

Women in Industrial Design Chicago

Protester's Handbook

A Guide to Protesting Safely

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Why do people attend protests?

Historically, protests have often inspired positive social change and the advancement of human rights, and they continue to help define and protect civic spaces in all parts of the world.

Protests encourage the development of an engaged and informed citizenry. They strengthen representative democracy by enabling direct participation in public affairs. They enable individuals and groups to express dissent and grievances, to share views and opinions, to expose flaws in governance and to publicly demand that the authorities and other powerful entities rectify problems and are accountable for their actions.

This is especially important for those whose interests are otherwise poorly represented or marginalized.

Because protests and peaceful assemblies are considered critical to a healthy democracy, the United States has protected the peoples' right to assemble under the First Amendment.

Disclaimer

The majority of the information in this zine was collected from third party sources. We recommend that you do additional research into your rights and protesting procedures before attending an event. We cannot offer legal counsel on rights infringement or any other issues and recommended you consult an attorney if you feel your rights have been violated.

Please reference the sources page at the end of this document for more information on any of the topics discussed in this zine.

Justice for George Floyd

George Floyd dies in police custody.

George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, died at the hands of white police officer Derek Chauvin on Monday May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bystanders captured video footage of Chauvin with his knee on Floyd's neck, pinning him to the ground behind his police car for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. George Floyd is heard repeatedly saying, **"I can't breathe."**

The disturbing footage was captured on video by bystanders and shared widely on social media, which not only led to community outrage, but also the firing and arrest of the offending officer, Derek Chauvin. Chauvin was initially charged with third degree murder but the charges were later increased to second degree murder due to public outcry and protests supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

The three officers that were on the scene and complicit in Floyd's death were also fired from the Minneapolis Police Department and later charged with aiding and abetting second degree murder. They have been identified as Thomas Lane, Tou Thao, and J. Alexander Kueng.*

In a statement from Floyd's family, they say the charges did not go far enough and call for a first degree murder charge to be brought against Chauvin. Their statement also added: "The pain that the Black community feels over this murder and what it reflects about the treatment of Black people in America is raw and is spilling out onto streets across America."

Since the death of George Floyd, protests have broken out across the country. What started as a demand for justice for Floyd has continued to fuel the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. Protests are calling for justice for the killers of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Elijah McClain and the countless number of Black people murdered because of the color of their skin.

*Note: these were the facts revealed to the public at the time of this zine's publication.



A man holds a megaphone at the Black Lives Matter protest in Washington DC 6/6/2020

Protest Prep

There are a few things you should do before attending a protest to make it as safe as possible. It is important to wear proper clothing, notify someone of your whereabouts, and have some necessities with you.

What to Bring to a Protest

- **Water**
- **A bag or backpack**
- **Snacks**
- **Suitable clothing:** It is best to wear something nondescript, cover identifying tattoos, and wear a hair covering if your hair is a distinguishable feature. Look for clothing that covers the majority of your skin and can be layered.
- **Comfortable, closed-toe shoes**
- **Your ID,** depending on your state's requirements
- **Cash**
- **Any critical medications,** in the event that you are detained. Make sure these are legal and prescribed to you.
- **The phone number of an emergency contact and/or attorney;** it is best to memorize these if possible.
- **Feminine products,** if applicable. It is recommended that menstruating individuals avoid using tampons during a protest because access to restrooms may be limited which could increase the risk of toxic shock syndrome.
- **Shatter resistant goggles**
- **A face covering:** This is especially important for protests occurring in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Face coverings can also help protect you from chemical exposure.
- **A small first aid kit**
- **Protest signs**

What you Should Leave at Home

- **Your phone.** If you choose to bring a smartphone, make sure you take reasonable precautions to protect your personal data, including turning off your cellular data, disabling biometric unlocking, and using a lengthy and unique passcode. You could also bring a burner phone instead.
- Anything you would not want to be arrested with, such as illegal drugs, weapons, etc.
- **Jewelry**
- **Contact lenses.** It is recommended that you remove contact lenses if you worried about exposure to tear gas or pepper spray as they can become trapped underneath your contacts and make the chemical exposure more uncomfortable. If you need prescription eyewear, wear your glasses if possible.

Additional steps you may want to take in preparation

Please be aware that neither of these lists are exhaustive list and your personal situation may require less or additional items. Bringing these items are a good first step in preparing for a protest, but it is also important that you notify a trusted family member or friend of where you will be.

If possible, try to attend a protest with friends or family members. Protests can involve hundreds or even thousands of people and being in a small group can

make the experience safer. Just make sure your whole group is prepared beforehand and come up with a plan in the event that you get separated during the protest.

It is important to keep in mind that even peaceful protests can be overwhelming and situations can change quickly. However, taking the proper precautions beforehand can help you stay safe in any situation.





Know your rights. Make a plan.

The First Amendment protects your right to assemble and express your views through protest. However, police and other government officials are allowed to place certain narrow restrictions on the exercise of speech rights. Make sure you're prepared by brushing up on your rights before heading out into the streets.

Disclaimer: These rights were obtained from the ACLU website. We recommend that you do additional research into your rights as a protester before attending an event. We cannot offer legal counsel on rights infringement or any other issues and recommended you consult an attorney if you feel your rights have been violated.

Your Rights

- Your rights are strongest in what are known as “traditional public forums,” such as streets, sidewalks, and parks. In most cases, you also have the right to speak out in other places that are considered public property, like plazas in front of government buildings, as long as you are not blocking access to the government building or interfering with other purposes the property was designed for.
 - Private property owners can set rules for speech on their property. The government may not restrict your speech if it is taking place on your own property or with the consent of the property owner.
 - Counter-protesters also have free speech rights. Police must treat protesters and counter-protesters equally. Police are permitted to keep antagonistic groups separated but should allow them to be within sight and sound of one another.
 - When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including federal buildings and the police. On private property, the owner may set rules related to photography or video.
- You don’t need a permit to march in the streets or on sidewalks, as long as marchers don’t obstruct car or pedestrian traffic. If you don’t have a permit, police officers can ask you to move to the side of a street or sidewalk to let others pass, or for safety reasons.



What to do if you believe your rights have been violated:

- When you can, write down everything you can remember, including the officers' badge number, patrol car numbers, and the agency they work for.
- Get contact information for witnesses.
- Take photographs of any injuries.
- Once you have all of this information, you can file a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.



What happens if the police issues an order to disperse the protest:

- Shutting down a protest through a dispersal order must be law enforcement's last resort. Police may not break up a gathering unless there is a clear and present danger of riot, disorder, interference with traffic, or other immediate threat to public safety.
- If officers issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply, including sufficient time and a clear, unobstructed exit path.
- Individuals must receive clear and detailed notice of a dispersal order, including how much time they have to disperse, the consequences of failing to disperse, and what clear exit route they can follow, before they may be arrested or charged with any crime.

Demand Justice



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Post-Protest

You may have taken precautions during the protest to ensure your safety and well-being, but there are still a few things you might consider doing to add another layer of protection after the protest is over. These are particularly important for protests happening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Undress as soon as you get home and immediately wash all clothing you wore to the protest. Washing your hands,

taking a shower, and disinfecting any hard items you may have brought with you (such as cellphones and glasses) can help give you some peace of mind that you are not bringing in any unwanted germs into your home.

For additional information, click [here](#) to visit the CDC website and read more about protecting yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19.



The crowd kneels at the Black Lives Matter protest in Washington DC 6/6/2020

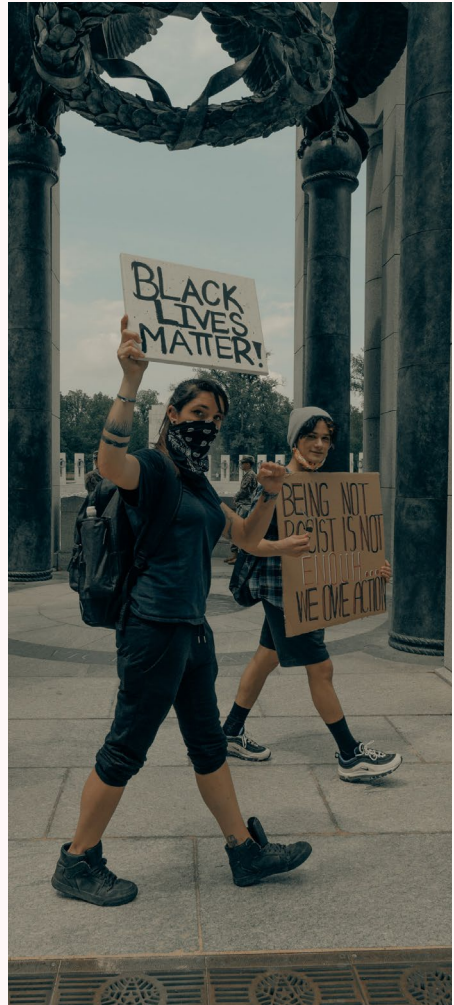
Virtual Protesting

How to get involved when you can't be there in person.

Online protesting can be an extremely powerful tool to push for change. It is also a safer form of protest for vulnerable people or anyone who does not feel safe attending a physical protest.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals who have a greater risk of contracting the virus need to be protected from exposure to crowds, and consequently it is recommended that those individuals do not attend a physical protest. There are also immigrants who want to be heard and demand justice, but could be risking their visas and deportation by attending a protest. Although protests are an important part of American democracy, vulnerable groups, minority groups, etc should not feel obligated to risk their lives and livelihoods by attending a physical protest.

Online protesting can be a way for these groups to be active in demanding a more egalitarian society, and there are many ways for individuals to contribute.



The impact of online activism

Online activism may be more powerful than you think. In the recent years, the Internet has been part of our daily routine as an essential tool for socialization and information. Our world is more connected than ever before, and the Internet has been key to giving a voice to many minorities that were once unheard. A good example of a successful online movement was the #MeToo movement, founded by Tarana Burke.

In the same vein, is the Black Lives Matter movement. The phrase “Black Lives Matter” was first used by a Black community organizer on Facebook in 2013. The phrase was created in response to George Zimmerman’s acquittal for the death of Black teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida. The hashtag #blacklivesmatter took five years to receive widespread attention and many lives were lost in the process. Since the murder of George Floyd on May 25th 2020, the movement had been revived and is continuing to garner attention. The #blacklivesmatter hashtag was used roughly 47.8 million times on Twitter from May 26 to June 7, accordingly to the Pew Research Center. On May 28th, three days after the death of George Floyd in police custody, the hashtag reached its peak of 8.8 million shares, nationally and globally.

After the first protests sparked by George Floyd’s death, and the strengthening of hashtags such as #blacklivesmatter and #justiceforgeorgefloyd, people have started to look for ways to educate themselves on issues related to racism. Among the 10 most

purchased books on Amazon, 7 are related to political, social, and environmental issues. Titles such as “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” (2018) and “How to be an Antiracist” (2019) take 2nd and 4th place on the list respectively as of July 2nd, 2020.

In the political sphere, Democrats in Congress have unveiled a bill to rein in excessive force in policing. According to the New York Times, this bill aims to identify, track, and prosecute police brutality, making police officers accountable for their approach to civilians. It is the most impactful intervention on policing practices that has been proposed in recent history.

The recent protests have also made a critical impact on the opinion of American voters. A national poll by The New York Times and Siena College concludes that potential voters ultimately support the demonstrations against systemic racism and police misconduct. This research is evidence that the protests have significantly impacted the public opinion on race, creating potential allies for minority movements, which have been neglected for decades.

Whether you choose to attend a physical protest or not, it is critical to keep in mind the role online activism plays in furthering minority movements. In the following sections, you will find donation sites, petitions and other ways to put pressure on your representatives to demand concrete change from local and national authorities.

Donation Sites

Click the organization names below to donate.

Black Lives Matter

"Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes."

NAACP Empowerment Programs

"Engages primarily in training, education, and advocacy at the national and local levels. Your gift will help us continue working toward our mission of ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

Communities United Against Police Brutality

"is a Twin-Cities based organization that was created to deal with police brutality on an ongoing basis. We work on the day-to-day abuses as well as taking on the more extreme cases. Our overriding goal is to create a climate of resistance to abuse of authority by police organizations and to empower local people with a structure that can take on police brutality and actually bring it to an end. We provide support for survivors of police brutality and families of victims so they can reclaim their dignity and join the struggle to end police brutality."

Campaign Zero

“Funds donated to Campaign Zero support the analysis of policing practices across the country, research to identify effective solutions to end police violence, technical assistance to organizers leading police accountability campaigns and the development of model legislation and advocacy to end police violence nationwide.”



American Civil Liberties Union

“The ACLU has evolved in the years since from this small group of idealists into the nation’s premier defender of the rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. (...) the ACLU of today continues to fight government abuse and to vigorously defend individual freedoms including speech and religion, a woman’s right to choose, the right to due process, citizens’ rights to privacy and much more.”

Petitions

Click the organization name below to sign the petition.

Ban the use of inhumane rubber bullets

M4BL

Justice for Breonna Taylor

Hands Up Act

We are done dying





Writing to Your Representative

A direct message to your representatives can be impactful not just for the writer, but also for the community.

Writing Tips

- Be brief and assertive. Legislative aides read many letters throughout the day, so it is important to be clear, direct, and to the point.
- State up front who you are and what you want. Tell your official who you are and what issue you are writing about. If your letter is about a specific legislation, it is helpful to mention that in your letter (e.g. H.R. ____ or S. _____).
- Causes can be validated by many different arguments, so it is a good idea to choose the strongest ones to use in your letter. Choose the argument(s) that will be most effective in persuading officials to support your demands.
- It's important to say why this issue matters to you and how it impacts your community or state. If you have a personal story that relates to your demands, it is worth mentioning in your letter. Personal experiences are easy to relate to and can be very persuasive.
- If you voted for this elected official, or contributed to his/her campaign, tell them how you participated. The more you personalize your letter, the more powerful and impactful your message is likely to be.



- Always remember that your legislator is there to represent you and your interests. You should be respectful to them, but don't be afraid to state your point of view. They may also be uneducated about your issue, so educate them through your arguments and ideas.
- Once you have your letter ready, you can find the contact information for your Member(s) of Congress at [Congress.org](https://www.congress.org)

The Protester's Handbook

The creation of this zine was sparked by the Black Lives Matter protests following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers on May 25, 2020. This zine is a collection of advice and information meant to help protesters stay safe while expressing their First Amendment rights. As an organization, we feel obligated to use our platform to speak out against the injustices Black people face in the United States. This zine is one of the ways we hope to support the movement and make it clear that we believe **Black Lives Matter**.

We hope the information gathered here can be a useful resource for anyone wanting to get involved in physical and/or virtual protests, both now and in the future.

This document is also meant to be a living document. If there are any errors in the information here, or anything you would like to see added to future versions, please reach out to us at idwomen.chi@gmail.com

The WIID Mission

Despite a 50/50 gender split in academia, only about 19% of the industrial design industry identifies as female. And the percentage of female creative directors and heads of design? 11%.

We decided to form WIID (Women in Industrial Design Chicago) simply because we wanted to continue the conversation about how to grow the community of female industrial designers in Chicago specifically. Our goal is to help bridge the gender gap in the industrial design industry.

By building a strong community of female industrial designers, we can show everyone that there are amazing women doing amazing things in the industrial design industry. We want to mentor women at all stages of their careers and encourage female designers to be leaders. We want to show a diversity of skills sets, demonstrating that you don't have to fit in one box to be considered a designer. We want to grow this community with a mindset of inclusion and advocate for the issues women and other minorities face in the industrial design community and the world.

Find out more at <https://womenidchi.com/>

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Click any link below to get more information.

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