



UNMUTED:

DISSENT IN MONOCHROME

A guide to safe & lawful protesting

PEACE IS THE GOAL

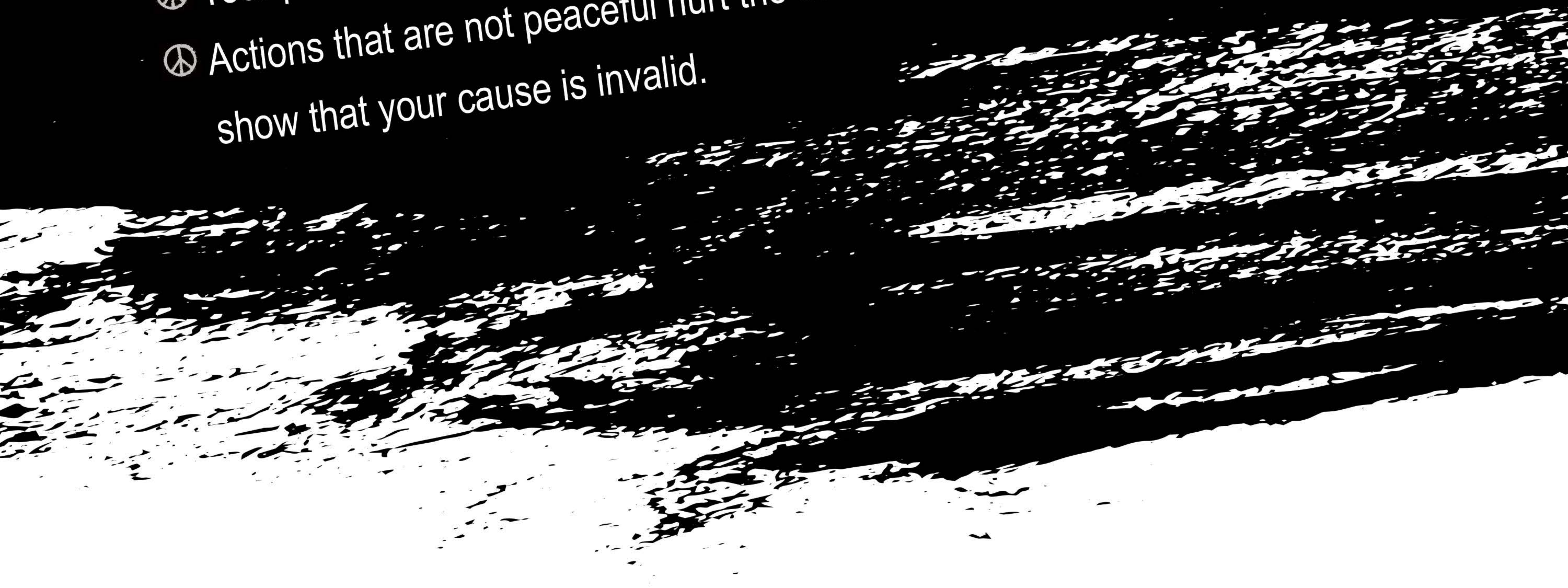
☺ The immediate goal of protesting is not change, it is voicing your concerns.

Like water eroding a mountain, change happens slowly and over time.

☺ You should focus on getting your voice heard and getting home safely.

☺ Your presence brings attention to the cause and support to those affected.

☺ Actions that are not peaceful hurt the cause. They are waiting for something to show that your cause is invalid.



WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

- ✓ A small, durable backpack. Consider buying a lock to keep it closed
- ✓ Identification. Check your state's laws on when you are required to id to police
- ✓ A locked phone. Disable your facial and biometrics
- ✓ \$20 cash
- ✓ Water and a snack
- ✓ Face mask or balaclava
- ✓ Hat and/or sunglasses



DO NOT BRING

Weapons!!!
Fireworks/Explosives
Tools
Children (If not appropriate)
Valuables
Alcohol or drugs
Contact lenses



The First Admendment

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Stay on public property like streets, sidewalks, and parks. You can also likely speak out in other public areas, like the open spaces in front of government buildings. Make sure you're not blocking people from getting into the building or stopping them from using the space for its normal purpose.

You can hand out papers with your ideas and website information. Please try not to leave trash behind! Leaving the space better than you found it will help your cause.

Chanting and singing are great ways to engage the group and passers by. Words said in peace cannot be censored. Kindly tell police to fuck off.

Photography is a first admendment right upheld by the Supreme Court.

"...nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself..."

If the police ask you a question, you have the right to remain silent. Your fifth admendment protections begin before being arrested, but you must invoke them. The police are not there to help you, they are there to investigate you. Don't help them!

Consider this sample conversation:

Police: Have you been here long?

You: At this time I am invoking my 5th admendment rights.

Police: I am just trying to help you. Have you been here long?

You:

Police: If you don't talk to me, I will arrest you.

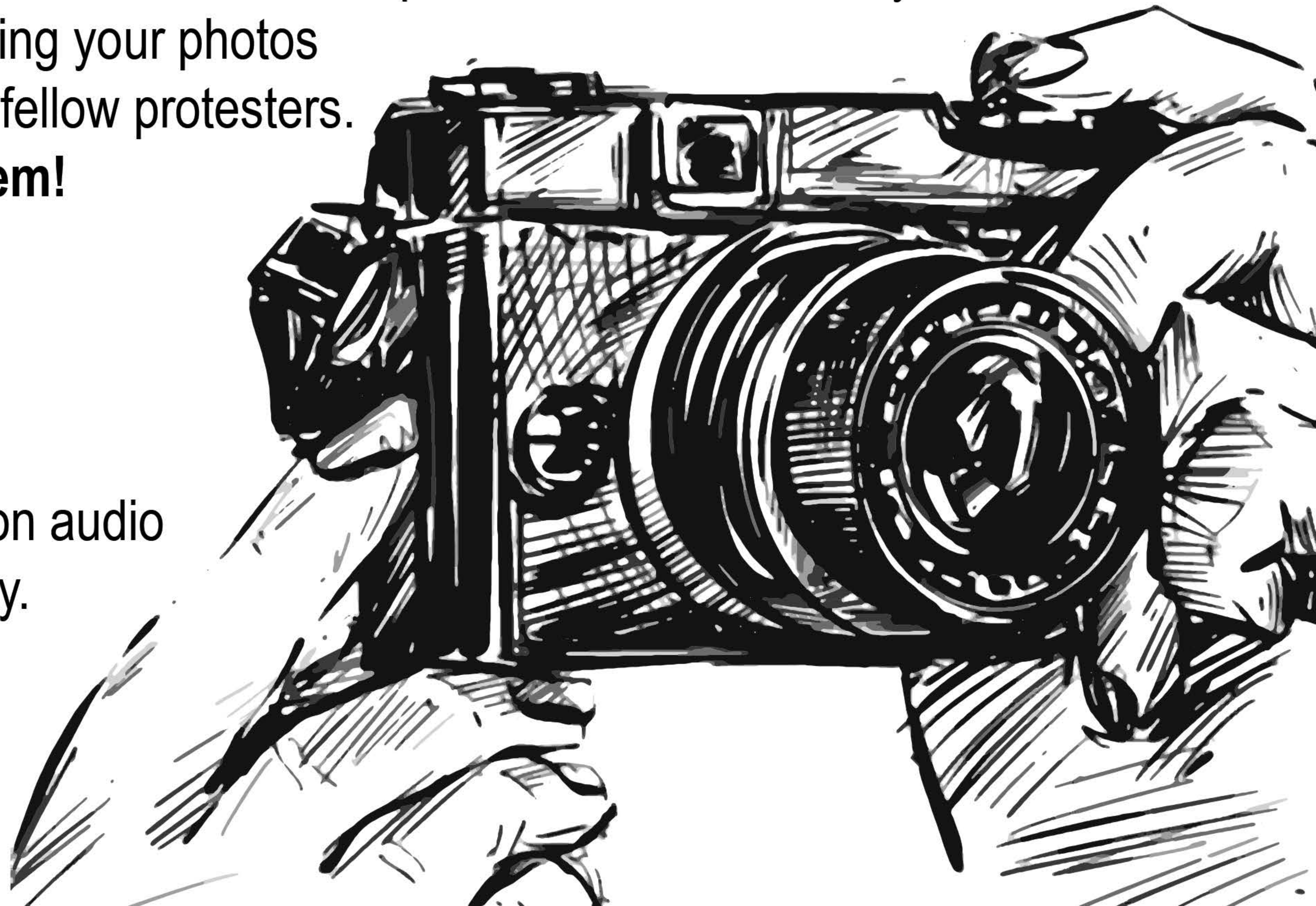
You:

If the police want to arrest you, they can do it without your help. Shut your mouth. There is nothing you can say that will help you, it will only be used against you. Don't forget, they can legally lie to you...and they will.



PHOTOGRAPHY

- Taking photographs of things that are in plain view from a public space is a First Amendment protected activity. “The First Amendment goes beyond protection of the press and self-expression of individuals to prohibit government from limiting the stock of information from which members of the public may draw.” -7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
- Taking photos and video is not for social media or publication. It is to hold your government accountable. Sharing your photos can endanger the lives of your fellow protesters.
Don't film them, don't out them!
- Film the police and media.
Your camera kills fascism.
- Courts have not always sided on audio recording as a protected activity.
Check your local laws.





IS IT TIME TO LEAVE?

Remember, you are attending a protest, not a riot. You are there to be peaceful, not violent. It is time to leave when:

- Ⓐ Police issue an order to disperse. This is a legal action and you must obey. The police will announce the order. You need to gather your belongings and vacate the area.
- Ⓐ Another protester becomes violent, throws something, or begins to incite a riot. Staying once violent behavior takes place could make you an accomplice.
- Ⓐ Counter-protests pose safety concerns. This can be people infiltrating your protest to undermine your message or intent. Don't allow them to destroy what you have done.



RESOURCES

This guide is not meant to provide legal advice. Consult with an attorney before engaging in a protest. Keep yourself safe and lawful.

U.S. Constitution

ACLU- Protesters' Rights

National Lawyers Guild

NYU School of Law- Protest Tips