

DF Activism Handbook

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Use:

- Any reference websites/useful websites are located on the relevant pages, or in the tab 'resources'
- Any questions/comments please email to activism@spanthat.world

Types of activism:

Protesting:

- **Marches:** demonstrations where groups walk along a set route in a public space.
- **Picketing:** groups gathering outside a location and protesting, disrupting usual activity and spreading awareness. Usually used in combination with striking.
- **Sit-ins/die-ins:** groups gather in a public/conspicuous space and refuse to move. Die-ins simulate death, so participants lie on the ground.
- **Walkouts:** groups leaving their place of work or school, usually protesting a specific policy/raising awareness on a specific issue.
- **Rallies/speeches:** rallies are public gatherings with common concerns, often occurring before a march. Speeches are often held at rallies but can occur in other contexts. They seek to raise awareness of the issues of concern, inspire action and connect communities.
- **Strikes:** Groups refusing to work until demands are met. Often associated with businesses, but can also be used against governments over policies.
- **Boycotts:** groups avoid engaging with a 'target' economically, such as by refusing to buy their product. The larger the group, the more economically impacted the target is.
- **Letter-writing/petitions:** These pressure public officials/other power-holders. The more people involved the more attention is gained. Emails are sometimes used as an easier form of letter-writing, but emails can be blocked, which physical letters can't. Furthermore, letters imply a degree of commitment.

Volunteering:

- **Volunteering:** having direct impact on an issue through personal involvement. E.g. getting involved in environmental cleanup projects, or helping organise protests.
- **Voting activism:** Helping people register for votes, advocating for better civic education, and working to make the voting process easier to access and understand. Can also involve trying to expand voter rights and changing existing voting laws.
- **Mutual Aid:** pooling support and resources outside of traditional systems in response to inequities and systemic failures. E.g. community gardens, food banks, tenant unions.
- **Fundraising:** raising money for a cause or organisation.

Raising Awareness

- **Craftivism:** activism involving crafting arts, e.g. needlework and sewing. Can be used to raise awareness or to contribute to a cause, e.g. sewing messages onto fabric banners, making zines, or the movement to sew masks during a shortage in the pandemic.
- **Street art:** raising awareness and critiquing through public art.

- **Vigils/memorials:** honour tragedies and raise awareness of the issues surrounding the tragedy. Vigils are events, memorials are physical structures.
- **Civil disobedience:** intentionally breaking the law in order to highlight injustice or bring about a change in policy.
- **Uncivil obedience:** Following the law in a subversive way, e.g. following the law to the letter even if absurd or inconvenient for others. This aims to highlight the negative nature of the rules/laws.
- **Mass Media Campaigns:** Using mass media to promote a cause or message.
- **Social Media Activism/Hashtag activism:** raising awareness of issues, organisations and strategies through posts, graphics, videos, etc.

Useful Page:

<https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/types-of-activism/>

Safety at protests:

Well-Being:

- **Should:**
 - Write key phone numbers on you/keep on you, including your emergency contact.
 - Bring any medication you need, including inhalers.
 - Arrange to arrive/leave with friends. Plan your journey and arrange regular check-ins. Tell someone where you are going and when you intend to be back.
 - Plan for emergencies.
 - Have an offline map of the area, plan multiple routes in/out of the protest area.
 - Be attentive and alert. Avoid isolated areas, move away from any potentially unsafe situations.
- **Recommended:**
 - Bring water and snacks, prepare to be out longer than anticipated.
 - Bring first aid supplies (e.g. plasters etc), with ideally one kit per group.
 - Bring hand sanitiser, earplugs and suncream.
 - Leave valuables at home.
 - Bring cash.
 - Be prepared to de-escalate. Stay calm, keep a steady voice, avoid provocative behaviour, and remove yourself from the situation if necessary.

Legal Protection:

- **Should:**
 - Wear non-distinctive clothing, covering as much skin as possible
 - Make sure your phone is locked with a password and switch off facial/fingerprint unlocking tech.
 - Write key numbers on your arm (preferably under a sleeve) including your emergency contact and support lines.
 - Don't bring anything illegal or that can be read as a weapon.
 - Do not give any information to police unless legally necessary, and do not talk to police liaison officers (light blue hi-vis).

- **Recommended:**

- Wear dark colours, try to cover distinctive markings/tattoos.
- Wear a face covering — be aware of surveillance and facial recognition.
- Leave your phone at home and bring an old phone/brick phone with only essential numbers. Police can take your phone and search it if you are arrested.
- Bring a notepad and pen to note issues and shoulder numbers of police officers.
- If organising, arrange for legal observers to attend to monitor police and provide legal support. Approach legal observers with any legal concerns at a protest.

Extra:

- Be mindful of needs/vulnerabilities of marginalised protestors.
- Wear a face mask (protect immunocompromised individuals).
- Wear comfortable and weather appropriate clothing and shoes, suitable for walking/travelling.
- Bring waterproofs.
- Wear pads instead of tampons, as it may be difficult to access a bathroom. Bring spares.
- Avoid jewellery.
- Wear glasses instead of contact lenses.
- Bring a phone charger and battery.

Links:

Liberty: Practical protest tips

https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/practical-protest-tips/

HRC - tips for protesting safely

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/tips-for-preparedness-peaceful-protesting-and-safety>

Amnesty: info on protests

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/freedom-of-expression/protest/>

Liberty: tips for disabled protestors

https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/practical-tips-for-disabled-protesters/

Legal Processes

<https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/resources/protest-law-know-your-rights> has useful information.

<https://greenandblackcross.org/guides/key-advice/> has key legal advice for attending protests.

Age Specifics

- The age of criminal responsibility is 10, so all DFs are legally responsible for their actions.
- Ages 10-17 will go through youth court processes, and if a penalty involves imprisonment they would be held in a youth centre, instead of an adult prison.
- Ages between 18-25 will be held in a prison for said age group, separate to prisons for those over age 25.

Rights at a Protest

- You do not legally have to respond to a police officer unless you are engaging in 'anti social' behaviour. Officers in **pale blue hi-vis** are **police liaison officers**, and are trained to gather information about protesters/organisers by being friendly. Do not respond to these officers.

Kettling:

- Kettling = **police containing protestors** in one place for an extended period. They can legally do this to prevent/deal with a "**breach of the peace**" (violence or threatened violence). They must take all other possible steps to prevent this first.
- Police must have a **release plan** to allow vulnerable/distressed people, or people accidentally caught in it, to leave.
- Police must also make **essential utilities** (toilets, drinking water, etc) available if practical.
- The **necessity** of the kettle must always be under review.
- You have **no legal obligation to answer police questions** during a kettle, unless engaging in "anti-social" behaviour. This is individual specific, and if you must answer questions this doesn't apply to the whole group.
- It is **unlawful** to be **pressured** to give personal details or be filmed as a condition to be released from the kettle.
- Police can only **search you** during a kettle if they reasonably suspect you are carrying a **prohibited item**, or there is a '**Section 60**' authorisation in place that allows suspicion-less stop and searches in that area at that time.
- If you believe you have been **unlawfully kettled** you can make a police complaint, and potentially a legal claim against the police.

- further info at https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/kettling-guide/

Specifics for Disabled Protestors:

- **No unlawful discrimination:** The police can't engage in **direct discrimination** (treating you worse for your disability than a non-disabled person). They can't engage in **indirect discrimination** (do things that have a worse impact on disabled people despite applying to everyone equally) or **discrimination arising from disability** (treated worse due to something connected to you being disabled) unless they have an 'objective justification'. It is **unlawful** for the police to **harass** you (made to feel bad or embarrassed), or to **victimise** you (treat you badly or place you in a worse position due to complaints or requests you have made relating to the equality act).
- You have rights to **reasonable adjustments**. Police have a duty to make these adjustments during making the policy and in individual cases.
- Police can remove personal items under Section 37, but this shouldn't be used to take away independent living equipment.
- If any unlawful police behaviour takes place you have the right to complain, or potentially to challenge them using judicial review or the Human Rights Act.

Arrest Process in England

Initially:

- When arrested, you will usually be taken to a police station, held in custody in a cell there, and then questioned. You will then be either released or charged.
- While there you **must** be explained your **Rights in Custody** by an officer. These are rights to: getting free legal advice, to tell someone where you are, medical help if you feel unwell, to see the Codes of Practice (rules police must follow), and to see a written notice of your rights in an appropriate language.
- You will be **searched** and your possessions will be kept by the police while you are in the cell.

Questioning and Legal Advice:

- You may be **questioned** about the crime you have been accused of. This will be **recorded**. While questioned **you do not have to answer any questions**, but this may lead to consequences in court if charged.
- You have the **right to free legal advice** if questioned at the station, and you can request this later even if you initially turn it down.
- You can ask for the station's '**duty solicitor**', who is available 24 hours a day and is independent of the police. If you are accused of a less serious offence you may be offered free legal advice over the phone instead of the duty solicitor. You can also request legal advice and contact the **Defence Solicitor Call Centre**, or ask the police to contact a specific solicitor you know.
- You **cannot be questioned** until your legal advice arrives if you have requested it. The longest you can be made to wait is 36 hours, or 48 for suspected terrorism.

Police rights while you're in custody:

- While in custody the police have the right to: take **photographs** of you, take your **fingerprints**, take **DNA** samples, and swab your hand and arm skin surfaces.
- Police need **your permission** and the **authority** of a senior officer to: take **blood or urine** samples, or to take **dental** impressions (unless accused of drink/drug driving).
- This information will be held in the **police database**, which you can check by getting a copy of your police records.

How long you can be held + forms of release:

- You can be held in custody for up to **24 hours** before you must be either charged or released. This can be upped to 36 or 96 hours if you are accused of a serious crime, and up to **14 days** if you are arrested under the **terrorist act**.
- **Police Bail:** You may be released on police bail if there isn't enough evidence to convict you. You are not charged, but you do have to return for further questioning on request.
- **Conditional Bail:** if you are charged and they believe you may commit another offence, not show up to court, intimidate other witnesses, or obstruct the course of justice you will be placed under conditional bail and your freedom will be restricted in some way, e.g. you will be under curfew.
- **Released under investigation:** You are free to leave with no charge, but investigation will continue for the offense the police think you have committed, and you could be arrested and charged in the future.

Differences for Under 18s/Vulnerable Adults

- The police must find you an '**appropriate adult**' to protect your interests, rights and welfare. You can speak to this person privately at any time, and you can decide if they are with you when you speak to a legal advisor, but they can't give you legal advice or answer questions for you.
- Your '**appropriate adult**' if **you are under 18** can be your parent/guardian/carer, a social worker, a friend or a family member over the age of 18, or a member of a local scheme of trained appropriate adults. Your parent/guardian/carer must be contacted to know where you are, even if they aren't your 'appropriate adult'.
- Your '**appropriate adult**' if **you are a vulnerable adult** can be a relative/guardian/person responsible for your care, a person trained in your care, or a member of a local scheme of trained appropriate adults.
- For **both under 18s** and **vulnerable adults** your appropriate adult must be with you for fingerprints, photographs or samples.
- **Under 18 year olds** must never be put in a cell with an adult, and should not be in a cell unless there is nowhere else safe and comfortable at the station.
- **Female under 18 year olds** must have a female member of staff assigned to look after you.
- **Under 18 year olds** should be given an activity, e.g. a book, unless it is seen as a risk to your safety.

Arrest Process in Scotland

- **Police must identify themselves** when arresting you. They must tell you you are being arrested and tell you the **crime you are accused of** and why it is necessary to arrest you. They must tell you that you don't need to say anything other than your name, address, date and place of birth and nationality.
- Police can use **reasonable force** if you become violent or try to escape.

Your rights in custody:

- When in **custody** you have the right to: **know why** they're keeping you at the station, consult with a **solicitor** (at any time), ask for someone to be told **where** you are, ask for an **interpreter**, have help with **communication**, receive **medical help** if feeling ill, receive a **letter of rights** in your language/easy to read format/read to you.
- When **questioned** you have the right: to not to **speak**, to not **answer** any question, to a **solicitor** (who can be in the room for questioning, and the police must wait for them if requested, and will be **free** while you are in custody).
- You can request **free legal advice** from their **duty solicitor** who is independent of the police and available 24 hours a day, or from your own solicitor. When requested you cannot be questioned until your legal advice arrives, except in exceptional circumstances.

Police rights while you're in custody:

- While in custody you **must** tell them your name, address, date and place of birth, and nationality.
- The police have the right to: take **photos** of you, and to take **forensic** evidence including fingerprints and DNA. They can use **reasonable force** if you try and refuse.
- The police need a **warrant** for **blood** or **urine** samples, except in drink/drug driving cases, and to **strip** search or **invasive** search you (internal exam).
- Strip search requires **authorisation** from an inspector/senior custody officer present, and a **doctor** will carry out an invasive search and take blood/urine samples.

What happens to your data:

- If you're convicted your information and samples will be stored permanently in the police database with your criminal record. This also applies if you're under 18. Otherwise the information is destroyed unless you've accepted an alternative to prosecution (where it will be held for 2-3 years). If you're found not guilty/your case is dropped for a violent/sexual offense your information is held for 3 years. Police can apply to court to keep your DNA for a period of 2 years at a time.
- You can request your information to be removed by writing to your local police station.

How long you can be held + restrictions on release:

- The police can hold you for up to **12 hours** until they have to charge or release you. This can be extended to **24 hours** if a senior officer agrees. You can be held for up to **14 days** if arrested under the **terrorism act**.
- You can be **arrested repeatedly** for the same offence, but your **total custody time** cannot last more than **12 hours**. You can only be kept in police custody if it is

necessary, e.g. if you may commit another crime or if they want to keep questioning you.

- **Investigative Liberation:** this places restrictions on your freedoms when you are released, e.g. don't speak to certain people. These conditions can't last over **28 days**, and you have the right to appeal to a **sheriff court** if you disagree with them. If you break any conditions it is a **criminal offence**.

Differences for Under 18s/Vulnerable Adults

- For **16/17 year olds**, you have a right for an adult to be told you are in custody and for this adult to visit for comfort/support (cannot be to socialise). The police can request that you are visited by a social worker/professional instead if the adult will affect your wellbeing or the investigation, or if they are not available.
- For **16/17 year olds**, you must use a solicitor's advice if you do not want an adult told about your arrest, and you can only turn down a solicitor if your named adult agrees.
- For **vulnerable adults**, the police can contact an appropriate adult to attend while you are questioned, and to help you, but they cannot give you legal advice.

Your Rights

Human Rights:

You have a right to peacefully assemble, a right to privacy and a right to protest. If you get injured, you have the right to receive medical care. Police must avoid the use of force.

- **Article 9:** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
- **Article 10:** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.
- **Article 18:** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- **Article 19:** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- **Article 20:**
 - 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
 - 2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.
- **Article 25:**
 - 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
 - 2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.
- **Article 26:**
 - 1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made

generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

- 2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- 3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.
- **Article 28:** Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.
- **Article 29:**
 - 1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
 - 2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
 - 3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

European Convention of Human Rights

Article 5:

3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

- (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
- (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;
- (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
- (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against

him;

(e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

Article 10: freedom of expression

3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

(a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

(b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;

(c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

(e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association

3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

(a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

(b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;

(c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

(e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

Helplines and Contact Info

Green & Black Cross:

- **07946 541 511**
- Protest legal support helpline
- for police misconduct, and advice on rights for protest attendance/organising.

London 24/7 solicitor support:

- Commons Legal: **020 3865 5403**
- ITN Solicitors: **020 3909 8100**
- Hodge Jones & Allen: **0844 848 0222**
- Bindmans: **020 7305 5638**

Scotland Community & Activist Legal Project (scalp)

- Reporting an arrest: <https://arrestwatch.scot/>
- Reporting a release: <https://arrestwatch.scot/pss>

Organising Protests

Guide/info on organising in-person protests.

Liberty.org.uk have a lot of resources on organising protests:

https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/how-to-organise-a-protest/

The Activist Handbook has more detailed guides and videos on campaigning, strategy and support: <https://activisthandbook.org>

Steps to cover:

- Reach out to other people who might be interested in being an organiser. The more help you get the better.
- Solidify what your overall goals are, who you're trying to target with your protest, and what action you want them to take.
 - Examples could be: trying to raise awareness to the people around and getting them to engage with your cause, convincing a company to change its policies, showing support or solidarity with a movement, counter-demonstrating against another event.
- Decide on the location and form of protest
 - e.g. Picketing, protest marches, sit-ins, walk outs, etc.
- Decide on the day, date and time. Consider who you want to target, who you want to attend your protest, and practicalities such as transport/ the weather/conflicting with other events. Also consider when would have the most effect, such as a day relevant to your issue or at the visit of an important figure.
- Plan your programme for the event. This could include speeches, entertainment, specific acts, and/or a march. Decide what protest tactics you want to incorporate; e.g. civil obedience/disobedience, performance art, visual art, picketing, etc.
- Form a plan of promotion for the protest. This could include in person advertising, social media or physical flyers/ads.
- Consider:
 - transport
 - costs
 - medical facilities/first aiders
 - toilets
 - bins

- signs/banners
- crowd control
- clean-up
- post-demonstration activities

Legalities:

Legal Observers:

- it is recommended to have legal observers who can monitor police activity and provide any legal advice needed. They are independent and legally trained.

Bust Cards:

- If you are concerned about legal trouble it is recommended to have/provide cards containing information on what to do if you're arrested. The page https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/protest-bust-cards-with-translations/ has bust cards in many languages, along with more specific helplines/support.

Written Warnings for marches/stationary protests:

- For a protest march you have a legal responsibility to provide written warning to local police at least 6 days in advance, unless the protest is an immediate response to something and it would not be reasonably practical to do so. Otherwise failure to provide correct written details at appropriate notice could be considered a crime. You must tell them the date/time of the march, route, and the names/addresses of the organisers.
- You do not have to provide written notice for a stationary protest.
- If you wish to protest at the Scottish Parliament, you are encouraged to contact the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to request permission. If you are denied permission you should be informed why. These are not essential to follow. <https://www.parliament.scot/get-involved/organising-a-protest/protest-policy> has information on specific restrictions.

Police Actions

- Police have a **legal obligation** to help protests take place. You are at full rights to ignore any requests to financially compensate police for attending your protest if they decide this is necessary.
- Police can **legally restrict human rights** on a protest if there is a law allowing police to limit rights, or if there is a legitimate aim. A 'legitimate aim' includes: preventing crime or disorder, protecting public health, and protecting others' rights. The limits placed must be proportional.
- To put limits on a protest, the officer must **reasonably believe** that the protest may cause the following: serious **public disorder**, serious **damage** to property, serious **disruption** to the life of the community, noise generated may lead to serious disruption to activities of a nearby organisation and/or have a relevant impact on people in the area, or if the purpose is to **intimidate** others.

- Any conditions must be **communicated in writing** from the relevant force's commissioner or chief constable. These conditions must follow **anti-discrimination laws**.
- A Commissioner/Chief Constable can **prohibit a stationary protest** within 5 miles for up to 4 days. The **home secretary must agree**, but they must **reasonably believe** that the planned protest is likely to **tresspass**, and may cause either **serious disruption** to the life of the community, or **serious damage** to important land/buildings/monuments.
- Commissioner/Chief Constable can **prohibit protest marches** in a specific area for up to 3 months, but the **home secretary must agree** and reasonably believe that the conditions won't be enough to prevent serious **public disorder** because of the specific circumstances in that area.
- Prohibitions should only happen in exceptional circumstances.
- It is a **criminal offence** to not **comply** with imposed conditions, to **incite** others to breach conditions, to **go to/organise** a prohibited march or incite others to do so.
- **'Serious disruption to life of community'** includes any protest that may 'by way of a physical obstruction': prevent or hinder in a way that's more than minor day to day activities including journeys, prevent or delay in a way that is more than minor the delivery of a time sensitive product, or prevent or disrupt in a way that is more than minor access to essential goods/services. applies to static and marches.

For one-person protests:

- **noise conditions** can be put on a single person protest, and conditions on the route/entering a public place.
- Any conditions must be communicated in writing from the relevant force's **commissioner or chief constable**. These conditions must follow **anti-discrimination laws**.

London Specific:

- Restrictions surrounding **West Minister Parliament**: limiting amplified noise, tents or sleeping equipment. Also obstructing access to parliament, around parliament square and some of the surrounding roads. You are not allowed to obstruct vehicles entering/exiting the grounds

Consequences:

- **being a protest organiser and breaching a condition** that has been imposed by a cop that you know/ought to have known about could land up to 6 months in prison or a fine up to level 4 on standard scale (2.5k) or both.
- **Attending a protest and breaching a condition** imposed by cops that you knew/ought to have known about gives a fine up to level 4 standard scale (2.5k).
- **Inciting another person to attend a protest and breach a condition** known about/ought to have known about could land up to 6 months in prison or a fine up to level 4 standard scale (2.5k)
- **Intentionally or recklessly causing "public nuisance"** is now a crime, when you create a risk of/cause serious harm to the public or a section of the public, or prevent the public/section of from exercising their rights. You are guilty if you intend your behaviour to have this consequence or you are reckless of your actions consequences. 'Serious harm' in this context means death, personal injury or

disease, loss of or damage to property, serious distress, serious annoyance, serious inconvenience, or serious loss of amenity. If guilty in magistrates court you face up to 12 months in prison, an unlimited fine or both. If guilty in crown court you face up to 10 years in prison, unlimited fine, or both. 'Reasonable excuse' is a defence but it is unclear how that works in court.

- **Willful obstruction of the highway** is now a criminal offence punishable with 6 months prison, unlimited fine, or both. More info at libertyhumanrights.org.uk

Woodcraft Folk Ideals and Policy

Aims and Principles:

- Education for Social Change
- Co-operation
- International Friendship
- Children's Rights
- Equality and Inclusion
- Nature and Environment
- Peace

Woodcraft Policy:

It is legitimate to represent Woodcraft Folk at any protest/event. Woodcraft Folk is a political youth organisation, and therefore do not have to remain impartial towards local or global situations.

Resources

Useful Websites:

- [Libertyhumanrights.org.uk](https://libertyhumanrights.org.uk) has practical guides for protesting, legal information, information on current issues, and petitions.
- [Activisthandbook.org](https://activisthandbook.org) Has guides for activists, and information on activism terminology and strategies.
- [Groups.friendsoftheearth.uk](https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk) Has information and resources for campaigning, climate action, and practicalities such as ethically sharing stories and fundraising.
- [Hrc.org](https://hrc.org) Is an American resource but has resources for safety in protesting, and global resources relating to LGBTQ+ issues along with religion and sexual health.
- amnesty.org Have information on rights, international laws, current issues, and practical protest advice.
- [Humanrightscareers.com](https://humanrightscareers.com) Have information on current issues and types of activism.
- <https://commonslibrary.org/activist-resource-hub/> Has resources on practical aspects of activism and campaigns, and inspiration.
- <https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/penalties-sentences-police> Has information about the arrest process from initial arrest to any potential penalties and use of your data.
- https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_ENG Has the complete list of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from the European Convention on Human Rights.
- <https://www.findaprotest.info/?search=London&page=1> Has information about protests happening (primarily London based)
- [Standuptoracism.org.uk](https://standuptoracism.org.uk) Has posters and information regarding racism and anti-immigrant hate.
- [Advicenow.org.uk](https://advicenow.org.uk) Has Legal information
- <https://www.advicenow.org.uk/get-help/civil-rights/protest-rights> Has information on protest rights
- <https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/news/resources-and-support-during-current-racism-and-protests-uk> Has links to activism advice and safety, resources for teachers tackling far right extremism, and links to support for victims of extremism and hate crimes, and young people generally.
- <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/category/teachers/classroom-resources/> Has group night resources for addressing hate, extremism and misinformation.
- <https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Public-unrest-and-Disinformation-Signposting.pdf> Has links to resources supporting young people and communities following civil unrest, discrimination and violence.

- <https://www.youthmusic.org.uk/resources/black-lives-matter-important-information-resources> Has resources for education against racism (including ways to support, critical race theory and anti-racism for white people), music and education focused resources, books, social media accounts and charities/organisations.

Resources for Group Nights

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<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/category/teachers/classroom-resources/>
<https://youthaspireconnect.org.uk/resources/>