

# Protest Safety Guide

## (Radical Bloom)

### Before the Protest

#### Preparation & Planning

- Research the protest details (location, time, route, expected crowd size, etc.).
- Inform a trusted friend or family member of your plans and establish a check-in system.
- Write down emergency contacts on paper in case your phone is lost or confiscated.
- Identify exit routes and safe spaces along the protest route.
- Know your rights as a protester, including what to do if detained or arrested.
- If organizing, ensure you have permits if required, but know your rights if protesting without one.

#### What to Bring

- Identification (if safe to carry) or an emergency contact card.
- Water & Snacks (stay hydrated, and bring protein-rich food).
- Cash (small bills for emergencies; avoid reliance on cards that can be tracked).
- First Aid Kit (bandages, antiseptic wipes, any necessary medications).
- A Face Mask & Goggles (for protection against tear gas or pepper spray- look into your local laws for the legality of this, **not all states allow face coverings at protests**).
- Clothing Change (blackout attire over normal clothing to blend into a crowd if necessary).
- Protest Signs (ensure they don't have identifying marks if you need to discard them quickly).
- Earplugs (for protection against crowd control noise devices).
- Hand Sanitizer & Gloves (avoid fingerprint tracking and maintain hygiene).

## **During the Protest**

### **Situational Awareness**

- Stay aware of your surroundings and avoid isolated areas.
- Stick with a group and have a buddy system.
- Watch for police movements and potential trouble spots.
- Record interactions with law enforcement if safe to do so.
- Avoid engaging with counter-protesters to prevent escalation.

### **Legal & Safety Measures**

- Do not talk to police beyond identifying yourself if required.
- If arrested, state clearly that you wish to remain silent and want a lawyer.
- Keep hands visible at all times when interacting with law enforcement.
- If detained, do not sign anything without legal representation present.
- Avoid carrying anything that could be considered a weapon.
- If tear-gassed, rinse your eyes with water or saline—do not rub them.

## **After the Protest**

### **De-escalation & Exit Strategy**

- Leave before the crowd disperses to avoid being kettled by law enforcement.
- Change clothes to avoid being identified later.
- If feeling unwell from exposure to gas or physical strain, seek medical attention.
- Document and report any misconduct by law enforcement or counter-protesters.
- Check in with your emergency contact to confirm safety.

## **Organizing a Protest**

### **Planning the Event**

- Identify a cause and set clear goals for the protest.
- Secure any necessary permits (check local laws regarding protest regulations).
- Use secure communication channels to organize (encrypted messaging apps, burner phones, etc.).
- Coordinate with medics, legal observers, and safety teams.
- Publicize the event strategically—consider potential risks of public exposure.

### **Logistics & Safety for Organizers**

- Have a designated spokesperson for media interactions.
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan.
- Designate roles (legal observers, safety marshals, medical aid, etc.).
- Prepare for counter-protests and police interactions.
- Encourage protesters to remain non-violent and de-escalate tensions.

### **Final Notes**

- Anyone can protest—your voice matters.
- Do not let fear override common sense.
- Blend in when needed; avoid making yourself a target.
- Know your rights and be prepared for multiple scenarios.
- If something feels off, trust your instincts and exit safely.

This guide is designed to help you stay safe while exercising your right to protest. Stay vigilant, stay safe, and stand firm in your beliefs. Any further questions can be directed towards Radical Bloom's general chat or further independent research. If you find any helpful resources, this document can be updated.

