. They will most likely offer training or can point people in the right direction. Expect to go through some form of vouching process if you are reaching out to others/groups regarding these types of skills and topics. There are most likely some companies that offer climbing training (for a cost) in your area and there may be other groups, businesses or services that offer rope-tying courses and climbing training. The gear needed for climbing and tree-sits is expensive and should be purchased brand new unless an authorised/experienced person can verify the equipment is in perfect working order.



Pictured is a basic tree sit. A wooden pallet, bed base or other type of platform is attached to a tree. A person then climbs onto the platform and typically remains there either until there is no longer a need to stay, or they are removed by force. Supporters usually provide the tree-sitter(s) with food and other supplies. This may have to be done through covert methods if the area of tree-sit is fenced off or otherwise guarded. Activists may also risk trespass charges in this situation so plan thoroughly. If supporters cannot provide this type of support, a tree-sitter must take enough food & supplies to last the expected duration of the tree-sit.

Not all trees are suitable for supporting a sit as it must have appropriate

branches capable of bearing the weight of the platform, the sitter and their supplies. Usually at least two thick and sturdy branches are needed to support the platform, however a rigger with experience may be able to improvise and create additional supports where appropriate branches can't be found. This can sometimes be done by fully or partially suspending the platform; however, this is done less often as a swinging platform can be unsettling for the sitter. In some cases, a platform is suspended from a single rope known as a "god-line". This creates an additional barrier for workers/police; if the god-line is interfered with the platform can drop, taking the sitter with it. Sometimes the god-line is

⁶¹ <https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2020/10/28/manual-single-rope-technique/>.

attached to surrounding trees, as this prevents the attached trees from being logged or bulldozed for fear of pulling down the sit. This can be done with fastened platforms as well as suspended ones.

Setting up a sit

Setting up a tree sit should only be attempted by someone who has climbing and rigging knowledge. Never attempt to rig or climb a tree sit without experience or the supervision of someone with experience. To set up a tree sit, AG's/activists will need to first select a tree. Take into account its position and height. Most cherry pickers extend less than 60m however they can be as tall as 100m. However, god-lines can be used to create a web that will prevent a cherry picker getting close enough to the tree to remove the sitter.

Once a tree is selected the tree-sitter will need:

1. A platform
2. Climbing-grade rope for rigging (regular jute/nylon/cotton rope can be used for hanging supplies and fastening tarps, but isn't safe for climbing or rigging the platform)
3. Climbing equipment

The person setting up the sit will need to climb up and inspect the branches it will be attached to check their integrity. It's important to snap off any dead branches surrounding the sit otherwise the sitter may grab one for support or attempt to hang supplies from it and find it breaks. If the supporting branches are strong enough the rigger will attach the platform and god-lines if they're being used.

Who is the sitter?

A tree sit is a strenuous experience. A sitter must be in reasonably good health as they will essentially be in a survival situation with a finite amount of food, water, and medical supplies for an indefinite period. They must have received climbing training and be strong enough to climb up to the platform, and strong enough to lower and pull up their supplies.

The sitter will need some knowledge of knots, to allow them to hang their supplies and fasten their tarps. If the sit is likely to go on for more than a couple of days ideally the sitter will be able to climb down briefly at intervals to be checked out physically by their support crew for tick bites or signs of circulatory issues, and to walk around for a few minutes. Sometimes multiple sitters may rotate in shifts. However, this is not always possible and a sitter may be required to stay up the tree for long periods and in isolation. Sitters must be prepared for this.

Supplies

This is only a basic list of examples.

Depending on the situation the sitter may be able to climb into the sit and pull their supplies up on a rope. However, in stealth situations they may need to take their supplies up with them as they ascend, which will limit how much they can take up initially. A sitter climbing into a sit with only a backpack will need, at a minimum:

1. Water (enough for at least 24 hours)
2. Food (non-perishables such as crackers, tinned tuna, baked beans, nuts, protein bars etc. Multivitamins are often taken where rationing is required)

3. Tarp (for weather protection, it's usually fastened above the platform and closed around it tent-style)
4. Charged power-banks (portable chargers) for phone/devices (these can be rotated out by ground crew or solar chargers can be used)
5. First aid supplies (antiseptic, Band-Aids, tweezers for splinters, dressings, salve for bites/stings, etc.)
6. Sanitary supplies (Hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, toothbrush and toothpaste)
7. Walkie-talkie (extremely useful where phone reception is unreliable or as a backup in case phone can't be charged. Contact with ground crew is extremely important)
8. Batteries for walkie-talkies and any battery powered lights
9. Head torch or flash light (if you rely on your phone flash light you run the risk of dropping it)
10. Bag, bucket or container for rubbish (no waste is ideal but it's not always possible)
11. Toilet container(s) and toilet paper (the details are best worked out with the ground crew who will be disposing of this waste. It may involve rotating several smaller sealed containers or one large bucket with a lid. If bags are needed to dispose of waste, they should ideally be biodegradable)
12. Extra rope, bungee cords, snap-hooks/carabiners for hanging and fastening supplies
13. Safety equipment like a hard hat and any other protective clothing or accessories you may need

Many sitters will also take a lock-on device (see previous sections) into their sit so that in the event attempts are made to remove them by force, they can lock on the tree and prolong their removal.

Where the sitter can be easily accessed by ground crew and supplies are in abundance, the sit can be expanded greatly to accommodate a longer stay. Crates can be hung to store supplies, additional tarps added, banners hung, large water containers can be stored, even additional platforms or a camping shower added.

Supporting the sitter

Ground crew is crucial to a tree sit and how long a sitter can handle staying up the tree will often come down to how well supported they are on the ground. Ground crew will need to maintain contact with the sitter, provide their supplies, dispose of their waste, assist them to problem solve and let them know what's happening on the ground. It is ideal if there are other climbers available as a visitor in a tree sit can be extremely helpful in combating the isolation. Ground crew need to monitor the wellbeing of the tree sitter and be prepared to arrange extraction in an emergency. Anxiety is common and sitters can become depressed. Communication and stimulation are extremely important in combating this. If entertainment such as music, movies, or games can be accommodated it can help greatly. Visitors and messages of support help morale. If access to the sitter is not an issue, sending up treats such as tea or a fresh hot meal can boost their spirits.

Aside from morale there are physical risks involved in occupying a tree sit. Tick bite, circulatory issues, vertigo. The sitter **MUST** move as often as possible, whether it's stationary walking, peddling, squats, lunges etc. Ground crew must check in with the sitter to ensure that they're getting enough movement to support circulation. Encourage the sitter to get up for a few minutes every half hour at least while they're awake. If the situation doesn't allow the sitter to descend for short intervals to be checked out by ground crew, the sitter must be inspecting their body daily to check for tick bites or

varicose veins or any other sudden changes. Sometimes tree sitters will take blood thinners such as aspirin or turmeric to help support circulation.

Sitters often need the support of their ground crew to help them stay up in moments of stress and may need to talk their options through. However, if your tree sitter decides that they need to come down or becomes severely distressed, depressed or non-responsive, do not hesitate. Arrange their safe removal ASAP.

Tripods

A tripod is a blockade device made by erecting 3 poles (usually either steel scaffolding or strong lengths of wood/tree branches) of equal length and securing them at the top to make a frame. A sitter is then either suspended from the top of the tripod or sat atop it on a platform. The frame then cannot simply be moved as it risks injury to the sitter. They usually must be removed either by cherry picker or by gradually cutting through the poles and lowering the structure in small increments until the sitter is low enough to be apprehended.

Tripods can be placed on roads to block traffic or machinery, or directly over machinery to prevent it being removed, as well as anywhere else there is level ground and enough space to erect it. God-lines can be used to attach the tripod to other objects such as trees or machinery or even other tripods in order to prolong the obstruction (see section on tree-sits for information about god-lines).

Tripod sitters will need to have received climbing training. They will need a short list of supplies including:

Supplies

1. Water (camel packs are ideal)
2. Snacks
3. Phone/battery packs
4. Clothing appropriate for the weather (including sunscreen and hat if sunny, waterproofs if it's wet)
5. Most people will choose to wear an adult diaper as tripods can last for hours or even a day, possibly longer.

A variation on the tripod is a "monopole", which is similar but only uses one pole with a platform at the top. These are anchored at the bottom and almost always attached to something else via a god-line.

Refer to list of supplies for tree-sits for more ideas of what to have with you



Legal: common offences, processes and penalties

**Information in this section was reviewed and updated in November 2021 and again on January 21, 2022.*

It is advisable to review these documents:

[Guide to Sentencing in Australia \(PDF\)](#)⁶²

[Police Powers to Arrest and Detain \(Legal Aid WA\)](#)⁶³

**The following information is relevant to Western Australia and Australia, but also serves as an example for activists in other areas. Look for similar types of documents and similar information for your specific area to be certain of the legal risks that may be relevant for you/your AG.*

In Western Australia (WA) there are some special units of the Police Force. They are: mounted and canine operations, Water Police, Police Air Wing, and the Specialist Response Groups (multiple teams) that assist on a state and national level.

In WA, it is generally legal to film or photograph in public spaces, as long as you do not hinder police in their duties or record/photograph anyone that could have reasonable expectations for privacy, and providing they are not indecent photos/videos. There are other laws that you should look in to, or speak with a lawyer.

Summary: powers of police to arrest and detain

**Information pulled from the Legal Aid WA website. Look up information for your state/country.*

The law gives police officers the authority to keep the peace, prevent crime and protect property from criminal damage. These powers are greater than what an ordinary person can legally do and include the power to:

- arrest and detain people
- obtain certain information such as fingerprints and photographs
- carry out searches
- seize things
- order you to leave a public place for up to 24 hours (called a move on notice)
- issue Police Orders when investigating possible situations involving family violence.

They also have special powers in traffic matters, such as requiring you to provide a sample of your breath, or going with them to a police station to give a breath, blood or urine sample.

Arrestable offence

Police have the same basic power of arrest as an ordinary citizen, in that they can arrest you without a warrant if they reasonably suspect that you have committed or are committing an “arrestable offence”. An arrestable offence is one that has a penalty that is or includes imprisonment. Under these basic powers, they can also arrest you without a warrant to prevent violence, a breach of the peace or the commission of an offence, where they reasonably suspect one of these things will happen.

⁶² https://www.judcom.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/judge_for_yourself.pdf.

⁶³ https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/Police_powers_arrest_detain_0.pdf.

Serious offence

In addition to these basic powers, police have powers of arrest that are not available to ordinary citizens. These powers mean that police can arrest you without a warrant if they reasonably suspect that you have committed, are committing or are just about to commit a “serious offence”.

A serious offence includes an offence:

- of breaching a Violence Restraining Order
- of failing to comply with an order in relation to an out of control gathering, or
- that has a penalty of 5 years’ imprisonment or more, or life imprisonment.

Alternatively, police may arrest you without a warrant even if the offence is not a serious offence, as long as they can show that if they don’t arrest you, one of the following things will happen:

- they won’t be able to find out who you are
- you will continue to commit the offence
- you will commit another offence
- you will be a danger to another person or their property
- you will interfere with witnesses or the course of justice
- you will conceal or disturb something related to the offence
- your safety will be endangered.

An arrest may be lawful even if it is later found that you did not commit an offence, as long as at the time, the officer who arrested you had a reasonable suspicion that you had committed, were committing, or were about to commit an offence.

What should the police do if they are arresting you?

If the police have decided to arrest you, they should:

- tell you that you are under arrest, or
- place their hands on you and tell you that you are under arrest, or
- physically seize you.

Police should use only as much force as is reasonably necessary to arrest you. They should be as discrete as they can be in the circumstances and not humiliate you more than is necessary to carry out the arrest.

What should I do if being arrested?

If you are being arrested, you should keep calm and be polite. If you resist or struggle with police when they are arresting you, you can be charged with an offence of obstructing or resisting police.

Do I have to answer police questions?

Police generally have the right to ask you questions at any time, however:

- you can’t be questioned about an offence while you’re being searched, and
- there are only some questions you must answer; others you can refuse because of your ‘right to silence’.

What questions do I have to answer?

You must answer questions about some things, for example:

- Your name, date of birth, and current address, in relation to an offence
- The sale, supply or manufacture of illegal drugs or plants, if questioned by police under a search warrant
- Property connected to an offence involving illegal drugs or plants, if you are searched by police
- The import or export of goods, in relation to customs offences
- Firearms, in relation to a firearms offence, and
- Your proof of age when on licenced premises.

If police pull you over while you're driving, you must:

- Stop the vehicle
- Give your name and address
- Show your driver's licence, or take it to the police station if you don't have it, and
- Take a breath test, or provide a sample of blood or oral fluid, if asked by police.

You will be committing an offence if you refuse to answer any of the above questions, or give false or misleading information.

How do I exercise my right to silence?

Before police question you as a suspect in relation to an offence, they must caution you about your right to silence and what can happen if you speak to them. For example:

'You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but whatever you do say will be recorded and may later be given in evidence.'

For questions that you don't have to answer, you can exercise your right to silence by saying, 'I do not wish to answer', or 'no comment'.

What will happen with my answers to police questions?

Any information you give to police can be used against you in court. You should always try and get legal advice before answering questions from police.

If you are told to give information to police as part of a search about illegal drugs or plants, your answers cannot be used as evidence in court against you, except to prove that you knew what you told the police was untrue or misleading.

When can police carry out a search?

The police can search you, your property, house, vehicle or other places if:

- they ask for your permission (consent) and you agree to let them carry out the search, or
- they have a valid search warrant to conduct the search (with or without your consent), or
- the law gives them the power to carry out a search without a warrant and without consent.

If you agree to the search, you can change your mind and withdraw your consent at any time. But the police might still have the right to continue the search without your consent.

When can the police search without a warrant and without consent?

The police can search you:

- if you're committing an offence
- when you are under arrest or in police custody
- to look for something relevant to an offence
- to enforce a prohibited behaviour order
- to ensure the security of a public place
- to protect intoxicated or young people, or
- to look for proceeds of crime.

Police can search your place:

- to look for a suspect or person who has possession of something relevant to an offence
- while you are under arrest for a serious offence, or
- when they suspect offences have been committed involving family violence or prostitution.

Police can search your vehicle:

- if it is relevant to an offence or contains something relevant to an offence
- if you're carrying someone who might be the victim of an offence
- to prevent damage to your or someone else's vehicle
- to protect the safety of anyone in or near your vehicle
- to look for a suspect
- when you are under arrest for a serious offence
- to ensure the security of a public place, or
- to look for proceeds of crime.

**This means, if you do not have a passcode set up, that your phone can be searched and/or seized if:*

- you are under arrest or being detained*
- police suspect there may be evidence of a crime on the phone*
- if the phone is in your car or house while being searched*
- if they feel it may prove who committed a crime or that an alibi is false*

*Police have very broad search powers! Under the Criminal Property Confiscation Act of 2000, police may search you for property that can be confiscated because it has been obtained as a result of a crime, and this includes your vehicle and any bags or anything else that appears to be in your possession or under your control. People may want to weigh up the options of unlocking one's phone vs possibly risking an obstruction charge if sensitive information or images etc. are on their device. The laws around this issue are not definitive. **

What should I do if police want to carry out a search?

- Ask the police what legal power they have to carry out the search (if you don't know or they have not told you).
- Choose to consent or refuse permission to search.
- Stay calm, don't resist, don't be abusive, and don't get in the way, even if police carry out the search without your consent.

How should a search be carried out?

For basic personal or strip searches, police must:

- identify themselves
- give the reason for the search
- ask if you consent to the search
- advise you they can still search you if you don't consent, and that it's an offence to obstruct the search
- tell you why they need to remove any clothing and allow you to dress again as soon as possible after the search
- have someone of the same sex as you (or a doctor) conduct the search for drug offences.

For searches of your place, police must:

- identify themselves
- tell you they intend entering your place
- give you the legal basis for the search (for example, under a search warrant)
- ask if you consent, and
- if you were not home during the search, leave a notice that your place has been searched, and a copy of any search warrant.

What special rules are there for basic searches?

A basic search allows police to:

- use a scanner on your body
- remove and search any hat, gloves, shoes or outer clothes you are wearing, and
- do a frisk search by running their hands over the outside of your clothes.

If possible, a basic search should be done by a person who is the same sex as you, unless the searcher is a doctor or nurse. In relation to a suspected drug offence, the search must always be carried out by someone of the same sex as you, or by a doctor. Police may also photograph or video all or part of a basic search while it is being done.

What special rules are there for strip searches?

A strip search allows police to:

- remove your clothing (but not more clothing than is reasonably necessary)
- search your clothes or anything else you are wearing
- search the outside of your body, and
- search the inside of your mouth.

If a strip search involves the removal of your clothing or a search of your private parts, it **must** be done by a person of the same sex as you, **unless the searcher is a doctor or nurse**. If police are not sure of your sex, they must ask you whether a male or female should search you and the search must be done according to your answer. If you do not answer, police may carry out the search according to the sex you appear to be to them.

Any person present during the search must also, if possible, be the same sex as you. The number of people present should be limited to the number reasonably necessary to ensure the search is carried out safely and effectively.

Strip searches must be carried out in private. In order to conduct a strip search, police can require you to go to a place where the search can be done.

If the location for the strip search may be monitored by cameras, the cameras should not be used at the time of the search. However, police can photograph or video anything that they find during the strip search, in the location where they find it.

What force can police use during a search?

Police may use reasonable force against any person or any 'thing' in order to carry out a search. This may include causing damage to property, where it is reasonable in order to carry out the search.

What if police have used unreasonable force to arrest me?

A police officer can use as much force as is reasonably necessary to restrain you, arrest you or execute a warrant. If you think that unreasonable force was used, or if you have been injured by the police, as soon as possible you should:

- Write down as much as you can about who hurt you including their name, rank and the police station where they work.
- Report the matter to the officer in charge of the police station straight away. A written report that is dated and signed is best, but otherwise you should at least give a verbal report. Keep a copy of any written report and make a written record of anything you have said if it is a verbal report.
- Ask a doctor to examine and document your injuries as soon as possible. If possible, have photographs taken of your injuries and record the date the photographs were taken.
- Write down the name of the last person to see you before you were hurt and the first person to see you afterwards. Ask them to write notes of what they saw their observations.
- Write down the name of any person who witnessed the arrest and ask them to make notes about what they saw.
- Get legal advice about your situation as soon as possible.

What must the police do once they have arrested me?

As soon as possible after you are arrested, the officer in charge of the investigation must tell you what your rights are. Your rights are different depending on whether you have been arrested as a suspect or not. In every case when you are arrested by police you have the right to:

- any necessary medical treatment
- a reasonable amount of privacy from the mass media
- a reasonable chance to communicate with or try to communicate with a relative or friend to tell them where you are, and
- assistance from an interpreter or other qualified person if you are unable to understand or communicate well enough in spoken English

What are the reasons police can keep me in custody after arresting me?

Police can keep you in custody after arresting you in order to:

- search you, your property and your premises
- investigate any offence they suspect you have committed
- interview you, or
- decide whether or not to charge you.

If possible, you should be kept in custody in the company of a police officer, rather than in a police cell.

How long can police keep me in custody before charging me?

If you are in custody because police suspect you have committed an offence, police may keep you in custody for a reasonable time to investigate the offence, question you about it, carry out searches and decide whether to charge you. In deciding what a “reasonable time” is, a number of things may be considered, including things such as:

- the time required to transport you to a place where you can be interviewed properly;
- the need for you to receive medical treatment;
- the need to let you recover from the effects of alcohol or drugs;
- the number of offences and how complicated they are;
- the need for police with special knowledge to travel to attend the investigation; and
- the need to interview witnesses or other suspects.

Apart from this reasonable time limit, police must also ensure that they do not keep you in custody for more than six hours, unless they get the approval of a senior officer. If they get approval, they are then allowed to keep you in custody for no more than another six hours, making a total of twelve hours. After twelve hours, police may only continue to keep you in custody if they get approval from a magistrate.

When must police release me from custody?

Police must immediately release you if they decide not to charge you or if they have not received approval to keep you in custody for more than the time allowed.

If you are charged with an offence, you may or may not be released, depending on the seriousness of the offence and whether police consider bail is appropriate.

What if I am kept in custody when I should not be?

If you are kept in custody without a proper reason or for longer than is allowed, you should ask to be released. If police do not release you when they should, you may have a civil action against them for false imprisonment. If you think you have been taken into or kept in custody when you should not have been, you should seek legal advice.

Fingerprints and photographs

If you are charged with an offence that is not a serious offence then you are not required to give a sample of your DNA. However, you can be required to provide other identifying information like fingerprints and photographs. If you are under arrest for an offence, police have the power to take your fingerprints and photo. If police have asked you for a DNA sample and you are not sure if you have to give a sample, you should get legal advice.

How can a DNA sample be taken from me?

Scientists can get a DNA profile from a sample of your mouth cells, hair, or blood. The methods that are used to obtain these samples are:

- mouth cell sample – a sample is taken by buccal swab, which means the inside of your mouth is wiped with a swab similar to a cotton bud, to collect cells and saliva
- hair sample – hairs may be pulled from your head or pubic area, however only a doctor or nurse may take a sample of pubic hair, or
- blood sample – this is commonly obtained by pricking your finger and collecting a drop of blood.

Police must use the least painful method available when taking a DNA sample.

Learn more here:

https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/DNA_testing_police.pdf

Further information about DNA testing

The following information about DNA testing is from the [WA Police website](#).

DNA Samples

Police can take samples from people charged with, or suspected of, committing a serious offence that carries a statutory penalty of 12 months or more, regardless of the actual sentence imposed.

What is DNA?

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) carries genetic information passed on to you from your mother and father and determines your physical characteristics. A DNA sample is a collection of cells from your body. The type of sample that police usually collect from you is a buccal swab (a mouth swab). The law also allows police to take other samples, such as hair or blood in some instances if you don't agree to give a mouth swab.

How is a DNA sample taken?

If the sample is by mouth swab, it simply involves wiping a swab inside your mouth. You will be asked to do the mouth swab yourself, under police direction. The swab is like a large cotton bud and does not hurt you.

When a sample of hair is required, police will pull a number of hairs from your leg, arm or head.

If difficulty is experienced in obtaining either of these samples, police are authorised to take a sample of your blood. This is a simple finger prick blood sample, which some police are qualified to do.

All of these procedures are simple and will not harm you.

What happens next?

A DNA profile is obtained from the sample. The profile is then recorded on a DNA database. It will then be compared with DNA samples collected from crime scenes to see if they match. Your DNA sample will not be tested for drugs.

Sample use and destruction

If you volunteer your sample, you may decide whether to:

- limit the purposes for which it is used, or
- allow it to be used for unlimited forensic purposes.

You may also decide how long this information may be held by police.

As a witness or a victim of an offence, you may decide whether to:

- limit the purposes for which your sample may be used, or
- allow the sample to be used for unlimited forensic purposes.

If you are a suspect for an offence then you may request your identifying particulars be destroyed if, after two years:

- you have not been charged with a relevant offence; or
- you are found not guilty of the offence you were charged with.

If you have been charged with a serious offence, you may request your identifying particulars to be destroyed if you are found not guilty of the offence you were charged with.

Sample destruction

If you wish the sample to be destroyed, either you or your legal representative need to make a request in writing to: Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters 2 Adelaide Terrace East Perth WA 6004.

What if I am charged but not released?

If you are charged but not released on bail to attend court, you will be taken to court in police custody. You will then have a chance to apply for bail in court. If you do not have a lawyer and you want legal assistance to make a bail application, you may tell the custody staff at court that you wish to see a Legal Aid duty lawyer. The duty lawyer will visit you in custody to advise you and can then represent you in court. If there is no duty lawyer at the court on that day you can ask the court to put your bail application off to another day when a lawyer is available. You can choose to make the application for bail yourself, without advice or representation from a lawyer, but you should be aware that if bail is refused, you may not be given another chance to apply for bail. For this reason, it is best to get legal advice before you apply for bail.

Move on orders

In addition to the power to arrest, police also have the power to order you to leave a particular public place or public transport for up to 24 hours. This is called a “move on order”. A police officer may issue a move on order if they reasonably suspect that you:

- are doing, or are about to do, something violent
- are committing a breach of the peace
- are preventing or hindering a lawful activity by another person, or
- have committed, are committing or will commit an offence.

When issuing a move on order, police must consider the impact of the order on you, including whether it affects your ability to get to the place where you live, work or shop, or your ability to access transport, health, education or other essential services. A move on order must be in writing.

It is an offence to fail to comply with a move on order, unless you have a reasonable excuse for not complying. The maximum penalty is a **fine of \$12,000 and imprisonment for 12 months**.

Possible outcomes for criminal offences

**Information in this section reviewed and updated on November 6, 2021 and again on January 21, 2022.*

Fine and imprisonment

means any option under the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA) is available to the court other than no sentence and if appropriate, the court may impose both a fine and another sentencing option.

Fine or imprisonment

means any one option under the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA) may be imposed.

Imprisonment only

means any option under the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA) is available to the court other than no sentence and if appropriate, the court may impose both a fine and another sentencing option.

Fine only

means the court may only impose no sentence, a conditional release order, a fine or a suspended fine, but nothing more serious than that. However, for certain fine only offences it is possible for a court to impose a community-based order.

Minimum and maximum penalties

The statutory penalty may be stated without any reference to whether it is the minimum or maximum. In this case, it is taken to be the maximum penalty available to the court when sentencing an offender for that offence.

If a penalty is stated to have a minimum, then the court must impose at least that minimum penalty. Minimum penalties are common in road traffic offences where a minimum fine and a minimum period of licence disqualification are the specified penalty. Minimum periods of imprisonment exist for certain serious offences committed repeatedly, such as home burglaries.

Penalties in set circumstances

The statutory penalty may be stated to be different in set circumstances, for example where an offence of assault is committed against someone who is 60 years old or more. The statutory penalty may also be stated to be different depending on whether the offence is dealt with on indictment in the District Court, or summarily in the Magistrates Court.

Possible penalties under the Sentencing Act

Once a court has considered the statutory penalty, it will know what range of penalty options are available to it. The possible penalties are listed in the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA) in order of seriousness and in the order in which a court must consider them. The last and most serious penalty, immediate imprisonment, cannot be imposed unless all other available penalties are considered inappropriate. The possible penalties in the order listed in the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA) are:

No sentence

- no penalty considered necessary

Conditional release order

- no penalty if of good behaviour for the time specified in the order

Fine

- payment of a specified amount of money

Suspended fine

- not required to be paid if of good behaviour for the time specified in the order

Community based order

- reporting in the community for the time specified in the order, with programme or community service requirements or both

Intensive supervision order

- supervision in the community for the time specified in the order, with or without programme or community service requirements or both

Suspended imprisonment order

- no imprisonment to be served if of good behaviour for time specified in order

Conditional suspended imprisonment order

- no imprisonment to be served if of good behaviour for time specified in order and if comply with reporting requirements and supervision or programme requirements as specified in order

Imprisonment

- immediate imprisonment.

Your actual sentence

Taking into account the statutory penalty and the possible penalties it may impose under the Sentencing Act 1995 (WA), the court will impose an actual sentence on you. For example, the court may order that you pay a fine of \$2,000. The actual penalty will be decided having regard to the particular facts of the offence, your criminal record and your personal situation. Spent convictions count as prior convictions when you are in court. The sentencing outcome will be recorded by the court and may be the subject of an appeal against sentence. If you want to know the penalty you are likely to get in your particular situation, you should get legal advice.

Commonwealth charges

Police in WA also have the power to arrest and detain you in relation to Commonwealth offences, such as offences under the Crimes Act 1914, Customs Act 1901 or Quarantine Act 1908. The powers police have in relation to Commonwealth offences are very similar to State offences, but there are a few differences in relation to how long you can be kept in custody. For Commonwealth offences, police can only keep you in custody for a “reasonable time” but this is otherwise limited to:

- two hours if you are under 18 years old or you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or
- four hours otherwise.

Police may apply to a magistrate or justice of the peace to extend this to a maximum period of eight hours and they can only apply for an extension once.

Move on orders

In addition to the power to arrest, police also have the power to order you to leave a particular public place or public transport for up to 24 hours. This is called a “move on order”. A police officer may issue a move on order if they reasonably suspect that you:

- are doing, or are about to do, something violent
- are committing a breach of the peace
- are preventing or hindering a lawful activity by another person, or
- have committed, are committing or will commit an offence.

When issuing a move on order, police must consider the impact of the order on you, including whether it affects your ability to get to the place where you live, work or shop, or your ability to access transport, health, education or other essential services. A move on order must be in writing.

It is an offence to fail to comply with a move on order, unless you have a reasonable excuse for not complying. The maximum penalty is a **fine of \$12,000 and imprisonment for 12 months**.

Sentencing guidelines in Australia

The following information is from: [Judge for Yourself - A Guide to Sentencing in Australia](#) and D.A.M recommends reviewing the document.

All sentencing legislation in Australia outlines the purposes that may be considered when imposing a sentence. The main purposes are:

Punishment

- usually means imposing a sentence that inflicts some kind of pain or loss on the offender.

Rehabilitation

- means imposing a sentence that will help to change the offender's behaviour into that of a responsible citizen.

Specific deterrence

- means discouraging the particular offender from committing more crimes.

General deterrence

- refers to the idea that potential offenders in the community will be discouraged from committing a particular crime when they see the penalty imposed for that kind of offence.

Denunciation

- is a formal public expression that the behaviour is unacceptable to the community.

Community Protection

- means both protecting the community from the offender and from crime generally.

Restorative justice

- means promoting the restoration of relations between the community, the offender and the victim.

Sentencing legislation

- specifies the matters that courts must take into account when passing sentence. These include:

The nature and circumstances of the offence

Offences vary greatly in the way they are committed. Some crimes are planned, others occur on the spur of the moment; some cause great harm to the victim, others very little; some are committed alone, others by gangs.

The degree of criminality

The number of offences and their seriousness are relevant to the degree of criminality.

The victim's circumstances

Some victims may be young or very old, or more vulnerable to crime because they are physically or mentally incapacitated or for other reasons. Such factors may warrant a more severe sentence.

Any injury, loss or damage

A judicial officer must weigh up the degree of loss or the extent of injury to the victim in order to determine how serious the particular is to be regarded.

Any mitigating factors

These could include whether the offender has shown contrition for the offence; whether he or she has pleaded guilty; whether the offender has attempted any form of restitution; and the extent to which the offender has co-operated with law enforcement agencies investigating the particular offence or other offences.

Summary: sentencing***What happens when a conviction is spent?***

Having a conviction made spent does not change the penalty or sentence for a conviction.

If a conviction is spent, you generally do not have to disclose that you were convicted of that offence. The conviction doesn't disappear completely. It remains part of your private criminal record kept by the police (and your History for Court), but it will not be included as a disclosable conviction when you apply for a National Police Clearance.

Spent convictions also remain part of your criminal history and can be taken into account when considering bail, or sentencing you for a new offence. Spent convictions are also considered when you apply for a Working with Children Check.

Do I need to disclose spent convictions?

In general, you do not need to tell people about spent convictions that do not appear on your National Police Certificate. Spent convictions cannot be considered if you are asked to show that you are a 'fit and proper person' under a WA law.

In general, it is against the law for current or potential employers, unions, associations, licencing boards or professional regulators to discriminate against you because of spent convictions. If you are discriminated against because of your spent convictions, you can complain to the Equal Opportunity Commission.

When do I need to tell people about a spent conviction?

There are some exceptions where you will have to disclose that you have spent convictions.

Common situations include if you:

- are applying for certain jobs, including as a police, prison or transport officer
- want to work in certain places, including schools, hospitals and child care centres
- have applied for special licences, such as security agents, child care providers, casino employees, or to have firearms, or
- are applying for an Australian visa.

If you are going to be involved in certain activities that will involve children, you may also be required to disclose if you have spent convictions for specific serious offences (such as assaults, homicides and sexual offences). Find a more detailed list here:

https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Spent_conviction_application_Part_1.pdf

How do I apply to have a conviction spent?

If you are in court for an offence, you may be able to ask the court to make a Spent Conviction Order when you are being sentenced.

You can also apply to have old convictions declared spent after enough time has passed. You can apply to the District Court to have a serious conviction spent after a certain waiting period. This waiting period is usually 10 years plus the length of the term of imprisonment imposed (rather than the time actually spent in prison). This waiting period is less for some offences.

This request is made to the WA Police. You can apply for a National Police Certificate, which automatically includes a request for any eligible WA convictions to be spent. You don't need to complete a separate application about spent convictions. There is a fee to get a National Police Certificate.

Alternatively, you can [apply to the WA Police](#)⁶⁴ for any eligible WA convictions to be spent, without getting a National Police Certificate. There is no fee for this application, but you won't receive a copy of your National Police Certificate at the end.

⁶⁴ <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/FAQ?cat=Spent+Convictions&c=bee4c7ce-36a1-4a5c-84d9-042099fb697c#all>.

Can I get a spent conviction for Commonwealth (Federal) offences?

Yes, it can become spent under the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth). If you didn't go to prison, or you went to prison for 30 months or less, the conviction will usually be spent automatically after a certain amount of time. The waiting periods are:

- for an adult, 10 years beginning on the date of conviction, and
- for a minor, 5 years beginning on the date of conviction.

If you are being sentenced for Commonwealth offences, it is possible to ask the court to not record a conviction against your name. This is called a 'section 19B order'.

There are different things that you need to show the court before it can make a section 19B order. You should get legal advice if you have committed an offence under a Commonwealth law.

What information is included in my criminal record?

The police in each state and territory keeps their own records of offences, so you will have more than one record if you have committed offences in more than one state/territory.

Your criminal record only includes offences if you have been convicted by a court. What information is included on your record varies between states. Some states don't list traffic offences as part of your criminal record, but usually the police will instead have a separate list of your traffic convictions.

If you were given an infringement notice for an offence and it wasn't dealt with in court, it generally won't result in a conviction being recorded on your criminal record.

In WA, your criminal record includes criminal and traffic convictions and shows:

- The name of the offence
- The date you were convicted
- The penalty you received

How can I find out what is on my criminal record?

There are two documents that contain information from your criminal record:

- a National Police Certificate
- your History for Court

A National Police Certificate is normally what you need if you are asked to show someone a copy of your criminal record, like a potential employer. Your History for Court can only be used for court proceedings in WA.

What is a National Police Certificate and how do I get one?

A National Police Certificate uses information from police records throughout Australia to provide a single list of convictions from every state and territory. It also includes details of charges that are going through the courts and haven't been finalised. It does not include convictions that are spent or any infringements you have received. Depending on how much time has passed, offences from when you were under 18 might not be shown.

If you are in WA, you can get a National Police Certificate by filling out an application at any Australia Post office in WA, or online from the WA Police website. If you are interstate, you should contact local police to find out how to apply for a National Police Certificate in that location.

If you are a minor

The age of criminal responsibility in WA is [currently] 10 years old. This means if you are 10 or older, and you commit a criminal offence, you can be charged by the police and convicted in court. Between the ages of 10 and 14 years old, the police must prove in court that you understood you were doing the wrong thing. If you are over 14 years old, the law says you can be held responsible for your actions, even if you didn't actually know that you were doing the wrong thing or were breaking the law.

What can happen if I commit an offence?

The law understands that young people make mistakes and sometimes don't think through the consequences of their actions. If you are under 18 years old and break the law, the police can sometimes choose to give you a caution, or refer you to a Juvenile Justice Team instead of charging you with a criminal offence. If the police do charge you with a criminal offence for something you did when you were under 18, the charge will be dealt with in the Children's Court. There are a range of sentencing options available to the court.

Legislation contained in the Young Offenders Act 1994, gives police officers the *discretionary power* to use diversionary options when dealing with a young person who commits an offence. Instead of an arrest and subsequent court appearance, police officers can issue a formal written caution or refer the matter to a Juvenile Justice Team. [<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/Juvenile-justice>]

Speaking to police

Police have powers that allow them to ask questions and interview you in certain situations. It is important to understand your legal rights in relation to these powers. Generally, the police have the right to ask you questions at any time, even if you have not been arrested. Although they are allowed to ask you questions, this does not mean you always have to answer them. In WA, you have a general right to silence, which means you do not have to answer most questions from police. There are some questions you must answer, for example, your name, address and date of birth. If the police tell you that you must answer a question and you do not answer or you lie, you may be charged with an offence.

What should I do if police want to speak to me?

Give your correct name, address and date of birth.

Do not answer any other questions, unless the police tell you that you must.

Do not lie or give false information - this is against the law.

Do not sign anything until you have had legal advice.

Do not resist police, or be abusive or violent. If you try to stop police or make it harder for them to do their job, you could be arrested and charged with a serious offence.

Get legal advice as soon as possible.

If the police want to do a video recorded interview with you, tell them that you want legal advice first.

If police give you a move-on notice, make sure you read it carefully and follow what it says. You can be arrested and charged just for being somewhere covered by the move-on notice.

How do I use my right to silence?

If the police ask you a question, you can say, 'No comment' or say nothing at all. The right to silence does not apply to all questions. If the police ask for your name, address or date of birth, you must answer and you must tell the truth. Sometimes there are other questions you must answer – the police should tell you when it is one of these questions. If you are not sure about whether you must answer a question, you can ask, 'Do I have to answer?' If the police tell you that you must answer a question, and you refuse or lie, you could be charged with a criminal offence. If you decide to use your right to silence, the police cannot force you to answer, or use this against you later in court.

What if the police want to interview me?

If the police ask you to do an interview, you can say no. If you are under arrest, the police might make you sit in the interview room, turn on the video camera and ask you questions anyway. This does not mean you have to answer – you can still use your right to silence. You should always get legal advice before you do an interview or answer questions from the police. You can say to the police, 'I want to speak to a lawyer.' If you do that, the police must give you the chance to call a lawyer. You can call the Legal Aid WA Infoline for free advice about doing an interview. If you decide to do an interview it will be recorded. The police can play it later in court and use it as evidence against you. If you are under 18, ask for an adult you trust to be present at the interview.

What other powers do police have?

Police have many powers to investigate crimes. In certain situations, they can search you or your property, arrest you, take your fingerprints or DNA, or order you to do something. Often, they do not need a warrant. If the police ask you to do something and you are not sure whether you have to – you can ask, 'Do I have to?' If the police say that you must and you refuse to co-operate, you could be charged with an offence.

Visa cancellations on character grounds

**Information in this section reviewed and updated on November 4, 2021 and again on January 21, 2022.*

If you have a visa to stay or live in Australia (including as a permanent resident), it may be cancelled on character grounds if you have done something wrong. Decisions to refuse a visa, or to cancel a visa, are made by the Minister of Home Affairs, or by someone for the Minister within the Department of Home Affairs (formerly the Department of Immigration and Border Protection).

If you receive either a notice of intention to cancel your visa, or a notice of visa cancellation from the Minister or the Department, you need to act quickly. There are strict time limits that apply for you to respond to a notice of intention to cancel your visa, or to appeal the decision if your visa has been cancelled. You must comply with these time limits.

Why is my visa being cancelled?

The Minister and the Department for Home Affairs have the power to refuse or cancel a visa on the basis that you do not pass the character test. In some cases, even if you do not pass the character test, the decision maker can decide to not to cancel your visa.

Depending on exactly why you do not pass the character test, your visa must be cancelled in some situations. You will be given 28 days to ask that the mandatory cancellation be revoked.

You may not pass the character requirements if you have a *substantial criminal record*. You have a substantial criminal record for the purposes of the character test in the Migration Act if you have been:

- sentenced to death or imprisonment for life
- sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more
- sentenced to two or more terms of imprisonment (even if served concurrently) where the total is 12 months or more
- found by a court to not be fit to plead in relation to an offence but found to have committed the offence and detained in a facility or institution

If you do not pass character requirements, the Minister or a delegate can refuse your application or cancel your visa. To decide if you pass character requirements, a variety of matters may be considered, including:

- the protection of the Australian community
- the best interests of any children in Australia
- Australia's international legal responsibilities
- the impact of visa refusal or cancellation on your family in Australia
- any impact on Australian business and community interests

If your visa is cancelled on character grounds, you may not be able to get another one.

Get help

[Refugee and Immigration Legal Service](#)⁶⁵

[Visa Cancellation Legal Information Kit](#)⁶⁶

This Kit is intended for use by visa holders, visa applicants, and people who might be supporting them. This Kit is not legal advice. This Kit provides general information only. The purpose of this Kit is to provide information about possible visa cancellation or refusal on character grounds.

[Circle Green Community Legal \(formerly known as The Humanitarian Group\)](#)⁶⁷

People from refugee and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds may be able to get assistance with visa cancellation on character grounds. Contact (08) 6148 3636.

[Australian Human Rights Commission - Visa cancellation on character grounds](#)⁶⁸

You need to get legal advice if the cancellation or possible cancellation of your visa is for a reason other than failing to meet the character test.

⁶⁵ <https://www.rails.org.au/>.

⁶⁶ <https://www.rails.org.au/sites/default/files/2021-01/Cancellation%20Kit-15Dec2020.pdf>.

⁶⁷ <https://circlegreen.org.au/humanitarian/>.

⁶⁸ <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-and-refugees/visa-cancellation-character-grounds>.

Laws in Western Australia

**Information taken from - Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913 – Criminal Code – Western Australia*

**This information is from Western Australia, but also serves as an example of the range of types of charges that activists potentially face regardless of location. Look for similar types of documents and similar information for your specific area to be certain of the legal risks that may be relevant for you/your AG.*

Some links to legal information for others locations can be found in the Laws in other states and countries section of this guide.

Extraction date – June 26, 2019

Reviewed and updated – November 5, 2021; January 21, 2022

**Irrelevant sections were not included. [Click here to view these laws in their entirety.](#)⁶⁹*

Trespass

70A.

(1) In this section – person in authority, in relation to a place, means – (a) in the case of a place owned by the Crown, or an agency or instrumentality of the Crown – the occupier or person having control or management of the place or a police officer; or (b) in any other case – (i) the owner, occupier or person having control or management of the place; or (ii) a police officer acting on a request by a person referred to in subparagraph (i); trespass on a place, means – (a) to enter or be in the place without the consent or licence of the owner, occupier or person having control or management of the place; or (b) to remain in the place after being requested by a person in authority to leave the place; or (c) to remain in a part of the place after being requested by a person in authority to leave that part of the place.

(2) A person who, without lawful excuse, trespasses on a place is guilty of an offence and is liable to **imprisonment for 12 months and a fine of \$12 000.**

(3) In a prosecution for an offence under subsection (2), the accused has the onus of proving that the accused had a lawful excuse.

Trespassers may be asked for name and address

70B.

(1) In this section – “enclosed land” means land that is visibly enclosed, whether by means of artificial structures alone or a combination of artificial structures and natural features, but does not include a road on the land that is open to or used by the public; “owner”, in relation to land, includes the occupier and a person who has the control or management of the land.

(2) If the owner of any enclosed land finds a person on the land who has entered the land without the owner’s consent, the owner may request the person to give the person’s name and address to the owner.

⁶⁹

[https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_37141.pdf/\\$FILE/Criminal%20Code%20Act%20Compilation%20Act%201913%20-%20%5B19-a0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_37141.pdf/$FILE/Criminal%20Code%20Act%20Compilation%20Act%201913%20-%20%5B19-a0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement).

(3) A person who does not comply with such a request is guilty of an offence and is **liable to a fine of \$500**.

(4) A person who in response to such a request gives a name or address that is false is guilty of an offence and is **liable to a fine of \$500**.

*What the Police must prove according to WA law for Trespass**

- (1) That the person trespassed on a place;
- (2) That the person did not have consent to be in that place; or
- (3) That the person had been asked to leave the premises by a person in authority.

If the accused person claims that he had a lawful excuse to be or remain on the premises, the accused person has the onus of proving that he had a lawful excuse.

*Possible Defences under WA Law for Trespass**

- (a) There was consent;
- (b) A person in authority had not asked the person to leave the premises;
- (c) There was a lawful excuse to be there;
- (d) Accident;
- (e) Emergency;
- (f) Insanity;
- (g) Honest claim of right;
- (h) Mistake of fact (but mistake of law is not a defence); and
- (i) Identification (i.e.: the person accused is not the person who trespassed).

* Information taken from <https://perth.australiancriminallawyers.com.au/offences/trespass> on November 4, 2021

Obstructing public officers

172.

(1) In this section — “obstruct” includes to prevent, to hinder and to resist.

(2) A person who obstructs a public officer, or a person lawfully assisting a public officer, in the performance of the officer’s functions is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment for 3 years. Summary conviction penalty: **imprisonment for 18 months and a fine of \$18 000**.

Showing offensive material to child under 16

204A.

(1) In this section, unless the contrary intention appears — material includes — (a) an object; (b) a still visual image of any kind, whether a drawing, painting, photograph, or other representation on a surface of any kind, and whether printed or not; (c) a moving visual image of any kind, whether produced from a cinematographic film, video tape, or other medium; (d) a hologram; offensive material means material that — (a) describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters of sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime, cruelty or violence, or revolting or abhorrent phenomena, in a manner that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; or (b) depicts a person (whether engaged in sexual activity or otherwise) who is, or who is apparently, a child under the age of 16 years in a manner that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult; or (c) describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with sexual activity of any kind between a human being and an animal; or (d) promotes, incites, or instructs in matters of crime or violence, and includes — (e) a publication,

within the meaning of the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 of the Commonwealth, that has been classified RC, Category 1 restricted or Category 2 restricted under that Act; and (f) a film, within the meaning of the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 of the Commonwealth, that has been classified RC or X under that Act; and (g) a computer game, within the meaning of the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 of the Commonwealth, that has been classified RC under that Act.

(2) A person who, with intent to commit a crime, shows offensive material to a child under the age of 16 years is guilty of a crime and is liable to **imprisonment for 5 years**.

(3) Upon an indictment charging a person with an offence under subsection (2), a certificate issued under an Act referred to in the definition of offensive material in subsection (1) as to the status of any material under that Act is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof of the matters in the certificate.

(4) It is a defence to a charge under subsection (2) to prove the accused person – (a) believed on reasonable grounds that the child was of or over the age of 16 years; and (b) was not more than 3 years older than the child.

Act intended to cause grievous bodily harm or prevent arrest

294.

Any person who, with intent to maim, disfigure, or disable any person, or to do some grievous bodily harm to any person, or to resist or prevent the lawful arrest or detention of any person –

(1) Unlawfully wounds or does any grievous bodily harm to any person by any means whatever; or

(2) Unlawfully attempts in any manner to strike any person with any kind of projectile; or

(3) Unlawfully causes any explosive substance to explode; or

(4) Sends or delivers any explosive substance or other dangerous or noxious thing to any person; or

(5) Causes any such substance or thing to be taken or received by any person; or

(6) Puts any corrosive fluid or any destructive or explosive substance in any place; or

(7) Unlawfully casts or throws any such fluid or substance at or upon any person, or otherwise applies any such fluid or substance to the person of any person; or

(8) does any act that is likely to result in a person having a serious disease; is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 20 years**.

Grievous bodily harm

297.

(1) Any person who unlawfully does grievous bodily harm to another is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 10 years**.

(2) If the offence is committed in the course of conduct that, under section 371 or 371A, constitutes the stealing of a motor vehicle, the offender is liable to **imprisonment for 14 years**.

(3) If the offence is committed in circumstances of aggravation, the offender is liable to **imprisonment for 14 years**.

(4) If – (a) the victim of the offence is a public officer who is performing a function of his office or employment; or (b) the offence is committed against a public officer on account of his being such an

officer or his performance of a function of his office or employment; or (c) the victim of the offence is the driver or person operating or in charge of — (i) a vehicle travelling on a railway; or (ii) a ferry; or (iii) a taxi as defined in the Taxi Act 1994 section 3(1) or an omnibus as defined in the Transport Co-ordination Act 1966 section 4(1); or (d) the victim of the offence is — (i) an ambulance officer; or (ii) a member of a FES Unit, SES Unit or VMRS Group (within the meaning given to those terms by the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998); or (iii) a member or officer of a private fire brigade or volunteer fire brigade (within the meaning given to those terms by the Fire Brigades Act 1942), who is performing his or her duties as such; or (e) the victim of the offence is a person who — (i) is working in a hospital; or (ii) is in the course of providing a health service to the public; or (f) the victim of the offence is a contract worker (within the meaning given to that term by the Court Security and Custodial Services Act 1999) who is providing court security services or custodial services under that Act; or (g) the victim of the offence is a contract worker (within the meaning given to that term by section 15A of the Prisons Act 1981) who is performing functions under Part IIIA of that Act, the offender is liable to **imprisonment for 14 years**.

(5) If the offence is committed by an adult offender, then the court sentencing the offender — (a) if the offence is committed in the course of conduct that constitutes an aggravated home burglary, must, notwithstanding any other written law, impose a term of imprisonment of — (i) at least 75% of the term specified in subsection (3), where the offence is committed in circumstances of aggravation; or (ii) at least 75% of the term specified in subsection (1), in any other case; and (b) if the offence is committed in prescribed circumstances, must, notwithstanding any other written law, impose a term of **imprisonment of at least 12 months**, and must not suspend the term of imprisonment imposed.

(6) If the offence is committed by a juvenile offender, then the court sentencing the offender — (a) if the offence is committed in the course of conduct that constitutes an aggravated home burglary, must, notwithstanding the Young Offenders Act 1994 section 46(5a), impose either — (i) a term of **imprisonment of at least 3 years**; or (ii) a term of detention under the Young Offenders Act 1994 of at least 3 years, as the court thinks fit; and (b) if the offence is committed in prescribed circumstances, must, notwithstanding the Young Offenders Act 1994, impose either — (i) a term of **imprisonment of at least 3 months**, notwithstanding the Sentencing Act 1995 section 86; or (ii) a term of detention under the Young Offenders Act 1994 of at least 3 months, as the court thinks fit, and in either case must not suspend any term of imprisonment imposed and **must record a conviction**.

Acts injuring property, when unlawful etc.

441.

(1) An act which causes injury to the property of another, and which is done without his consent, is unlawful unless it is authorised, or justified, or excused by law.

(2) It is immaterial that the person who does the injury is in possession of the property injured, or has a partial interest in it.

(3) A person is not criminally responsible for an act that causes an injury to property if — (a) the person believes the act is necessary to defend or protect the person, another person or property from injury that the person believes is imminent; and (b) the act is a reasonable response by the person in the circumstances as the person believes them to be; and (c) there are reasonable grounds for those beliefs.

Term used: “Wilfully destroy or damage”

443.

Where a person does an act or omits to do an act – (a) intending to destroy or damage property; or (b) knowing or believing that the act or omission is likely to result in the destruction of or damage to property, and the act or omission results in the destruction of or damage to property, the person is regarded for the purposes of this division as having wilfully destroyed or damaged property.

Criminal damage

444.

(1) Any person who wilfully and unlawfully destroys or damages any property is guilty of a crime and is liable – (a) if the property is destroyed or damaged by fire, to life imprisonment; or (b) if the property is not destroyed or damaged by fire, to **imprisonment for 10 years** or, if the offence is committed in circumstances of aggravation or in circumstances of racial aggravation, to **imprisonment for 14 years**.

Alternative offence: s. 445.

Summary conviction penalty: for an offence where – (a) in a case where subsection (1)(b) applies; and (b) the amount of the injury done does not exceed \$50 000, **imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36 000**. (2) Property that is capable of being destroyed or damaged by fire includes vegetation.

Damaging property

445.

A person who unlawfully destroys or damages the property of another person without that other person’s consent is guilty of an offence and is liable to **imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24 000**.

Acts etc. with intent to obstruct or injure railway

451.

Any person who unlawfully, and with intent to obstruct the use of a railway or to injure any property upon a railway –

- (1) Deals with the railway or with anything whatever on or near the railway in such a manner as to endanger the free and safe use of the railway; or
- (2) Unlawfully shows any light or signal, or deals with any existing light or signal upon or near the railway; or (3) By any omission to do any act which it is his duty to do causes the free and safe use of the railway to be endangered; is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 20 years**.

Acts with intent to injure mine etc.

456.

Any person who, with intent to injure a mine or to obstruct the working of a mine –

- (1) Unlawfully, and otherwise than by an act done underground in the course of working an adjoining mine, – (a) Causes water to run into the mine or into any subterranean passage communicating with the mine; or (b) Obstructs any shaft or passage of the mine; or
- (2) Unlawfully obstructs the working of any machine, appliance, or apparatus, appertaining to or used with the mine, whether the thing in question is completed or not; or

(3) Unlawfully, and with intent to render it useless, injures or unfastens a rope, chain, or tackle, of whatever material which is used in the mine or upon any way or work appertaining to or used with the mine; is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 7 years**.

Communicating infectious disease to animal

459.

Any person who wilfully and unlawfully causes or is concerned in causing, or attempts to cause, any infectious disease to be communicated to or among any animal or animals capable of being stolen, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 7 years**.

Removing boundary marks

461.

Any person who, wilfully and unlawfully and with intent to defraud, removes or defaces any object or mark which has been lawfully erected or made as an indication of the boundary of any land, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 3 years**.

Obstructing railways

462.

Any person who, by any unlawful act, or by any intentional omission to do any act which it is his duty to do, causes any engine or vehicle in use upon a railway to be obstructed in its passage on the railway, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 2 years**.

Attempt to commit indictable offence

552.

(1) Any person who attempts to commit an indictable offence (the principal offence) is guilty of a crime.

(2) A person guilty of a crime under subsection (1) is liable – (a) if the principal offence is punishable on indictment with imprisonment for life – to imprisonment for 14 years; (b) in any other case – to half of the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on indictment. Summary conviction penalty: for an offence where the principal offence may be dealt with summarily, the lesser of – (a) the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on summary conviction; or (b) the penalty that is half of the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on indictment.

(3) The summary conviction penalty in subsection (2) does not apply to an offence to which section 426 applies.

Incitement to commit indictable offence

553.

(1) Any person who, intending that an indictable offence (the principal offence) be committed, incites another person to commit the principal offence, is guilty of a crime.

(2) A person guilty of a crime under subsection (1) is liable – (a) if the principal offence is punishable on indictment with imprisonment for life – to imprisonment for 14 years; (b) in any other case – to **half of the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on indictment**. Summary conviction penalty: for an offence where the principal offence may be dealt with summarily, the lesser of – (a) the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on summary conviction; or (b) the penalty that is half of the penalty with which the principal offence is punishable on indictment.

(3) The summary conviction penalty in subsection (2) does not apply to an offence to which section 426 applies.

Attempt and incitement to commit simple offence under this Code

555A.

(1) Any person who attempts to commit a simple offence under this Code is guilty of a simple offence and is liable to the punishment to which a person convicted of the first-mentioned offence is liable.

(2) Any person who, intending that a simple offence under this Code be committed, incites another person to commit the offence, is guilty of a simple offence and is liable to the punishment to which a person convicted of the first-mentioned offence is liable. (3) A prosecution for an offence under subsection (1) or (2) may be commenced at any time if the offence alleged to have been attempted or incited is one for which prosecutions may be commenced at any time.

Burglary

401.

(1) A person who enters or is in the place of another person, without that other person's consent, with intent to commit an offence in that place is guilty of a crime and is liable — (a) if the offence is an aggravated home burglary, to **imprisonment for 20 years**; or (ba) if the offence is not a home burglary but is committed in circumstances of aggravation, to **imprisonment for 20 years**; or (b) if the offence is a home burglary not committed in circumstances of aggravation, to **imprisonment for 18 years**; or (c) in any other case, to **imprisonment for 14 years**.

Summary conviction penalty:

(a) in a case to which paragraph (a) applies where the only circumstance of aggravation is that the offender is in company with another person or other persons — **imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36 000**; or (ba) in a case to which paragraph (ba) applies where the only circumstance of aggravation is that the offender is in company with another person or other persons — **imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36 000**; or (b) in a case to which paragraph (b) applies — **imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36 000**; or (c) in a case to which paragraph (c) applies — **imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24 000**.

Persons found armed, etc., with intent to commit crime

407.

Any person who is found under any of the circumstances following, that is to say — (a) Being armed with any dangerous or offensive weapon or instrument, and being so armed with intent to enter a place, and to commit an offence therein; [(b) deleted] (c) Having in his possession by night without lawful excuse, the proof of which lies on him, any instrument of housebreaking; (d) Having in his possession by day any such instrument with intent to commit an offence; or (e) Having his face masked or blackened or being otherwise disguised, with intent to commit an offence; is guilty of a crime, and is liable to **imprisonment for 3 years**.

Summary conviction penalty: **imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24,000**.

Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016

Extraction date – June 27, 2019

Reviewed and updated – November 5, 2021; January 21, 2022

graffiti means any drawing, writing, painting, symbol or mark applied to or marked on property by –
 (a) spraying, writing, drawing, marking or otherwise applying paint or another marking substance; or
 (b) scratching or etching

graffiti implement means any of these – (a) a can of spray paint; (b) a pen or marker pen, or a similar implement that – (i) has a tip over 6 mm wide; and (ii) contains a fluid that is not water soluble and that is capable of marking a surface

Damaging property by graffiti

5.

(1) A person must not destroy, damage or deface the property of another person by graffiti without that other person's consent. Penalty: a **fine of \$24 000 and imprisonment for 2 years**, but the minimum penalty – (a) for an adult offender, is a community based order; (b) for a child offender, is a youth community based order.

(2) Property that is capable of being destroyed, damaged or defaced by graffiti includes vegetation.

(3) This section operates despite the Young Offenders Act 1994 section 46(5a).

Possessing thing with intent to apply graffiti

6.

(1) A person must not be in possession of a thing with the intention of using it to destroy, damage or deface property by applying graffiti. Penalty: a **fine of \$6 000**.

(2) A person is presumed to have an intention referred to in this section in relation to a thing in the person's possession if the person is in possession of the thing in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable suspicion that the person has the intention, unless the contrary is proved.

Costs of cleaning graffiti

8.

(1) This section applies whether the graffiti – (a) is visible to the public or not; or (b) is applied to public property or private property.

(2) A court that convicts a person of an offence under section 5 that involves destroying, damaging or defacing property to which this Act applies may order the offender – (a) to take remedial action to restore the property to the same state as it was in before the offence or to a state specified in the order; or (b) to pay another person to take remedial action to restore the property to the same state as it was in before the offence or to a state specified in the order.

Clause 8 replaces section 446 of the Criminal Code, 'Costs of cleaning graffiti'.

This clause provides that a Court that convicts a person of the offence of destroying, damaging or defacing property by graffiti may order the offender to:

a) take remedial action to restore the property to the same state as it was in before the offence or to a state specified in the order; or

b) pay another person to take remedial action to restore the property to the same state as it was in before the offence or to a state specified in the order.

Clause 8 applies irrespective of whether or not the graffiti is visible to the public or is applied to public or private property. This is an extension of section 446 of the Criminal Code; section 446 only allowed for costs or remedial action to be ordered where graffiti is visible to the public or applied to public property. This clause will allow the Court to make appropriate remedial work orders against all graffiti offenders.

Road Traffic Act 1974

Extraction date – June 26, 2019

Reviewed and updated – November 5, 2021; January 21, 2022

Events on roads: offences

81F.

(1) Where a person at, or in relation to, an event held on a road closed pursuant to an order under this Part – (a) obstructs the free passage of any ambulance, fire brigade vehicle or police vehicle or, otherwise than in the manner or to the extent authorised by the order relating to the road closed for that event, impedes or disrupts the use by members of the public in general of that road; or (b) otherwise than in the manner or to the extent authorised by the order relating to the road closed for that event, drives, takes or uses any vehicles on to or on that road; or (c) incites any other person so to do, commits an offence. Penalty: 12 PU.

(2) Where, in any proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), it is alleged in the charge that – (a) an order had been granted under this Part to a person or body named in the order; or (b) a road was closed pursuant to an order, it shall not be necessary for the prosecutor to prove the facts so alleged in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

(3) When in any proceedings for an offence against this Act or any other enactment regulating the movement of traffic or pedestrians or relating to the obstruction of a road, the accused satisfies the court that a road closure was authorised under this Part by an order purporting to relate to it, it shall be presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that – (a) no irregularity occurred on, or in relation to, the grant of the order; and (b) the road closure substantially conformed with the terms of the order.

**Activists blocking an intersection as pedestrians (sitting) have been previously charged with obstructing public officers and traffic infringements.*

Sentencing laws in Western Australia

D.A.M encourages readers to find the ‘Sentencing Act’ (or similar legislation) for their area. You can find out about possible sentences (duration) for specific charges, terms of suspended sentences, community work orders and more

If you are convicted of an offence, it will form part of your criminal record. If that conviction is ‘spent’, you generally do not need to tell anyone about that conviction. The conviction will not appear on your National Police Certificate. There are some exceptions where you will have to disclose that you have spent convictions. Common situations include if you:

- are applying for certain jobs, including as a police, prison or transport officer,
- want to work in certain places, including schools, hospitals and child care centres,
- have applied for special licences such as security agents, child care providers, casino employees, or to have firearms,
- or are applying for an (Australian) visa.

There are laws in WA that protect you from having to tell people about spent convictions and from being discriminated against because of a spent conviction.

Learn more here: [Legal Aid WA](#)⁷⁰

[Sentencing Act 1995](#)⁷¹

Extraction Date – June 28, 2019

Reviewed and updated – November 5, 2021; January 21, 2022

**CCO = Community Corrections Officer*

45.

Spent conviction order, making and effect of

(1A) In addition to subsection (1), under section 39(2), a court sentencing an offender is not to make a spent conviction order in respect of an offender who is subject to a PSO unless – (a) the offence to which the PSO applies is a simple offence; and (b) the court is satisfied that the offender has complied with any programme requirements imposed as part of the PSO.

(2) A spent conviction order in respect of a conviction is an order that the conviction is a spent conviction for the purposes of the Spent Convictions Act 1988.

(3) The Spent Convictions Act 1988, other than Part 2, applies to and in respect of a conviction in respect of which a spent conviction order has been made.

(4) A spent conviction order is to be taken as part of the sentence imposed.

(5) A spent conviction order in respect of a conviction does not affect – (a) the right or the duty of a court to – (i) disqualify, under a road law as defined in the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008 section 4, the offender from holding or obtaining a driver’s licence as defined in that section; (ii) make any order under this Act or any other written law on convicting the offender; (b) the operation of any provision of a road law as defined in the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008 section 4, or Part 15, relating to the cancellation of, or disqualification from holding or obtaining, a driver’s licence as defined in that section; (c) the duty of the offender to comply with the sentence imposed and with

⁷⁰ <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/find-legal-answers/crime/criminal-records-and-spent-convictions/spent-convictions>.

⁷¹ https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_a742.html.

any order of the court in addition to the sentence; (d) the revesting or restitution of any property as a result of the conviction; (e) any cancellation or disqualification that occurs by operation of any written law; (f) any right of appeal against the conviction or the sentence imposed.

(6) A spent conviction order in respect of a conviction does not prevent — (a) proceedings to enforce, or for a variation or contravention of, the sentence; (b) subsequent proceedings against the offender for the same offence.

46.

Release without sentence

A court sentencing an offender may impose no sentence if it considers that — (a) the circumstances of the offence are trivial or technical; and (b) having regard to — (i) the offender's character, antecedents, age, health and mental condition; and (ii) any other matter that the court thinks is proper to consider, it is not just to impose any other sentencing option.

47.

When CRO may be imposed

Conditional Release Order = CRO

A court may sentence an offender under this Part only if the court considers — (a) there are reasonable grounds for expecting that the offender will not re-offend during the term of the CRO; and (b) that the offender does not need supervising by a CCO during the term of the CRO.

48.

CRO, nature of

(1) A CRO is an order — (a) that if while the order is in force the offender commits another offence (in this State or elsewhere) the offender may be sentenced again for the offence to which the order relates; and (b) that the offender must comply with any requirement imposed by the court under section 49.

(2) A CRO ceases to be in force when its term ends or a court cancels it, whichever happens first.

(3) The term of a CRO must be set by the court but must not be more than 24 months.

(4) The term of a CRO begins on the day the order is imposed.

49.

CRO, requirements of

(1) A court making a CRO may impose any requirements on the offender it decides are necessary to secure the good behaviour of the offender.

(2) A requirement imposed by a court must not be such as requires or would require the offender to be supervised, directed or instructed by a CCO.

(3) A court must not impose any requirement that requires the offender to pay compensation or make restitution to any person; but that does not prevent a court from making a reparation order under Part 16.

50.

Court may direct offender to re-appear

(1) A court that imposes a CRO may order that the offender re-appear before the court – (a) at a time and place fixed by the court; or (b) if and when summonsed by the court, so that the court can ascertain whether the offender has complied with the CRO.

(2) If an offender does not re-appear before a court at the time and place fixed or in response to a summons issued by the court, the court may issue a warrant to have the offender arrested and brought before the court.

(3) If on the re-appearance of an offender the court is satisfied that the offender has not complied with the CRO, the court may make an order under section 133.

53.

Considerations when imposing fine

(1) Subject to Division 1 of Part 2, if a court decides to fine an offender then, in deciding the amount of the fine the court must, as far as is practicable, take into account – (a) the means of the offender; and (b) the extent to which payment of the fine will burden the offender.

(2) A court may fine an offender even though it has been unable to find out about the matters in subsection (1).

(3) A court must not fine an offender if satisfied that after paying compensation to the victim in accordance with a compensation order under Part 16, the offender will be unable to pay the fine within a reasonable time

54.

One fine for 2 or more offences

(1) A court sentencing an offender for 2 or more offences that – (a) are founded on the same facts; or (b) form, or are part of, a series of offences of the same or a similar kind, may impose a single fine for all of the offences.

(2) A fine imposed under subsection (1) must not be more than the sum of the fines provided by the statutory penalties for each of the offences.

(3) If a fine is imposed under subsection (1) and on appeal a conviction for one of the offences (or more than one) is quashed, the appeal court may substitute a fine of another amount for the fine imposed.

55.

Apportionment of fine between joint offenders

(1) If a court sentencing 2 or more joint offenders decides to fine them it may apportion between them as it thinks fit the fine it would have imposed if there were only one offender.

(2) If the statutory penalty for the offence is a mandatory fine or includes a minimum fine, a court apportioning a fine under subsection (1) must apportion at least the mandatory fine or the minimum fine, as the case requires.

(3) In this section — joint offenders means persons who are each convicted of an offence because a legal relationship between them (such as being co-owners of property) results in each of them being criminally responsible for the act or omission constituting the offence

58.

Imprisonment until fine paid

(1) This section applies if a superior court or a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate — (a) fines an offender for an indictable offence, the statutory penalty for which is or includes imprisonment; or (b) fines an offender for an offence and the court is satisfied that — (i) the offender is about to leave the State; and (ii) the absence of the offender from the State would defeat or materially prejudice the operation of the Fines, Penalties and Infringement Notices Enforcement Act 1994 in respect of the fine.

(2) If the court does not also impose a term of imprisonment on the offender, it may order the offender to be imprisoned until the fine is paid, but in any event for not longer than a period set by the court.

(3) The period must not be more than 24 months, but if the statutory penalty for the offence is or includes imprisonment for a lesser period, the period must not be more than that lesser period.

(4) The period is cumulative on any other period or term of imprisonment that the offender is serving or has to serve unless the court orders otherwise.

(5) The period is not a term for the purposes of Part 13.

(6) Service of the period discharges the offender from the liability to pay the fine.

59.

Imprisonment if fine not paid

(1) If a superior court fines an offender for an offence it may order that if the offender does not pay the fine before a date set by the court the offender is to be imprisoned until the offender's liability to pay the fine is discharged — (a) by payment of the whole of the fine; or (b) by the offender serving the whole of the period of imprisonment determined under subsection (3), or a shorter period set by the court; or (c) by a combination of payment of part of the fine and the offender serving part of that period of imprisonment.

(2) If a court makes an order under subsection (1) and the offender contravenes the order, the court may issue a warrant of commitment in the prescribed form in respect of the offender specifying the period of imprisonment (in days) determined under subsection (3) or set by the court (as the case may be) and, if necessary, reduced under subsection (5).

(3) Unless the court sets a shorter period of imprisonment under subsection (1)(b), the period of imprisonment (in days) for the purposes of that subsection is the shorter of — (a) the period determined by dividing the amount of the fine by the amount prescribed and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number of days; and (b) the term of imprisonment (if any) provided by the statutory penalty for the offence concerned, and in any event is not less than one day.

[(4) deleted]

(5) If part of a fine is paid after an order is made under subsection (1), the period of imprisonment (in days) determined under subsection (3) or set by the court (as the case may be) is to be reduced by a

period to be determined as follows: Period of reduction = Period of imprisonment (in days) × Part payment / Fine (rounded up to the nearest whole number).

(6) If part of a fine is paid after a warrant of commitment is issued, the warrant has effect as if the period of imprisonment specified in it were reduced in accordance with subsection (5).

(7) For every day or part of a day that an offender serves in custody under an order made under this section, the fine is to be reduced by an amount to be determined as follows: Amount of reduction (\$) = Fine / Period of imprisonment (rounded down to the nearest whole number). where period of imprisonment is the period (in days) determined under subsection (3) or set by the court (as the case may be).

(8) Any period of imprisonment that an offender has to serve as a result of an order under subsection (1) is to be served cumulatively on any term of imprisonment that the offender is serving or has to serve unless the court orders otherwise.

(9) This section does not apply where a superior court imposes a fine under the Juries Act 1957.

60A.

When fine may be suspended

(1) A court that sentences an offender to a fine may order that the fine be suspended for a period set by the court that is not to be more than 24 months.

(2) A suspended fine is not to be imposed unless a fine equal to that suspended would, if it were not possible to suspend the fine, be appropriate in all the circumstances.

76.

When imprisonment may be suspended

(1) A court that sentences an offender to a term of imprisonment, or to an aggregate of terms of imprisonment, of 60 months or less may order that the term or terms be suspended for a period set by the court; but not more than 24 months.

(2) Suspended imprisonment is not to be imposed unless imprisonment for a term or terms equal to that suspended would, if it were not possible to suspend imprisonment, be appropriate in all the circumstances.

(3) Suspended imprisonment is not to be imposed if — (a) the offence was committed when the offender was subject to an early release order; or (b) the offender is serving or is yet to serve a term of imprisonment that is not suspended.

(4) In subsection (3)(a) — early release order means — (a) a parole order, home detention order, or work release order, made under the Sentence Administration Act 1995 1 ; or (b) a parole order, or re-entry release order, made under the Sentence Administration Act 2003.

77.

Effect of suspending imprisonment

(1) An offender sentenced to suspended imprisonment is not to serve any part of the imprisonment that is suspended unless — (a) during the suspension period he or she commits an offence (in this State or elsewhere) the statutory penalty for which is or includes imprisonment; and (b) a court makes an order under section 80.

(2) The suspension period begins on the day on which the sentence is imposed.

(3) If during the suspension period an offender is sentenced to imprisonment for another offence that was not committed during the suspension period, the suspension period continues to elapse while the offender is serving that sentence.

(4) An offender who is sentenced to suspended imprisonment is to be taken to be discharged from the sentence at the end of the suspension period.

(5) Subsection (4) does not affect the operation of subsection (1) or sections 78 to 80.

(6) For the purposes of a law other than this Part and Parts 12 and 13, a sentence of suspended imprisonment is to be taken as being a sentence of imprisonment.

Search powers

The following information is from the [Criminal Investigation Act 2006](#).⁷² You are encouraged to find a similar Act for your area.

Reviewed and updated – November 6, 2021; January 21, 2022

9.

Public officers may be authorised to exercise powers

(1) For the purposes of this Act and in particular the definition of public officer in section 3(1), another Act or the regulations made under this Act may prescribe — (a) an office to which people are appointed under a written law for a public purpose and the functions of which are or include investigating or prosecuting offences; and (b) in respect of that office, some or all of the powers in this Act that a holder of that office may exercise, being powers that this Act expressly provides may be exercised by a public officer.

(2) A public officer may only exercise a power in this Act in relation to an offence if — (a) this Act provides that the power may be exercised by a public officer; and (b) the office held by the public officer has been prescribed under subsection (1)(a); and (c) the power is one that the officer may exercise because it is prescribed under subsection (1)(b); and (d) the offence is one that the officer, by virtue of being such an officer, is authorised to investigate or prosecute.

(3) If a public officer, under subsection (2), exercises a power in this Act, any enactment that protects the officer or the State from liability for the officer's acts or omissions is to be taken to operate as if those acts and omissions included the officer's acts and omissions when exercising the power.

10.

Informing people who do not understand English

If under this Act an officer is required to inform a person about any matter and the person is for any reason unable to understand or communicate in spoken English sufficiently, the officer must, if it is practicable to do so in the circumstances, use an interpreter or other qualified person or other means to inform the person about the matter.

11.

Officers' duty to identify themselves

(1) If this Act requires an officer to identify himself or herself to a person the officer must — (a) if the officer is a police officer — (i) give the person the officer's official details; and (ii) if the officer is not in

⁷² https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_225_homepage.html.

uniform, show the person evidence that the officer is a police officer; (b) if the officer is a public officer — (i) give the person the officer’s official details; and (ii) show the person evidence that the officer is a public officer.

(2) If an officer cannot comply with subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (b)(ii) immediately, the officer must comply with it as soon as practicable.

23.

Consent to search or procedure, presumption against and withdrawal of

(1) If a person who is requested under this Act to consent to — (a) a search of a place that he or she occupies; or (b) undergoing a basic search or a strip search; or (c) undergoing a forensic procedure, does not reply, or consents but resists the carrying out of the search or procedure, he or she is to be taken to have not consented.

(2) A person who consents to a search or procedure referred to in subsection (1) may withdraw his or her consent at any time before the search or procedure is completed by informing an officer or person who is doing it.

42.

Search warrant, issue of

(1) On an application made under section 41, a JP may issue a search warrant for a place if satisfied that, in respect of each of the matters in section 41(3) that the applicant suspects, there are reasonable grounds for the applicant to have that suspicion.

(2) A search warrant must contain this information — (a) the applicant’s full name and official details; and (b) the suspected offence to which it relates; and (c) the place that may be entered and searched under the warrant; and (d) if a thing or class of thing is the object of the search — a description of the thing or the class of thing; and (e) if a person is the object of the search — the name or a description of the person; and (f) the period, not exceeding 30 days, during which it may be executed; and (g) the name of the JP who issued it; and (h) the date and time when it was issued.

(3) A search warrant must be in the prescribed form.

(4) If a JP refuses to issue a search warrant, the JP must record on the application the fact of, the date and time of, and the reasons for, the refusal.

43.

Search warrant, effect of

(1) In this section — target place, in relation to a search warrant, means the place described in the warrant that may be entered and searched under it; target thing, in relation to a search warrant, means the thing or class of thing described in the warrant that is the object of the search.

(2) A search warrant has effect according to its contents and this section.

(3) A search warrant comes into force when it is issued by a JP.

(4) A search warrant may only be executed after it comes into force and before the end of the period during which it may be executed, despite subsection (11).

(5) A search warrant may be executed — (a) if a police officer applied for it, by any police officer; (b) if a public officer applied for it, by any public officer whose functions are the same as the applicant’s, or by a police officer.

(6) A search warrant must be executed between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. unless the officer executing it reasonably suspects that if it were, the safety of any person, including the officer, may be endangered or the effectiveness of the proposed search may be jeopardised.

(7) A search warrant authorises entry to the target place for a reasonable period for the purpose of executing the warrant.

(8) A search warrant authorises the officer executing it to exercise any or all of these primary powers — (a) to enter the target place; (b) if it authorises a search for a target thing — (i) to search the target place for the target thing; and (ii) to do a basic search or a strip search of a person who is in the target place when the warrant is being executed for the target thing; and (iii) subject to section 146, to seize the target thing; (c) if it authorises a search for a person — (i) to search the target place for the person; and (ii) to take any action that is reasonably necessary to stop any offence that is being, or prevent any offence that may be, committed against the person.

(9) If an officer doing a search under a search warrant finds a thing which is not a target thing but which is a thing relevant to an offence (including the offence to which the warrant relates), the officer may, subject to section 146, seize it.

(10) If an officer doing a search under a search warrant finds a target thing or a thing that may be seized under subsection (9), then whether or not the officer seizes it, the officer may do a forensic examination on it.

(11) Subject to subsection (4), a search warrant ceases to be in force when — (a) if the target thing is found — (i) the thing is seized; or (ii) a forensic examination on the thing that it is reasonably necessary to do in the target place is completed; or (c) if the person to be searched for is found — any offence that is being or that may be committed against the person is stopped or prevented; or (d) if the target thing or the person to be searched for is not found, the search is completed, whichever happens last.

(12) This section does not prevent the exercise of the powers in Part 8 Division 2 on a person who is in the target place.

44.

Search warrant, ancillary powers under

(1) In this section — senior officer means — (a) in relation to a police officer — a police officer who is, or is acting as, a sergeant or an officer of a rank more senior than a sergeant; (b) in relation to a public officer — a public officer prescribed as a senior officer in relation to that officer; target place has the meaning given to it by section 43; target thing has the meaning given to it by section 43.

(2) A search warrant also authorises the officer executing it to exercise any or all of these ancillary powers — (a) subject to subsection (3), to enter but not to search a place near the target place if the officer reasonably suspects it is necessary to do so in order to — (i) prevent a target thing from being concealed or disturbed; or (ii) prevent a person from fleeing the target place; or (iii) protect the safety of any person, including the officer, who is in or near the target place; (b) to take into and use in the target place any equipment or facilities that are reasonably necessary in order to exercise any power under the warrant; (c) to photograph or otherwise make a record of a target thing that is in the target place; (d) to make reasonable use of any equipment, facilities or services in the target place in order to exercise any power under the warrant and for that purpose — (i) to operate the equipment or facilities; (ii) to order an occupier of the target place to do anything that is reasonable and necessary to facilitate that use; (e) if the target thing is a record — (i) to operate any device or equipment in the

place that is needed to gain access to, recover, or make a reproduction of, the record; (ii) if the officer reasonably suspects that an occupier of the target place knows how to gain access to or operate any such device or equipment – to order the occupier to provide any information or assistance that is reasonable and necessary to enable the officer to gain access to, recover, or make a reproduction of, the record; (f) if the officer reasonably suspects it is necessary to do so in order to prevent – (i) the target thing from being concealed or disturbed; or (ii) a person in the place against whom an offence may have been, or may be being, committed from being endangered, to establish a protected forensic area under section 46 in the target place; (g) if the officer reasonably suspects it is necessary to do so to protect the safety of any person, including the officer, who is in the target place when the warrant is being executed – (i) to order a person to leave the place or its vicinity; (ii) to order a person not to enter the place or its vicinity; (iii) to detain a person who is in the place for no longer than is reasonably necessary; (iv) to do a basic search or a strip search of a person who is in the place for any weapon or other thing that could endanger a person; (v) to seize and retain any such thing, while the warrant is being executed.

(3) The powers in subsection (2)(a) must not be exercised by an officer unless the officer has written approval to do so from a senior officer who is not involved in the investigation to which the search warrant relates.

(4) A senior officer who gives such an approval must make a written record of it and – (a) the place to be entered; and (b) the other officer's grounds for suspecting that it is necessary to enter the place; and (c) the date and time when it was given; and (d) the reasons for giving it.

(5) A senior officer's approval under this section may be applied for and given by remote communication.

(6) This section does not prevent the exercise of the powers in Part 8 Division 2 on a person who is in the target place.

(7) A person who is detained under subsection (2)(g)(iii) when he or she is not under arrest is to be taken to be in lawful custody.

45.

Search warrant, execution of

(1) The officer in charge of executing a search warrant must comply with section 31.

(2) If reasonably practicable, an audiovisual recording must be made of the execution of a search warrant.

(3) On completing the execution of a search warrant the officer in charge of executing it must record the following matters on it – (a) the officer's official details; and (b) the date and time when the warrant was executed; and (c) any other matter that is prescribed.

(4) Part 13 applies to and in respect of the seizure of any thing under a search warrant.

Gaining access to data controlled by suspects

57.

Terms used In this Part

data includes any record, any computer program, and any part of a computer program, in a digital, electronic or magnetic form;

data access order means an order issued under section 59;

data storage device means a thing that contains or is designed to contain data and it does not matter – (a) if the thing is a fixed or removable part of another thing; or (b) if the data it contains can be used or retrieved by the thing itself or not; or (c) if the thing is separate from, but the data it contains can be used or retrieved by, another thing;

serious offence means an offence the statutory penalty for which is or includes imprisonment for 5 years or more or life.

58.

Data access order, application for

(1) Only a police officer or a public officer may apply for a data access order.

(2) An application for a data access order must be made to a magistrate in accordance with section 13.

(3) An application for a data access order must – (a) state the applicant’s full name and official details; and (b) state the serious offence that is suspected to have been committed and in relation to which the order is wanted; and (c) state the grounds on which the applicant suspects that the offence has been committed; and (d) describe with reasonable particularity the data storage device to which the applicant wants access (the target device); and (e) explain how the applicant has possession of or access to the target device; and (f) state the grounds on which the applicant suspects that any data the target device may contain is or may be a thing relevant to the serious offence; and (g) state the name of the person to whom the order wanted will apply (the target person); and (h) state the grounds on which the applicant suspects that the target person has committed the serious offence; and (i) state the grounds on which the applicant suspects that the target person has knowledge relevant to gaining access to any data the target device may contain; and (j) include any other information that is prescribed.

59.

Data access order, issue of

(1) On an application made under section 58, a magistrate may issue a data access order if satisfied – (a) that the applicant has lawful possession of or lawful access to the target device; and (b) that, in respect of each of the matters in section 58(3) that the applicant suspects, other than paragraph (i), there are reasonable grounds for the applicant to have that suspicion; and (c) that the target person has knowledge relevant to gaining access to any data the target device may contain.

(2) A data access order must contain this information – (a) the applicant’s full name and official details; (b) the name of the person to whom the order applies; (c) a description of the data storage device to which the order relates; (d) an order that the person provide information or assistance that is reasonable and necessary to allow the applicant to do any or all of the following – (i) to gain access to any data the device may contain; (ii) to copy any such data to another data storage device;

(iii) to reproduce any such data on paper; (e) the date on or before which the order must be obeyed; (f) the name of the magistrate who issued it; (g) the date and time when it was issued.

(3) A data access order must be in the prescribed form.

(4) If a magistrate refuses to issue a data access order, he or she must record on the application the fact of, the date and time of, and the reasons for, the refusal.

60.

Data access order, service of

A data access order must be served personally on the person to whom it applies as soon as practicable after it is issued.

61. Data access order, effect of

(1) A data access order has effect according to its contents.

(2) A person who is served with a data access order and who, without reasonable excuse (the onus of proving which is on the person), does not obey it commits a crime. Penalty: **imprisonment for 5 years**. Summary conviction penalty: a **fine of \$24 000 and imprisonment for 2 years**.

(3) It is not a defence to a charge of an offence under subsection (2) that information required to be given under the data access order would or may have incriminated the accused.

63.

Basic search, meaning of

(1) A person who is authorised by this Act to do a basic search of a person may do any or all of the following – (a) scan the person with an electronic or mechanical device, whether hand held or not, to detect any thing; (b) remove the person's headwear, gloves, footwear or outer clothing (such as a coat or jacket), but not his or her inner clothing or underwear, in order to facilitate a frisk search; (c) frisk search the person; (d) search any article removed under paragraph (b).

(2) A person who is authorised by this Act to do a basic search of a person is not, unless authorised to do so under Part 9, authorised to also do a forensic procedure on the person being searched.

64.

Strip search, meaning of

(1) An officer who is authorised by this Act to do a strip search of a person may do any or all of the following – (a) remove any article that the person is wearing including any article covering his or her private parts; (b) search any article removed under paragraph (a); (c) search the person's external parts, including his or her private parts; (d) search the person's mouth but not any other orifice.

(2) An officer who is authorised by this Act to do a strip search of a person is not, unless authorised to do so under Part 9, authorised to also do a forensic procedure on the person being searched.

65.

Searches, ancillary powers for

(1) This section operates if a person (the searcher) is authorised by this Act to do a basic search or a strip search of a person.

(2) In the case of a basic search or a strip search, the searcher may do any or all of the following for the purposes of doing the search — (a) stop and detain the person for a reasonable period; (b) search any thing being carried by or under the immediate control of the person; (c) order the person to remove any thing that might injure the searcher when doing the search from any article that the person is wearing; (d) order the person to do anything reasonable to facilitate the exercise by the searcher of any power in this section, or in section 63 or 64, as the case requires.

(3) In the case of a basic search, the searcher may also photograph part or all of the search while it is being done.

(4) In the case of a strip search, the searcher may also — (a) order the person to accompany the searcher to a place where the search can be done in accordance with section 72(3); (b) photograph any thing that may be lawfully seized in the position it is found on the person's body.

(5) A person who is detained under subsection (2)(a) when he or she is not under arrest is to be taken to be in lawful custody.

66.

How searches must be done

A basic search or a strip search that under this Act may be done on a person must be done in accordance with Division 3.

67. Warrant not required to exercise this Division's powers

The powers in this Division may be exercised without a warrant.

68.

Searching people for things relevant to offences

(1) If an officer reasonably suspects that a person has in his or her possession or under his or her control any thing relevant to an offence, the officer — (a) may do a basic search or a strip search of the person; and (b) may, subject to section 146, seize any thing relevant to an offence that the officer finds, whether or not it is a thing that the officer suspected was in the possession or under the control of the person; and (c) whether or not the officer seizes the thing, may do a forensic examination on it.

(2) For the purposes of exercising the powers in subsection (1), the officer may enter any place where the person to be searched is reasonably suspected by the officer to be and search it for the person, but may not enter — (a) a dwelling; or (b) the area associated with a dwelling, unless the officer reasonably suspects that the person — (i) is in that area; and (ii) does not reside in the dwelling; and (iii) does not have the express or implied permission of a person who does reside in the dwelling to be in that area.

(3) For the purposes of exercising the powers in subsection (1), the officer may stop and enter a vehicle in which the person to be searched is reasonably suspected by the officer to be and search it for the person.

(4) The powers in subsection (3) may be exercised by an officer in the area associated with a dwelling but only if the officer reasonably suspects that — (a) the person in charge of the vehicle does not reside in the dwelling; and (b) the vehicle is not in that area with the express or implied permission of a person who does reside in the dwelling.

(5) A power in this section to search a place or vehicle is limited to searching the place or vehicle for the person to be searched.

Division 3 – How searches must be done

70.

Basic search or strip search, rules for doing

(1) This section operates if a person (the searcher) is authorised by this Act to do a basic search or a strip search of a person.

(2) Before the searcher does a basic search or a strip search of the person the searcher must, if reasonably practicable – (a) identify himself or herself to the person; and (b) inform the person of the reason for the search; and (c) request the person to consent to the search; and (d) if the person does not consent to the search or withdraws his or her consent, inform the person that it is an offence to obstruct the searcher doing the search.

(3) If a basic search or a strip search is done of a person – (a) it must be done as quickly as is reasonably practicable; and (b) it must not be any more intrusive than is reasonably necessary in the circumstances; and (c) the searcher, if he or she proposes to remove any article that the person is wearing, must tell the person why it is considered necessary to do so; and (d) the person must be allowed to dress as soon as it is finished; and (e) the person must be provided with a reasonably adequate replacement for any article of clothing or footwear seized if, due to the seizure, the person is left without adequate clothing or footwear in the circumstances; and (f) the person must not be questioned while it is being done about any offence that he or she is suspected of having committed.

71.

Basic search, additional rules for doing

(1) This section is in addition to section 70 and operates if a person (the searcher) is authorised by this Act to do a basic search of a person.

(2) The searcher must, if practicable, be a person of the same gender as the person being searched, unless the searcher is a doctor or a nurse.

72.

Strip search, additional rules for doing

(1) This section is in addition to section 70 and operates if a person (the searcher) is authorised by this Act to do a strip search of a person.

(2) Unless the strip search is being done under section 135, it must not be done unless the searcher reasonably suspects that a strip search is necessary in the circumstances.

(3) If the strip search involves removing any article that the person is wearing or searching the person's private parts – (a) the searcher must be the same gender as the person being searched, unless the searcher is a doctor or a nurse; and (b) any person present while it is done must, if practicable, be of the same gender as the person being searched; and (c) it must be done in circumstances affording reasonable privacy to the person; and (d) it must not involve the removal of more articles being worn by the person than is reasonably necessary for doing it; and (e) it must not involve more visual inspection than is reasonably necessary for doing it; and (f) the number of people present while it is done (excluding a person who is present under paragraph (g)), must not be more than is reasonably necessary to ensure it is done effectively and to ensure the safety of all present;

and (g) if the person is a protected person, it must, if practicable, be done in the presence of a responsible person or some other person who can provide the protected person with support and represent his or her interests.

135.

Certain people in custody may be searched

(1) In this section — authorised officer means — (a) in relation to a person who is in the custody of a police officer — any police officer; (b) in relation to a person who is in the custody of a public officer — any public officer who has the same functions as that public officer; security risk item means any thing — (a) that could be used to endanger the person in possession of the thing or any other person; or (b) that could be used to assist a person to escape from lawful custody; or (c) that could adversely affect the security, good order or management of a place where a person is being kept in custody.

(2) A person is in custody for the purposes of this section if — (a) the person is under arrest, whether under this Act or under another written law, or is otherwise in the lawful custody of an officer; or (b) the person, having been required to do so by a police officer acting under the Road Traffic Act 1974 section 66, 66B, 66D or 66E, is accompanying a police officer to, or is waiting at, a police station or other place; or (c) the person is complying with an order under the Restraining Orders Act 1997 section 62F(1)(c) or (2)(a).

(3) A person is not in custody for the purposes of this section if — (a) the person is in custody because he or she is a child in the CEO's care, as that term is defined by the Children and Community Services Act 2004 section 30, and not for any other reason; or (b) the person is a person in custody, as that term is defined by the Court Security and Custodial Services Act 1999 section 3, and under that Act the CEO (as that term is defined in that Act) is responsible for the person's security, control, safety, care and welfare.

(4) If a person is in custody, an authorised officer may search the person for a security risk item.

(5) For the purpose of searching a person under subsection (4) an authorised officer may, as often as is reasonably necessary — (a) subject to Part 8 Division 3, do a basic search or a strip search of the person; (b) if authorised to do so under Part 9 Division 5, do an internal forensic procedure on the person in accordance with Part 9 Division 6.

(6) If an authorised officer, exercising a power in subsection (4) on a person, finds a thing that the officer reasonably suspects is a security risk item, then — (a) if the item is not attached physically to the person — the officer may seize it; (b) if the item is attached physically to the person, but not to his or her private parts, or is in the person's mouth — the officer may remove it but in doing so must comply with Part 9 Division 6 as if doing a non-intimate forensic procedure on the person; (c) if the item is attached physically to the person's private parts — the officer must not remove it except by means of an intimate forensic procedure authorised and conducted in accordance with Part 9; (d) if the item is in an orifice (other than the mouth) of the person, the officer must not remove it except by means of an internal forensic procedure authorised and conducted in accordance with Part 9.

(7) For the purposes of subsections (5)(b) and (6)(c) and (d), Part 9, with any necessary changes, applies as if — (a) a security risk item were a thing that is relevant to an offence; and (b) searching for and removing a security risk item were a purpose permitted by section 77.

(8) If an authorised officer, exercising a power in subsection (4) on a person, finds a thing that is not a security risk item but that is a thing relevant to an offence, then — (a) if the thing is not attached physically to the person, the officer may seize it; but (b) in any other case, the officer must not

remove the thing, or take a sample or impression of it, or take a swab or use other means to detect it, except by means of a forensic procedure authorised and conducted in accordance with Part 9.

(9) If under subsection (6) a security risk item is removed, it may be seized.

(10) If under this section an authorised officer seizes a security risk item from a person, the officer must make it available for collection by the person when he or she is released from custody, unless it may be lawfully seized and retained under another provision of this Act or under another written law.

(11) The Criminal and Found Property Disposal Act 2006 applies to and in relation to a thing so seized that is made available to but not collected by the person.

(12) If under subsection (8) an authorised officer removes a thing that is not a security risk item but that is a thing relevant to an offence from a person, the officer – (a) may, subject to section 146, seize the thing; and (b) whether or not the officer seizes it, may do a forensic examination on it.

Further information – search powers and warrants

The following information was pulled from the [Crimes Act 1914](#)⁷³ (Federal). You are encouraged to review similar legislation for your area.

Extraction date: July 2nd, 2019

Reviewed and updated – November 6, 2021; January 21, 2022

3F

The things that are authorised by a search warrant

(1) A warrant that is in force in relation to premises authorises the executing officer or a constable assisting: (a) to enter the warrant premises and, if the premises are a conveyance, to enter the conveyance, wherever it is; and (b) to search for and record fingerprints found at the premises and to take samples of things found at the premises for forensic purposes; and (c) to search the premises for the kinds of evidential material specified in the warrant, and to seize things of that kind found at the premises; and (d) to seize other things found at the premises in the course of the search that the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds to be: (i) evidential material in relation to an offence to which the warrant relates; or (ii) evidential material in relation to another offence that is an indictable offence; or (iii) evidential material (within the meaning of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002) or tainted property (within the meaning of that Act); if the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds that seizure of the things is necessary to prevent their concealment, loss or destruction or their use in committing an offence; and (e) to seize other things found at the premises in the course of the search that the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds to be seizable items; and (f) if the warrant so allows—to conduct an ordinary search or a frisk search of a person at or near the premises if the executing officer or a constable assisting suspects on reasonable grounds that the person has any evidential material or seizable items in his or her possession.

(2) A warrant that is in force in relation to a person authorises the executing officer or a constable assisting: (a) to search the person as specified in the warrant and things found in the possession of the person and any recently used conveyance for things of the kind specified in the warrant; and (b) to: (i) seize things of that kind; or (ii) record fingerprints from things; or (iii) to take forensic samples from things; found in the course of the search; and (c) to seize other things found on or in the

⁷³ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2022C00024>.

possession of the person or in the conveyance in the course of the search that the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds to be: (i) evidential material in relation to an offence to which the warrant relates; or (ii) a thing relevant to another offence that is an indictable offence; or (iii) evidential material (within the meaning of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002) or tainted property (within the meaning of that Act); if the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds that seizure of the things is necessary to prevent their concealment, loss or destruction or their use in committing an offence; and (d) to seize other things found in the course of the search that the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds to be seizable items.

Providing data and access to data

(2A) A warrant that is in force authorises the executing officer or a constable assisting: (a) to use: (i) a computer, or data storage device, found in the course of a search authorised under the warrant; or (ii) a telecommunications facility operated or provided by the Commonwealth or a carrier; or (iii) any other electronic equipment; or (iv) a data storage device; for the purpose of obtaining access to data (the relevant data) that is held in the computer or device mentioned in subparagraph (i) at any time when the warrant is in force, in order to determine whether the relevant data is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; and (b) if necessary to achieve the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a)—to add, copy, delete or alter other data in the computer or device mentioned in subparagraph (a)(i); and (c) if, having regard to other methods (if any) of obtaining access to the relevant data which are likely to be as effective, it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so: (i) to use any other computer or a communication in transit to access the relevant data; and (ii) if necessary to achieve that purpose—to add, copy, delete or alter other data in the computer or the communication in transit; and (d) to copy any data to which access has been obtained, and that: (i) appears to be relevant for the purposes of determining whether the relevant data is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; or (ii) is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; and (e) to do any other thing reasonably incidental to any of the above. Note: As a result of the warrant, a person who, by means of a telecommunications facility, obtains access to data stored in a computer etc. will not commit an offence under Part 10.7 of the Criminal Code or equivalent State or Territory laws (provided that the person acts within the authority of the warrant).

(2B) A warrant that is in force authorises the executing officer or a constable assisting: (a) to use: (i) a computer found in the course of a search authorised under the warrant; or (ii) a telecommunications facility operated or provided by the Commonwealth or a carrier; or (iii) any other electronic equipment; for the purpose of obtaining access to data (the relevant account-based data) that is account-based data in relation to: (iv) a person who is the owner or lessee of the computer mentioned in subparagraph (i); or (v) a person who uses or has used the computer mentioned in subparagraph (i); or (vi) a deceased person who, before the person's death, was the owner or lessee of the computer mentioned in subparagraph (i); or (vii) a deceased person who, before the person's death, used the computer mentioned in subparagraph (i); in order to determine whether the relevant account-based data is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; and (b) if necessary to achieve the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a)—to add, copy, delete or alter other data in the computer mentioned in subparagraph (a)(i); and (c) if, having regard to other methods (if any) of obtaining access to the relevant account-based data which are likely to be as effective, it is reasonable in all the circumstances to do so: (i) to use any other computer or a communication in transit to access the relevant account-based data; and (ii) if necessary to achieve that purpose—to add, copy, delete or alter other data in the computer or the communication in transit; and (d) to copy any data to which access has been obtained, and that: (i) appears to be relevant for the purposes of

determining whether the relevant account-based data is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; or (ii) is evidential material of a kind specified in the warrant; and (e) to do any other thing reasonably incidental to any of the above.

(2C) Subsections (2A) and (2B) do not authorise the addition, deletion or alteration of data, or the doing of any thing, that is likely to: (a) materially interfere with, interrupt or obstruct: (i) a communication in transit; or (ii) the lawful use by other persons of a computer; unless the addition, deletion or alteration, or the doing of the thing, is necessary to do one or more of the things specified in the warrant; or (b) cause any other material loss or damage to other persons lawfully using a computer.

(2D) In the case of a warrant that is in force in relation to premises, it is immaterial whether a thing mentioned in subsection (2A) or (2B) is done: (a) at the premises; or (b) at any other place.

(2E) In the case of a warrant that is in force in relation to a person, it is immaterial whether a thing mentioned in subsection (2A) or (2B) is done: (a) in the presence of the person; or (b) at any other place.

(3) If the warrant states that it may be executed only during particular hours, the warrant must not be executed outside those hours.

(4) If the warrant authorises an ordinary search or a frisk search of a person, a search of the person different to that so authorised must not be done under the warrant.

3L

Use of electronic equipment at premises

(1) The executing officer of a warrant in relation to premises, or a constable assisting, may operate electronic equipment at the warrant premises to access data (including data not held at the premises) if he or she suspects on reasonable grounds that the data constitutes evidential material. Note: A constable can obtain an order requiring a person with knowledge of a computer or computer system to provide assistance: see section 3LA.

(1A) If the executing officer or constable assisting suspects on reasonable grounds that any data accessed by operating the electronic equipment constitutes evidential material, he or she may: (a) copy any or all of the data accessed by operating the electronic equipment to a disk, tape or other associated device brought to the premises; or (b) if the occupier of the premises agrees in writing—copy any or all of the data accessed by operating the electronic equipment to a disk, tape or other associated device at the premises; and take the device from the premises.

(1B) If: (a) the executing officer or constable assisting takes the device from the premises; and (b) the Commissioner is satisfied that the data is not required (or is no longer required) for a purpose mentioned in section 3ZQU or for other judicial or administrative review proceedings; the Commissioner must arrange for: (c) the removal of the data from any device in the control of the Australian Federal Police; and (d) the destruction of any other reproduction of the data in the control of the Australian Federal Police.

(2) If the executing officer or a constable assisting, after operating the equipment, finds that evidential material is accessible by doing so, he or she may: (a) seize the equipment and any disk, tape or other associated device; or (b) if the material can, by using facilities at the premises, be put in documentary form—operate the facilities to put the material in that form and seize the documents so produced.

(3) A constable may seize equipment under paragraph (2)(a) only if: (a) it is not practicable to copy the data as mentioned in subsection (1A) or to put the material in documentary form as mentioned in paragraph (2)(b); or (b) possession by the occupier of the equipment could constitute an offence.

(4) If the executing officer or a constable assisting suspects on reasonable grounds that: (a) evidential material may be accessible by operating electronic equipment at the premises; and (b) expert assistance is required to operate the equipment; and (c) if he or she does not take action under this subsection, the material may be destroyed, altered or otherwise interfered with; he or she may do whatever is necessary to secure the equipment, whether by locking it up, placing a guard or otherwise.

(5) The executing officer or a constable assisting must give notice to the occupier of the premises of his or her intention to secure equipment and of the fact that the equipment may be secured for up to 24 hours.

(6) The equipment may be secured: (a) for a period not exceeding 24 hours; or (b) until the equipment has been operated by the expert; whichever happens first.

(7) If the executing officer or a constable assisting believes on reasonable grounds that the expert assistance will not be available within 24 hours, he or she may apply to an issuing officer for an extension of that period.

(8) The executing officer or a constable assisting must give notice to the occupier of the premises of his or her intention to apply for an extension, and the occupier is entitled to be heard in relation to the application.

(9) The provisions of this Division relating to the issue of warrants apply, with such modifications as are necessary, to the issuing of an extension.

3LAA Use of electronic equipment at other place

(1) If electronic equipment is moved to another place under subsection 3K(2), the executing officer or a constable assisting may operate the equipment to: (a) access data (including data held at another place); or (b) access account-based data.

(2) If the executing officer or constable assisting suspects on reasonable grounds that any data accessed by operating the electronic equipment constitutes evidential material, he or she may copy any or all of the data accessed by operating the electronic equipment to a disk, tape or other associated device.

(3) If the Commissioner is satisfied that the data is not required (or is no longer required) for a purpose mentioned in section 3ZQU or for other judicial or administrative review proceedings, the Commissioner must arrange for: (a) the removal of the data from any device in the control of the Australian Federal Police; and (b) the destruction of any other reproduction of the data in the control of the Australian Federal Police.

(4) If the executing officer or a constable assisting, after operating the equipment, finds that evidential material is accessible by doing so, he or she may: (a) seize the equipment and any disk, tape or other associated device; or (b) if the material can be put in documentary form—put the material in that form and seize the documents so produced.

(5) A constable may seize equipment under paragraph (4)(a) only if: (a) it is not practicable to copy the data as mentioned in subsection (2) or to put the material in documentary form as mentioned in

paragraph (4)(b); or (b) possession of the equipment, by the person referred to in paragraph 3K(2)(a) or (b) (as the case requires), could constitute an offence.

3LA Person with knowledge of a computer or a computer system to assist access etc.

(1) A constable may apply to a magistrate for an order requiring a specified person to provide any information or assistance that is reasonable and necessary to allow a constable to do one or more of the following: (a) access data held in, or accessible from, a computer or data storage device that: (i) is on warrant premises; or (ia) is found in the course of an ordinary search of a person, or a frisk search of a person, authorised by a warrant under section 3E; or (ii) has been moved under subsection 3K(2) and is at a place for examination or processing; or (iii) has been seized under this Division; (b) copy data held in, or accessible from, a computer, or data storage device, described in paragraph (a) to another data storage device; (c) convert into documentary form or another form intelligible to a constable: (i) data held in, or accessible from, a computer, or data storage device, described in paragraph (a); or (ii) data held in a data storage device to which the data was copied as described in paragraph (b); or (iii) data held in a data storage device removed from warrant premises under subsection 3L(1A).

(2) The magistrate may grant the order if the magistrate is satisfied that: (a) there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that evidential material is held in, or is accessible from, the computer or data storage device; and (b) the specified person is: (i) reasonably suspected of having committed the offence stated in the relevant warrant; or (ii) the owner or lessee of the computer or device; or (iii) an employee of the owner or lessee of the computer or device; or (iv) a person engaged under a contract for services by the owner or lessee of the computer or device; or (v) a person who uses or has used the computer or device; or (vi) a person who is or was a system administrator for the system including the computer or device; and (c) the specified person has relevant knowledge of: (i) the computer or device or a computer network of which the computer or device forms or formed a part; or (ii) measures applied to protect data held in, or accessible from, the computer or device.

(3) If: (a) the computer or data storage device that is the subject of the order is seized under this Division; and (b) the order was granted on the basis of an application made before the seizure; the order does not have effect on or after the seizure. Note: An application for another order under this section relating to the computer or data storage device may be made after the seizure.

(4) If the computer or data storage device is not on warrant premises, the order must: (a) specify the period within which the person must provide the information or assistance; and (b) specify the place at which the person must provide the information or assistance; and (c) specify the conditions (if any) determined by the magistrate as the conditions to which the requirement on the person to provide the information or assistance is subject.

Offences

(5) A person commits an offence if: (a) the person is subject to an order under this section; and (b) the person is capable of complying with a requirement in the order; and (c) the person omits to do an act; and (d) the omission contravenes the requirement. Penalty: **Imprisonment for 5 years or 300 penalty units, or both.**

(6) A person commits an offence if: (a) the person is subject to an order under this section; and (b) the person is capable of complying with a requirement in the order; and (c) the person omits to do an act; and (d) the omission contravenes the requirement; and (e) the offence to which the relevant warrant relates is: (i) a serious offence; or (ii) a serious terrorism offence. Penalty for contravention of this subsection: **Imprisonment for 10 years or 600 penalty units, or both.**

Laws in other states and countries

Here is a small list of links to legal information for other states and countries. If you cannot find the information you are after from this list, please do your research to find the information you need. Being prepared includes being prepped for any potential legal issues that may arise from any potential activism. Activists should be fully informed of the risks associated with particular actions beforehand. Each country should have a federal *criminal code*, *penal code* or *crimes act* of some sort (or similar) and each state within that country should have its own similar legislation.

It is recommended that you/your AG also look into international laws (treaties, acts etc.) that may apply.

Australia

Victoria

Crimes Act 1958

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/crimes-act-1958/292>

Queensland

Criminal Code Act 1899

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/speciallabel/bill-2021-037/act-1899-009>

Australian Capital Territory

Criminal Code 2002

<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2002-51/>

New South Wales

Crimes Act 1900

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1900-040>

Tasmania

Criminal Code Act 1924

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1924-069>

Northern Territory

Criminal Code Act 1983

<https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/CRIMINAL-CODE-ACT-1983>

South Australia

Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935

<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz?path=%2FC%2FA%2FCRIMINAL%20LAW%20CONSOLIDATION%20ACT%201935>

United States of America

[Title 18 – Crimes and Criminal Procedure \(Part 1\)](#)

[Title 18 – Crimes and Criminal Procedure \(Part 2\)](#)

More information - <https://uscode.house.gov/browse/prelim@title18&edition=prelim>

United Kingdom

[Penal Code \(Cap. 4.02\)](#)

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=&p_isn=100185

Canada

[Criminal Code \(R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46\)](#)

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/>

France

[Code Pénal](#)

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGITEXT000006070719/>

Germany

[German Criminal Code \(Strafgesetzbuch – StGB\)](#)

https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_stgb/

Ireland

[Criminal Law \(Ireland\) Act, 1828](#)

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1828/act/54/enacted/en/print.html>

Spain

[Código Penal](#)

[Ley Orgánica 10/1995, de 23 de noviembre, del Código Penal](#)

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1995-25444>

New Zealand

[Crimes Act 1961](#)

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/DLM327382.html>

India

[The Indian Penal Code, 1860](#)

<https://legislative.gov.in/regionallanguages/indian-penal-code-1860-0>

Norway

[Lov om straff \(straffeloven\)](#)

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-05-20-28>

Egypt

[Egyptian laws](#)

<https://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/laws/>

History of Civil Disobedience

Overview

It is worth our time to research through the history books (or websites) and learn from the past. We can look back in the history of civil disobedience and educate ourselves about effective methods of fighting for positive change and be inspired to take that effective action now. Protesting against injustice is not new. It is in our blood.

Records of mass civil disobedience date back to roughly 200 B.C/BCE with Roman women leading protests against the Oppian Law and there have been ongoing acts of mass civil disobedience throughout our species' history.

It became an effective tool by various peoples who objected to British occupation, such as in the 1919 Revolution. Zaghloul Pasha, considered the mastermind behind this massive civil disobedience movement in Egypt, was a native middle-class, Al-Azhar graduate, political activist, judge, parliamentary and ex-cabinet minister whose leadership brought Christian and Muslim communities together as well as women into the massive protests. Along with his companions of the Wafd Party, who started campaigning in 1919, they achieved independence of Egypt and a first constitution in 1923.⁷⁴

Civil disobedience is one of the many ways people have rebelled against what they deem to be unfair laws. It has been used in many nonviolent resistance movements in India (Mahatma Gandhi's campaigns for independence from the British Empire), in Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution, in early stages of Bangladesh independence movement against Pakistani repression and in East Germany to oust their communist governments. In South Africa in the fight against apartheid, in the American civil rights movement, in the Singing Revolution to bring independence to the Baltic countries from the Soviet Union, recently with the 2003 Rose Revolution in Georgia and the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, among other various movements worldwide.

Following the Peterloo massacre of 1819, the poet Percy Shelley wrote the political poem *The Masque of Anarchy* later that year, that begins with the images of what he thought to be the unjust forms of authority of his time—and then imagines the stirrings of a new form of social action. According to Ashton Nichols, it is perhaps the first modern statement of the principle of nonviolent protest. A version was taken up by the author Henry David Thoreau in his essay *Civil Disobedience*, and later by Gandhi in his doctrine of *Satyagraha*. Gandhi's *Satyagraha* was partially influenced and inspired by Shelley's nonviolence in protest and political action. In particular, it is known that Gandhi would often quote Shelley's *Masque of Anarchy* to vast audiences during the campaign for a free India.

Thoreau's 1849 essay *Civil Disobedience*,⁷⁵ originally titled "Resistance to Civil Government", has had a wide influence on many later practitioners of civil disobedience. The driving idea behind the essay is that citizens are morally responsible for their support of aggressors, even when such support is required by law. In the essay, Thoreau explained his reasons for having refused to pay taxes as an act of protest against slavery and against the Mexican–American War. He writes - *If I devote myself to other pursuits and contemplations, I must first see, at least, that I do not pursue them sitting upon another man's shoulders. I must get off him first, that he may pursue his contemplations too. See what gross inconsistency is tolerated. I have heard some of my townsmen say, "I should like to have them order me out to help put down an insurrection of the slaves, or to*

⁷⁴ <https://biography.yourdictionary.com/saad-zaghlul-pasha>.

⁷⁵ roads.virginia.edu/~HYPER2/thoreau/civil.html.

march to Mexico; —see if I would go;" and yet these very men have each, directly by their allegiance, and so indirectly, at least, by their money, furnished a substitute.

By the 1850s, a range of minority groups in the United States: African Americans, Jews, Seventh Day Baptists, Catholics, anti-prohibitionists, racial egalitarians, and others—employed civil disobedience to combat a range of legal measures and public practices that to them promoted ethnic, religious, and racial discrimination. Pro Public and typically peaceful resistance to political power would remain an integral tactic in modern American minority rights politics.

Henry David Thoreau's 1849 essay "Resistance to Civil Government" was eventually renamed "Essay on Civil Disobedience". After his landmark lectures were published in 1866, the term began to appear in numerous sermons and lectures relating to slavery and the war in Mexico. Thus, by the time Thoreau's lectures were first published under the title "Civil Disobedience", in 1866, four years after his death, the term had achieved fairly widespread usage.

It has been argued that the term "civil disobedience" has always suffered from ambiguity and in modern times, become utterly debased. Marshall Cohen notes, "It has been used to describe everything from bringing a test-case in the federal courts to taking aim at a federal official. Indeed, for [US] Vice President [Spiro] Agnew it has become a code-word describing the activities of muggers, arsonists, draft evaders, campaign hecklers, campus militants, anti-war demonstrators, juvenile delinquents and political assassins."

LeGrande writes that "the formulation of a single all-encompassing definition of the term is extremely difficult, if not impossible. In reviewing the voluminous literature on the subject, the student of civil disobedience rapidly finds himself surrounded by a maze of semantical problems and grammatical niceties. Like Alice in Wonderland, he often finds that specific terminology has no more (or no less) meaning than the individual orator intends it to have."

He encourages a distinction between lawful protest demonstration, nonviolent civil disobedience, and violent civil disobedience.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_disobedience#Historical_Overview.

History of feminist-based civil disobedience and direct action

A brief overview of the crucial and ongoing roles that feminists have held throughout our species' history of civil disobedience and rebelling against injustice.

Fighting the Oppian Law

In 215 B.C/BCE, the Romans had just suffered a great military and economic loss. Many men died and their widows and daughters inherited their land and money and became rich. To help pay for the cost of the war, the state passed the Oppian Law which limited the amount of gold a woman could own and how luxuriously they could dress. The Oppian Law also forced women to give the state any money that she inherited after her husband's death. Although the law went unopposed for a while, women eventually gathered and blockaded every street in the city and blocked every entrance to the Forum. When the law was up for possible repeal in 195 B.C/BCE, and it seemed the majority of the Tribunal members would veto the propose repeal, the crowds of women poured in to the streets and, as a collective, besieged the doors of the tribunes and did not quit until the veto had been stopped.⁷⁷

The Nuns that besieged an abbey

Not only were the rebels in this case female – they were nuns; and if you think nuns can't get pissed off, you're wrong. In 600, two nuns at the Abbey of Sainte-Croix in Poitiers, who were princesses by birth, became tired of the abbess ordering them around, and convinced 40 other nuns to defect. Not content with that, the renegade nuns then besieged the abbey with a small army, trying to get one of the two troublemaking nuns, Princess Clotild/Clotilde, installed as abbess instead. The abbess won, and the snobbish princesses were sent elsewhere, but hey, women can rebel for bad reasons as well as good!⁷⁸

Princess Pingyang helps assemble an army of 70,000

In the early 600's, Li Yuan, a governor under the Sui dynasty, was becoming fed up with the way the current administration functioned. After a number of defeats at the hand of Goguryeo (modern northern and central Korea), Li Yuan and a number of agrarian rebels joined together to take down Emperor Yang. But without Princess Pingyang, daughter of Li Yuan, the Tang dynasty would never have been able to claim rule of China. Princess Pingyang, who stayed in Chang'an (Xi'an today) despite her father's warning to flee, was able to convince 70,000 men to join her father's cause. Li Yuan won the rebellion and became Emperor Gaozu, the first of the Tang dynasty. Lasting nearly 300 years, the Tang dynasty is regarded as a golden age of post-classical China.⁷⁹

The Maldon riots

A big issue in the 1600's England was enclosure, or the privatizing of land that had previously been public. This led to widespread riots, and some of them were made up entirely of women; like the 1602 rebellion of 37 women, led by a "Captain Dorothy" Dawson, who chased away a bunch of men working on a moor and broke all their fences.

In March of 1629 in Maldon, England, over one hundred women and their children boarded a Flemish ship and forced its crew to fill their caps and aprons with grain from its hold. After industrial depression and mass deaths, the riot came after the failure of the government to take action against

⁷⁷ <http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/lesson10.html>.

⁷⁸ <https://www.bustle.com/articles/73968-10-all-women-protests-through-history-because-badass-feminist-civil-disobedience-didnt-start-with-pussy-riot>, <http://the-history-girls.blogspot.com/2015/07/nuns-behaving-badly-by-karen-maitland.html>.

⁷⁹ <https://explorethearchive.com/influential-women-in-history>.

rising food prices. Some of the women had already earned local notoriety for being previously found guilty of a range of petty offences in the town (community-building & survival?). Women were involved in almost every food riot in the period. In the short term, the riot was successful in its aims and the main grievances were removed. Grain was to be kept within the local economy and purchased for distribution to the poor at favourable rates.⁸⁰

The Women's March on Versailles

The Women's March on Versailles in 1789 is credited as being one of the earliest and most important moments of the French Revolution. Women in Paris were starving and already near rioting over the high prices and scarcity of bread. Revolutionary allies joined the women and the angry mob grew by the thousands. In October, they ransacked the city armoury and marched to the king's palace in Versailles, 13 miles away from Paris. They, along with the arrival of the National Guard, forced the king to go back to Paris, ending the king's independence. These events signified the change of power and reforms about to overtake France. Bringing together people representing sources of the Revolution in their largest numbers yet, the Women's March on Versailles proved to be a defining moment of that Revolution.⁸¹

Women's Suffrage

The Women's Suffrage Movement is known to have officially begun in the 1840's. The battle for voting rights for women lasted for over 100 years. In May 1869, led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed and began to fight for a universal-suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. One of the largest protests of the suffrage movement happened the day before Woodrow Wilson was to be inaugurated as President in 1913. Between 5,000 to 8,000 suffragists marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, past the White House – and hundreds of thousands of onlookers. Organizers Alice Paul and Lucy Burns had secured a permit to march, however, many protesters were assaulted by those in the crowd who opposed the women's right-to-vote campaign. Attacks ranged from spitting and throwing of objects to all-out physical assaults. While many women were injured, public outrage at the violence translated to wider support for the suffrage movement.⁸²

British suffragettes

British suffragette activists didn't play around. In 1903, not being particularly happy with Millicent Fawcett's slow progress for women's rights, Emmeline Pankhurst, and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, founded the Women's Social and Political Union. They wanted women to have the right to vote and they were not prepared to wait. The Union became better known as the Suffragettes. Members of the Suffragettes were prepared to use violence to get what they wanted. When they campaigned for the right to vote in 1912, they chained themselves to railings, detonated bombs, smashed shop windows and went on hunger strike. They even burned down unoccupied houses and churches. Close to 1000 suffrage activists went to prison, but their aim was achieved: women over 30 were given the right to vote in 1918.⁸³ On the 15th November, Winston Churchill came to Bristol to address the Anchor society at the Colston Hall. Theresa Garnett, a suffragette who had previously chained herself to a statue in the central lobby of the houses of parliament to protest against the

⁸⁰ <https://reviews.history.ac.uk/review/618>.

⁸¹ <http://www.ancientpages.com/2018/10/11/womens-march-on-versailles-one-of-the-most-significant-events-of-the-french-revolution/>.

⁸² http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2088114_2087975_2087964,00.html;
<https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage>.

⁸³ <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-role-of-british-women-in-the-twentieth-century/suffragettes/>.

'brawling bill,' and who had been accused of biting a prison warden during a previous stay in Horfield jail, was also there that day. Churchill was walking down this platform with his wife when he was confronted by Theresa who was brandishing a whip. Theresa repeatedly struck Churchill screaming "Take that in the name of the insulted women of England!"

Theresa was first arrested for assaulting Churchill but, because he did not want to appear in court, he did not press charges. Instead, she was charged with disturbing the peace and sentenced to 1 month in Horfield Prison. At this time prison officers would force feed suffragettes who went on hunger strike as the government did not want any suffragette martyrs. The decision to use forced feeding was taken by the Home Secretary at the time who was Winston Churchill. Theresa was force fed during her stay in Horfield prison and set fire to her prison cell in protest. She was made to spend the rest of her sentence in solitary confinement in what was known as a punishment cell, but after she was found unconscious, she spent the rest of her sentence in hospital.⁸⁴

Irish suffragette Mary Maloney was a member of the Women's Freedom League. Maloney was most famous for her acts of protest during the 1908 by-elections of Dundee, Scotland, in which a 34-year-old Winston Churchill was running to regain a seat in Parliament. For a week she would appear at Churchill's speaking engagements, demand that he apologise for insulting remarks he had made about the women's suffrage movement, and proceed to drown him out by ringing a large bell when he refused and attempted to carry on with his planned remarks, and it was very effective. On at least one occasion he gave up entirely on giving his intended speech.⁸⁵

Strikes in Russia

In February of 1917, female workers in the city of Petrograd, Russia, went on strike. They were protesting about the scarcity of food and about Russia's involvement in World War 1. Over 100,000 women protested in the streets. When the government responded with brutal force, the Russian Revolution was set in motion.⁸⁶

The Women's War

The *ogu umunwanye*, or, "the Women's War," began in 1929 in Nigeria when the British decided to institute a form of 'indirect rule' in which they would control Nigeria through local representatives of their choosing. The British organized Igboland, the area in south-eastern Nigeria that is home to the Igbo people, into Native Court areas. These areas were each governed by a Warrant Chief, an Igbo representative that the British had chosen. This new method of governance was starkly different from the Igbo political system. Traditionally, power was diffuse in Igbo communities, with a large group of elders making most decisions. Also, women had had a significant role in Igbo political life. They participated in village meetings, and had very strong solidarity groups. Through women's kinship networks and market networks, they often organized to use strikes and boycotts to affect political decisions. They were respected members of society, and elder women especially were included in governance. This changed once the British instituted their new political system. Igbo women in south-eastern Nigeria had had enough. From the perspective of the British colonizers, the women became loud, angry, and disruptive. They marched through cities and towns and demanded political leaders to step down. The women took their British rulers completely by surprise. The British were ignorant of the discontent among women that had been building for years, and that had

⁸⁴ <http://www.brh.org.uk/site/articles/theresa-garnette-vrs-winston-churchill/>.

⁸⁵ <https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/mary-maloney-churchill-bell>.

⁸⁶ <https://www.bustle.com/articles/73968-10-all-women-protests-through-history-because-badass-feminist-civil-disobedience-didnt-start-with-pussy-riot>.

recently bubbled over the surface. They mistook the women's organized action for spontaneous, 'crazy' outbursts. After sending out palm leaves to neighbouring villages in their district, female leaders a campaign to ensure that they would not be taxed. In early November, the hugely successful protest took place: over 10,000 women congregated outside the district administration office, and demanded that the Warrant Chief of Oloko give them a written assurance that they would not be taxed.

The women sat outside the district office for several days, when, finally, the British offices above the Warrant Chief ordered him to give the women a written assurance that they were not to be taxed. The Warrant Chief, however, disliked having to respond to the women's demands. After handing over the written assurance, he re-asserted his power by taking several women protesters hostage and harassing them. News of the harassment spread, and the protest swelled. The campaigners decided to continue their protest outside the district office, now demanding that the Warrant Chief be removed. After two days, the British again acquiesced. Not only was the Warrant Chief removed, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. News of both the written tax assurance and the removal of the Warrant Chief spread, and soon, women all across Igboland were organizing to make the same demands. The protest had grown from one women's network in Oloko demanding to not be taxed, to a protest that spanned across two provinces and over six thousand square miles. The goal had also grown: now, not only did women want written guarantees that they were not to be taxed, they wanted corrupt Warrant Chiefs to be removed.

When the women would gather in protest, they would come dressed in traditional warrior clothes: they would wear only loincloths, and have their faces smeared with paint. They would also have their heads wrapped in ferns, which was a war symbol for the women. They would be carrying sticks with leaves of young palms wrapped around them, meant to invoke the power of their ancestors. The women would chant traditional war songs, and participate in dances. They also followed the Warrant Chiefs everywhere, day and night, singing loudly and effectively disrupting the daily routines of the Warrant Chiefs. The women were forcing the Warrant Chiefs to pay attention to them and to meet their demands. The campaigners also burned down several district offices, as an extension of the practice of burning down a man's hut. By mid-December, police officers and troops were called in to deal with the situation. Although the women had been steadfastly nonviolent, police were ordered to shoot into crowds. Over 50 women were killed, and 50 more were wounded.

In spite of the casualties, the Igbo people had regained some of their power to self-govern. The Women's War had sparked this change, just as it later inspired many other important protests, like the Tax Protests of 1938, Oil Mill Protests of the 1940s, and the Tax revolt 1956. The Women's War had convinced Igbo women and men of the power they held to protect their people's rights.⁸⁷

Fighting racism in Australia

Set up in 1946 so black and white could meet and socialise, the Coolbaroo Club owed its existence to three ex-servicemen and a feisty young Aboriginal woman, Helena Murphy (Clarke). *Now 91, Murphy will next week receive the John Curtin Medal for her courage, humour and dogged refusal to bow down to discrimination. ('written' on July 8th, 2019).* Helena is a Western Australian civil rights activist and freedom fighter. Helena and her colleagues fought for the rights of Indigenous Australians on many fronts - including lobbying the government on issues such as the removal of children, citizenship laws, deaths in custody, education and voting rights.

⁸⁷ <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/igbo-women-campaign-rights-womens-war-nigeria-1929>.

When the Coolbaroo Club spawned the Coolbaroo League, police kept surveillance on the committee members. The League was a political movement that aimed to gain equal rights in post-war Western Australia at a time of extreme racism, before Aboriginal people had gained the right to vote. Murphy was stalked and abused, but the young firebrand kept pushing for change by writing letters and joining delegations for better housing, education and voting rights. By the time the Coolbaroo Club closed its doors in 1960, it had initiated an indigenous newspaper, provoked debate on child removal policies and citizenship laws, and shaped a new Western Australian Native Welfare Council. That same year, Aborigines became eligible for social service benefits, and in 1962 they were given the right to vote.⁸⁸

Women in the Black Power and Civil Rights movements

African American women and Australian First Nations women played major roles in local and national organising efforts and frequently were the majority in local chapters of groups as dissimilar as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Black Panther Party. Familiar names like Rosa Parks, Angela Davis and Coretta Scott King have become little more than sanitized national icons, while their decades-long efforts to secure racial, economic, and sex-based justice remain relatively unknown. In short, examining women's participation in the "long civil rights movement," which historians increasingly date to the New Deal and World War II, calls for a redefinition of more conventional notions of leadership, protest, and politics. The civil rights movement—which was much more than a demand for citizenship rights and legal equality—is still often bracketed by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision on one end and either the 1965 Voting Rights Act or the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on the other. Yet even the national victories we think we fully understand take on new meaning when black women's efforts are included: How many Americans know that women were the key petitioners in three of the five cases that made up the 1954 landmark *Brown* decision and that Constance Baker Motley was one of the three key litigators? Or that Amelia Boynton's decades of local activism in Selma, Alabama, culminated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

While the image of armed Black men monitoring the oppressor seems to be synonymous with the Black Panther Party name, it was the organisation's women members who upheld and ensured the survival of the party. By the 70's, women made up the majority of the party and today, those same women continue to fight in the name of justice and Black liberation. Some female members of the Black Panther parties in Australia and America have talked about the abuse they endured at the hands of male BPP members, cementing the importance and necessity of understanding the basis for intersectionality and implementing pro-intersectional strategies in to activism.⁸⁹

Sit-in at Ladies' Home Journal office

On March 18th, 1970, a group of feminists staged a sit-in at the offices of the Ladies' Home Journal (LHJ) to protest how the magazine's mostly male editorial board depicted women. At the time, LHJ was the second largest women's magazine in the United States. The sit-in involved women from groups such as Media Women, New York Radical Feminists, National Organization of Women (NOW), the Redstockings, and Barnard College students.

The activists chose Ladies' Home Journal as the target for the sit-in for several reasons. Protesters believed the magazine's focus on beauty and housework reinforced patriarchy. Protesters demanded

⁸⁸ http://johncurtin.curtin.edu.au/medallists/helena_murphy.cfm.

⁸⁹ <https://www.essence.com/holidays/black-history-month/women-black-panther-party/#77118>.

the magazine: hire a female editor in chief and editorial staff, hire women to write columns to avoid inherent male bias, hire non-whites in proportion to the United States' population, raise women's salaries to a minimum of \$125 a week, provide free child-care in the offices, open editorial meetings to all staff members to avoid traditional power hierarchies, stop running ads that degraded women, stop running articles tied to ads, and end the "Can This Marriage Be Saved?" column. The morning of the protest, the women met at St. Peter's Church on Lexington Avenue, near the magazine's 54th street offices. One of the protesters had previously worked at the magazine, giving protest leaders an opportunity to enter the offices prior to the sit-in and gather information that helped them plan their actions. At approximately 9:00am, the women entered the building and marched to Editor in Chief John Mack Carter's office where they presented their demands. While in the office, a cameraman from an unknown network entered the office and punched one of the demonstrators. He was removed from the premises. Demonstrators also began talking to secretaries and other women who worked in the LHM offices to explain their reasons for protesting. By the end of the day, the protesters were able to gain tentative understanding from office workers who had originally questioned the motivation for protesting. The protest lasted for eleven hours.

In addition to sitting-in, the protesters created a 20-page mock magazine titled, "Women's Liberated Journal," and displayed a banner displaying the title from the office windows. They held Editor in Chief Carter and female managing editor Lenore Hershey during negotiations, and smoked Carter's cigars. In their magazine, the women suggested article titles such as "How to Get a Divorce," "How to Have an Orgasm," "What to tell your Draft-Age Son," and "How Detergents Harm our Rivers and Streams."

Equal Rights

1980 was an enormous year for all-female protests. The National Organization of Women were outraged when Illinois refused to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and organized several gigantic protests in opposition. One, held in Chicago on Mother's Day 1980, attracted a record 90,000 female ERA protesters.⁹⁰

Women of Liberia Mass Action of Peace

In 2003 the Women of Liberia Mass Action of Peace was started by women in Liberia, Africa. This nonviolent direct action movement used different tactics including threats of a curse, sex strikes and sit-ins. They forced a meeting with President Charles Taylor and extracted a promise from him to attend peace talks in Ghana to negotiate with the rebels from Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy and Movement for Democracy in Liberia. A delegation of Liberian women went to Ghana to continue to apply pressure on the warring factions during the peace process. Two hundred women surrounded the room, dressed in white, dominating the conversation. Any time the negotiators tried to leave, the women threatened to take off all of their clothes. Enclosed in the room with the women, the men would try to jump out of the windows to escape their talk. But the women persisted, staging a sit in outside of the Presidential Palace. They blocked all the doors and windows and prevented anyone from leaving the peace talks without a resolution.

The women of Liberia became a political force against violence and against their government. Their actions brought about an agreement during the stalled peace talks. As a result, the women were

⁹⁰ <https://www.bustle.com/articles/73968-10-all-women-protests-through-history-because-badass-feminist-civil-disobedience-didnt-start-with-pussy-riot>.

able to achieve peace in Liberia after a 14-year civil war and later helped bring to power the country's first female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.⁹¹

The Gulabi Gang

One day when Sampat Pal Devi, a simple woman living in a village in Northern India, saw a man mercilessly beating his wife. She pleaded with him to stop but he abused her as well. The next day she returned with a bamboo stick and five other women and gave the rogue a sound thrashing.

The news spread like wild fire and soon women started approaching Sampat Pal Devi in droves requesting similar interventions. Many women came forward to join her team and in the year 2006 she decided that the sisterhood needed a uniform and a name and thus the pink sari was chosen, to signify the womanhood and understated strength. The Gulabi Gang kept a watch on all community activities and protested vociferously when they saw any manifestation of injustice or malpractice. On one occasion, when Sampat Pal went to the local police station to register a complaint, a policeman abused and attacked her. She retaliated by beating him on the head with her lathi. On another occasion she dragged a government official out of his car to show him a crumbling road that was in need of urgent repair. After all, what cannot be endured must be cured!⁹²

Pussy Riot

Founded in August 2011 in the Russian city of Moscow, all female punk band Pussy Riot have been using their platform for political protest for years and have been jailed numerous times for their protests. They began to gain momentum after two members, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Yekaterina Samutsevich – who used to belong to another anarchist art collective called Voina – played a recording of Pussy Riot's song 'Ubey seksista' ('Kill the Sexist') at a lecture on feminist punk. Over the following months, Pussy Riot staged a series of public performances. Their first, in November 2011, was called 'Release the Cobblestones'. Sampling Angelic Upstarts' 1978 track 'Police Oppression', masked members of the group performed on top of scaffolding on the Moscow subway, tearing open feather pillows and hurling the contents onto the track.

The Russian media paid close attention to the performances that followed. Later in 2011, Pussy Riot performed on top of a garage next door to the Moscow Detention Center No. 1, which was holding activists arrested a week earlier at the mass protests against the results of the recent State Duma elections. At the beginning of 2012, Pussy Riot gained further notoriety after two members were arrested for their 'Putin Zassa' performance at Moscow's Red Square. Translating roughly to 'Putin Has Pissed Himself', the group let off a smoke bomb, and Galkina and Schebleva were later found guilty of breaking the rules around conducting rallies and pickets.⁹³

⁹¹ <https://www.bustle.com/articles/73968-10-all-women-protests-through-history-because-badass-feminist-civil-disobedience-didnt-start-with-pussy-riot>.

⁹² <http://gulabigang.in/history.php>.

⁹³ <https://www.nme.com/blogs/nme-blogs/who-are-pussy-riot-russia-activist-group-world-cup-final-pitch-invasion-2354987>.

Wave of Feminist Civil Disobedience Occupies Patriarchy in Chile

Dozens of university faculties and high schools across Chile are in occupation or on strike, demanding an end to the abusive patriarchal culture inside Chilean classrooms. Within the space of only three days this June, five women were killed, highlighting the magnitude of the issue. Tens of thousands of students are taking part, and two months on from the first occupation, the movement is persisting. Chile has a long history of student protests (police often clash with students, and many demonstrations end with tear gas and water cannons), normally mobilizing against the privatized education system put in place by the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

What's happening today emerges from that experience, but with feminism at its core. It started at the Universidad Austral in Valdivia, in southern Chile. On 17 April 2018, a group of students occupied the building of Philosophy and Humanities as a reaction to a mismanaged disciplinary case against a professor found guilty of sexual harassment. The Faculty of Law of Universidad de Chile in Santiago came next, ten days later, igniting the movement in one of the country's most prestigious institutions.

The last straw was a case of sexual harassment involving Professor Carlos Carmona, former president of the Constitutional Court. It took the university eight months to process the case, at the end of which Carmona was suspended for three months for 'lack of integrity'. The outcome prompted an emergency student assembly that decided to occupy the Law Faculty building. In a matter of days, dozens of faculties and schools across the country followed. The first step in most of the occupations was to share the experience of sexism, strengthening awareness of its systemic character. Each school in mobilization organizes several feminist events a day. From courses on self-defence and workshops on resistance embroidery, to feminist stand-up comedy, debates on socialist feminism, non-patriarchal football matches, and gynaecology lessons.

It's hard to predict how the movement will evolve, but to date it has reached an unprecedented level of support and visibility. No matter what is achieved in the short term, their struggle is not just about basic demands to improve the living conditions of women students. It is about making every day [sex-based] violence visible. It is about challenging [archaic sex-based stereotypes]. And above all, it is about creating new spaces for reflection in which to envisage social change. With a right-wing president in power, this constitutes a healthy cultural resistance that could be a source of inspiration for action beyond Chilean borders.⁹⁴

Learn more about women that are a part of civil disobedience history here -

<https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/search/node/women>

Other movements and protests you may want to check out are⁹⁵ -

The 'Bra Burning' Miss America Protest

Take Back the Night/Reclaim the Night

The Million Mom March

The March for Women's Lives

Defiantly Driving in Saudi Arabia

⁹⁴ <https://popularresistance.org/wave-of-feminist-civil-disobedience-occupies-patriarchy-in-chile/>.

⁹⁵ <http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,2088114,00.html>.

Civil Rights Movements

American Civil Rights Movement – a brief overview

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States was a decades-long struggle with the goal of enforcing constitutional and legal rights for African Americans that other Americans already enjoyed. With roots that date back to the late 19th century, the movement achieved its largest legislative gains in the mid-1960s, after years of direct actions and grassroots protests that were organized from the mid-1950s until 1968, and the fight for equity for African Americans still continues today. Encompassing strategies, various groups, and organised social movements to accomplish the goals of ending legalized racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and discrimination in the United States, the movement, using both nonviolent and justified violent (self-defence) campaigns, eventually secured new recognition in federal law and federal protection for all Americans.

After the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the 1860s (which began with the Thirteenth Amendment – “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, **except as a punishment for crime.....**”), the Reconstruction Amendments to the United States Constitution granted emancipation and constitutional rights of citizenship to all African Americans. However, it must be noted that rights written on paper do not automatically translate in to actuality, and African Americans had to continue, and still continue, to fight for access to those rights and true equity.

For a period, African Americans voted and held political office, but they were increasingly deprived of civil rights, often under Jim Crow laws, and subjected to systemic discrimination and they often experienced brutality and violence by whites in the South. Over the following century, various efforts were made by African Americans to secure their legal rights. Between 1955 and 1968, acts of nonviolent protest and civil disobedience produced crisis situations and productive dialogues between activists and government authorities.

Federal, state, and local governments, businesses, and communities often had to respond immediately to these situations (riots, sit-ins, occupations etc.), which highlighted the inequities faced by African Americans across the country. The torture and murder of Chicago teenager Emmett Till in Mississippi, and the outrage generated by seeing how he had been abused and mutilated when his mother decided to have an open-casket funeral, mobilized the African-American community nationwide. Forms of protest and/or civil disobedience included boycotts, such as the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56) in Alabama; "sit-ins" such as the influential Greensboro sit-ins (1960) in North Carolina and successful Nashville sit-ins in Tennessee; marches, such as the 1963 Birmingham Children's Crusade and 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches (1965) in Alabama; and a wide range of other activities.

Moderates in the movement worked with Congress to achieve the passage of several significant pieces of federal legislation that overturned discriminatory practices and authorized oversight and enforcement by the federal government. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 expressly banned discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex, or national origin in employment practices; ended unequal application of voter registration requirements; and prohibited racial segregation in schools, at the workplace, and in public accommodations. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 restored and protected voting rights for minorities by authorizing federal oversight of registration and elections in areas with historic under-representation of minorities as voters.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing. African Americans re-entered politics in the South, and across the country young people were inspired to take action. From the mid 1960's, a wave of inner-city riots in black communities undercut support from the white middle class, but increased support from private foundations. The emergence of the

Black Power movement, which lasted from about 1965 to 1975, challenged the established black leadership for its cooperative attitude and its practice of nonviolence. Instead, its leaders demanded that, in addition to the new laws gained through the nonviolent movement, political and economic self-sufficiency had to be developed in the black community. Notably, the Black Panthers were a key group within that movement, establishing in the wake of the assassination of Black Nationalist Leader Malcolm X. They functioned as local militia, protecting and defending their communities through armed patrol. They provided community services to help strengthen resilience and self-sustainability including free breakfast programs for school children and free health clinics in 13 African American communities across the United States.

Australian Civil Rights Movement – a brief overview

First Nations peoples have been fighting for land rights and human rights since this land was stolen and colonised. Groups such as Stop Black Deaths in Custody, Close the Gap, Sisters Inside and many others have been fighting, and continue to fight, for equity.

January 26th, 1938 - First Aboriginal day of Mourning and Protest held in Sydney. It was the first national Aboriginal civil rights gathering and represents the identifiable beginning of the contemporary Aboriginal political movement. About 100 Aboriginal men, women and children gathered in a hall at 150–152 Elizabeth Street in Sydney, known as the Australian Hall. The protesters' intention was to bring awareness of their plight to non-Indigenous Australians, in order to gain support for their proposal to dismantle the Protection Boards then operating, and extend full citizen rights to Aboriginal people. The Day of Mourning was attended by Aboriginal activists who came from all over Australia. The Australian Hall, by association, became extremely significant to Indigenous heritage, and is now listed on the National Register of heritage places.

The first recorded strike by Aboriginal people began on May 1st, of 1946 in the Pilbara. An estimated 800 pastoral workers walked off the job, from 1946 to 1949, at stations in protest of poor conditions & pay and unfair treatment. Many workers were not paid at all, and instead were compensated in rations of tea, sugar and tobacco. Furthermore, government policies that were enforced by station owners and police restricted pastoral workers from leaving their employment and from travelling around the area. Eventually, some people were forced to return to work, but others became self-sufficient through community run mining operations.

In August of 1966 another strike, known as the Wave Hill walk-off, began in Gurindji (Wave Hill), Northern Territory. Protesting for equal wages Aboriginal stockmen walked off Wave Hill pastoral station in the NT. Little did the white station owners know that the strike would become a precursor to land rights legislation almost 10 years later.

In 1971, The Australian Black Panther party was co-founded by Denis Walker and Sam Watson. Their headquarters was in Brisbane and this Australian chapter of the Black Panther Party adapted the politics and militant style of the American Black Panther Party to address issues affecting Aboriginal people and make demands for equality of treatment in education, health and legal representation, the abolition of discriminatory legislation, an end to police harassment, and the simple right to live without racism. Inspired by the example of the American Black Panther's community survival programs, they developed their own free medical and legal services, housing projects and a National Black Theatre.

From 1979 - The Noonkanbah dispute in Western Australia's remote north put land rights on the national agenda and led to the foundation of the Kimberley Land Council. There were rallies, petitions and protests against drilling company – Amax, which selected a site for drilling in 1978 at

Noonkanbah station. Hundreds of Aboriginals fought against Amax, with Trade Unions and Bob Hawke also joining their efforts by recommending bans on all work at the station. At 1am on 7 August, a convoy of 49 vehicles set out from Perth. Near Karratha six picketing union officials were arrested, while in Roebourne 40 Aboriginal people protested as the convoy passed. Two more union officials were arrested at Port Hedland, then just north of the town 160 people blocked a bridge and the police had to push them back. Another 200 protesters greeted the convoy near Broome. At Noonkanbah the community also decided to oppose the convoy: 60 men established a blockade at Mickey's Pool where the road dipped into a sandy creek and no detours were possible. After a night-long stand-off, police and Aboriginal police aides cleared the blockade.⁹⁶

Brief history of mass civil disobedience in Australia⁹⁷

1938, January 26th - First Aboriginal day of Mourning and Protest held in Sydney.

1946, May 1st - Pilbara Aboriginal pastoral workers strike started. Pastoral workers walked out on strike against very poor conditions and salary.

There were a range of actions against the Vietnam war through the 1960's and 1970's. In July 1968, hundreds of anti-Vietnam protestors and police had a violent clash at the US Consulate in Melbourne. Mounted police trampled protestors, which mainly included students, and many protestors and officers were left injured.

Anti-uranium, anti-nuclear and anti-fracking movements have existed in Australia since the 1970's and continue today in 2019.

1979-1981 Noonkanbah Protests.

The early 1980's NVDA campaign against the Franklin Dam in Tasmania was successful after ending up in the High Court of Australia and is perceived to be "...the most famous and influential environmental law case in Australian history. It was also a landmark in Australian constitutional law." – Environmental Law Australia

In the early 1980's, community members in Western Australia came together to stop the extension of Farrington Road in North Lake. This grassroots campaign stretched across decades with action on all levels; academic, political, community and mass civil disobedience.

January 26th 1988 - 40,000 Aboriginal people march in Sydney to mark the 200th anniversary of the European invasion.

For decades, women campaigned for their legal right to safe abortion in Australia; only in 2019 was abortion (finally) decriminalised in all Australian states and territories, with New South Wales being the final state. Before then, girls & women seeking an abortion had to travel across the country, out of country or risk their health and their life undergoing backyard abortions.

The Reconciliation movement involved over one million Australians during the Sorry Day marches in the year 2000.

Australia saw an anti-Iraq war movement rise in the early 2000's.

From 2010, the campaign to protect James Price Point began and eventually achieved success when Woodside Petroleum announced it would pull out of the planned development. This campaign included protests, blockades, lock-on's and hundreds of arrests were made. The Stop Adani

⁹⁶ <http://www.saulwick.info/>; <https://blackthen.com/australian-black-panther-party-1971/>.

⁹⁷ <https://www.creativespirits.info/>.

campaign, which is proclaimed as being the biggest people-powered environmental campaign in Australian history, began around this time, too. Hundreds of arrests and ongoing, relentless actions have won many battles so far, and the fight continues today to put an end to the Adani coal mine.

Since 2010, Australia has seen the rise of various environmental groups & movements like Lock the Gate Alliance/Frack Free Future, Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) and, more recently, School Strike 4 Climate.

In late 2016/early 2017, work commenced on the Roe 8 highway extension and a four month-long nonviolent direct action campaign kept most of the destruction at bay and ultimately won protection for the area. Hundreds of arrests were made.

Documentaries, websites and literature

Documentaries

If a tree falls

Gaslands

An Inconvenient Truth

Lolita

Unity

Meet your Meat

The Yes Men

Pipe Down

Wiki Rebels

Blockadia Rising: Voices of the Tar Sands Blockade

Black Panther Woman

Websites

International Centre of Nonviolence - www.nonviolence.org.au

Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand - <http://fairtrade.com.au/>

The Ruckus Society - <https://ruckus.org/>

The Anarchist Library - <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/special/index>

Stop Adani - <https://www.stopadani.com/>

Animals Australia - <http://www.animalsaustralia.org/>

Human Rights Watch - <https://www.hrw.org/>

Winsome Constance Kindness Australia (formerly Kindness Trust) - <http://www.kindnesstrust.com/>

Earth First! –

<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/radical-environmentalisms-print-history/introducing-earth-first>

<https://www.activistfacts.com/organizations/271-earth-first/>

Books and other literature

The Origin of Others by Toni Morrison

Women, Race and Class by Angela Davis

Herland by Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

The End of Patriarchy: Radical Feminism for Men by Robert Jensen

Road Raging: Top Tips for Wrecking Roadbuilding

[Using Trello to Organise Your Political Campaign - D.A.M](#)

[Manual: Single Rope Technique – Climbing Gear: Use and Care](#)

[Climate Justice: The fight for an equitable and sustainable future by J.K. Williams](#)

[Deep Green Resistance by Lierre Keith, Aric McBay, and Derrick Jensen](#)

[Ecofeminism by Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva](#)

[The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory by Carol J. Adams](#)

[Wild Politics by Susan Hawthorne](#)

[Rape of the Wild: Man’s Violence Against Animals and the Earth by Andrée Collard](#)

[Civil Disobedience, Sabotage, and Violence in US Environmental Activism - Joseph M. Brown, The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Environmental Politics](#)

Additional resources and information

[United Nations Declaration on Human Rights](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)

[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)

[The Yes Men](#)

[Black Panther Party](#)

[Protest Safety Training Guide – Susan Schorn](#)

[Guide to trauma-informed de-escalation during actions and protests – Open Table Nashville](#)

[Muslim woman Fatima Al-Fihri - Founder of the Oldest University in the World](#)

[Melbourne Activist Legal Support - Resources](#)

[Simple Sabotage Field Manual – Strategic Services](#)



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