

GOING ON A PROTEST?

THIS IS SUPER IMPORTANT
INFO THAT COULD

- MAKE YOUR PROTEST MORE
EFFECTIVE
- MAKE YOU & YOUR MATES
LESS LIKELY TO GET BUSTED

If you or a mate are arrested remember:

Except for your name and address, say

NO COMMENT to ALL questions

Don't use a duty solicitor. When in London, people often ask for BINDMANS SOLICITORS or another firm with experience helping protesters

BEFORE YOU GO

What to wear

Even if you aren't going to get up to anything the more folk that mask up the better. This is a collective movement: by masking up, you help protect the people who are more anxious about their presence on the demo. Stay masked up when arriving/leaving actions, because cops and journalists never stop taking pictures.

- Bland, darkish clothes make it harder to pick you out.
- Cheap clothes: swapping clothes during a demo makes it almost impossible for the police to identify people, so bring extras, and don't wear your favourite gear.
- Cover your whole face apart from your eyes, not just your chin and mouth. Strips of cloth work well, and keep swapping them around!

Things to bring! :)

- Food & water
- Lots of layers (and an extra jumper)
- Legal number written on your arm
- Bust cards to hand out to other people
- A pencil and a notepad

Things *NOT* to bring :(

- ID. This includes your bank cards: bring cash instead
- you don't have to bring your phone: if you're searched, the police might steal it! If you need a phone, have one just for demonstrations with very few numbers saved in it. If you do take your phone and it has a camera...

Photograph with care!

Sticking photos and videos up on facebook and youtube can be DANGEROUS. The cops trawl these sites gathering info. Don't make it easy for them!

Buddy up

If you think you're up for an eventful day, it's best to go with a small group you trust; a good size is between 6-12 people. Keep an eye out for each other, count up after police charges and arrange meeting points if you get split up. Act as a thinking group: everyone should know who is prepared for confrontation or not. Stay in pairs, and always stick with your buddy and look after each other!

Be prepared

If you're actually planning on getting arrested, make sure your group has a legal observer around, and make sure you know your rights.

DURING THE PROTEST

Control the vibe

Containment tactics are meant to keep our spirits down; similarly, police charges get a crowd angry. But you help can decide how the crowd feels, rather than the police. Mellow or fast music and chants help. Decide together how you want to change the situation.

Watch the police

Keep an eye on police movements. Usually you can see when they are preparing to kettle, and that's the time to break out and head somewhere else. Look for the officers with brightly coloured shoulder pads or helmets: where they point, that's where the police are going to go next.

De-arresting

Police are only likely to get heavier. If someone is getting nicked, if you can and are up for it, try and grab them back off the police by pulling on the body of your friend. If someone is rescued they should get out of there and swap clothes with some mates.

Stick together and keep moving

Moving around and not staying in one place makes it harder to kettle you. Stick with your group, and make sure no one gets left behind.

Turn the kettle off!

Apart from being very boring and cold, containment allows the police to control our movements, keep us from spreading the action, and nick who they want. It IS possible to break out of kettles if you are determined and form a wedge. Forming a line by linking your arms is the first step; the rest is wiggling, with one part of the line driving forward.

Don't co-operate

You don't need to cooperate with being photographed. Put your head down, walk backwards, let your hair hang forward etc. A collective united response to attempts to get personal details and images is best. You might be kept hanging about for a while but in the end if there are enough people resisting it may well work.

If assaulted

- Stay calm. Avoid escalating the situation and risking finding yourself the one being done for assault.
- Make a mental note of the description of the person

who assaulted you and ideally their name/ID. Write it all down AS SOON as practical.

- Don't forget to note down when and where it happened.
- Look around to see who witnessed the assault. As soon as practical, get their contact details and ask them to write a brief statement about what they saw. Especially look around for people with cameras who may have footage/photos of the incident.
- If someone is injured: Find an Action Medic if you can, and get to the nearest hospital asap.

If arrested:

Check out a bust card for full info but above all remember:

- Except for your name and address, say NO COMMENT to ALL questions & don't sign anything
- Don't use a duty solicitor. When in London, people often recommend asking for BINDMANS SOLICITORS

Ditch the kit

Remember, if you've got anything on you which the police might think is suspicious, be prepared to ditch it if the police are doing stop and searches. You can always beg/borrow more stuff: you can't get out of a cell so easily. Get rid of any dodgy images or leaflets as well.

AFTER THE PROTEST

- Be careful what you say to who. Admit any involvement in anything dodgy ONLY to people you really trust, and not where you might be overheard.

IF you fear you may be arrested

- Don't panic. Press photos are not conclusive evidence, and just because the police have a photo of you doesn't mean they know who you are. 'That isn't me' has got many a person off before now.

- Don't hand yourself in. The police often use the psychological pressure of knowing they have your picture to persuade you to 'come forward'. Unless you have a very pressing reason to do otherwise, let them come and find you, if they know who you are.

- Get rid of your clothes. There is no chance of suggesting the person in the video is not you if the clothes they are wearing have been found in your wardrobe. Get rid of ALL clothes you were wearing at the demo, including YOUR SHOES, your bag, and any distinctive jewellery.

- Keep away from other demonstrations for a while. The police will be on the look-out at other protests, especially student ones, for people they have put on their 'wanted' list. Keep a low profile.

- Change your appearance. Perhaps now is a good time for that make-over. Get a haircut and colour, grow a beard, wear glasses. It isn't a guarantee, but may help throw them off the scent.

- Keep your house clean. Get rid of spray cans, demo related stuff, and dodgy texts / photos on your phone. Don't make life easy for them by having drugs, weapons or anything illegal in the house.

Look after each other

After a long day's protesting, you need to look after each other. Lots of people forget about this, but it's really important.

- Talk about your experience: fighting the state ain't easy! You've all gone through something really stressful.

- Get some sleep, relax, and know that there are thousands of people inspired by what you and your mates have done, and are ready to fill the gaps if people need time out.