



Nonviolent Activist Strategies

By Henna Maria, Police for Freedom, 18th March 2021

1. Realise that police have been largely conditioned to believe that people who protest against government restrictions and lockdowns are crazy, selfish people who endanger others. Our job is to prove them wrong, by demonstrating through our actions how peaceful, responsible, moral and intelligent we are.
2. We can communicate our message with reason, science, compassion and patience. Shouting at the police, shaming them or viewing them as our enemies will only cause further conflict and hinder our movement.
3. Have a collective agreement on the activist code of conduct in the manifestations, communicate amongst the group the values that all promise to uphold, and the strategies for police encounters. This will aid us in spotting possible implanted provocateurs from our ranks.
4. Establish a team who is responsible for police liaison for any event, before, during and after. Failure to communicate with the police can lead to negative police interference and surprise arrests.
5. Be transparent, in order to build trust, accountability and a long term relationship with the local police. It is important that the police know what are our intentions, what we are going to do in our demonstrations and what is the urgent reason for us to disobey the government mandates.
6. Film all actions to have clear evidence of the events.

If you see police approaching you in a hostile way:

- Stay together in large groups. Do not run away. Separating from the group can expose you to singled out police attacks. Any unpredicted panic fuelled movement from our part can lead to fearful and unpredicted reaction from the police. Remember, the police also feel fear.
- Sit down immediately together, sitting on top of your hands, with your hands in prayer, or linking your arms together.
- Sing, pray or chant a peaceful message together to de-escalate and calm the situation.