

Know Your Rights:

Protest Toolkit for the United States

A one-page guide to help you stay safe, prepared, and informed when exercising your right to protest.

Before You Go

- Drop a pin and tell someone you trust about your route and when to expect you back
- Pack essentials: water, snacks, ID, first aid kit, phone battery pack
- Secure your devices with passcodes and disable biometric unlocking
- Non-citizens should consider potential immigration consequences of protesting

Create an Arrest Safety Plan

- Tell a trusted friend or family member that you are protesting
- Share emergency contacts and ensure they are available to care for children/pets if you are arrested
- Bring necessary medications, but know they may be confiscated
- Find a protest buddy for mutual safety and observation of police

During the Protest

- Stay alert and know your exit routes
- You have the right to protest and record police (*some states have distance requirements*)
- Document police badge numbers and tactics
- Be aware that you're under surveillance and avoid press interviews

If You're Arrested

- Exercise your right to remain silent
- Ask to speak with an attorney
- Don't consent to searches of your phone or belongings, say "I do not consent to this search"
- Provide only basic information: name and address
- Don't sign anything without legal counsel

Common Terms to Know

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Kettling
Trapping protesters using barriers to trap protesters and force mass arrests | 2 "Less Lethal Force"
Batons, tear gas, rubber bullets that can still cause serious injury | 3 Legal Observers
Trained individuals documenting police actions at protests | 4 Bail Fund
Community funds to help detained protesters post bail |
|--|---|---|--|