SAFETY PLANNING FOR PROTESTS

In the context of protests, safety planning is about thinking through potential risks, making a communication plan, and connecting with peers.

Creating a plan ahead of time and thinking about ways to protect yourself is one way to stay safe.
EVALUATING RISK

Before you commit to attending a protest, do an assessment on your personal risk. Ask questions like:

How might my perceived identities impact the ways that police and community members interact with me?

Are there are other factors that increase risks to my safety including immigration status, outstanding warrants, or mental or physical health needs?

How is my body feeling today? Am I able to get away quickly if a situation escalates?
WHAT TO BRING + WEAR

Nondescript clothing can help reduce the likelihood of being surveilled and identified by law enforcement.

If possible, cover your hair and identifying marks like scars and tattoos.

Wear a mask to help keep you safe from the spread of COVID-19, chemical agents, and to conceal your identity.

Avoid wearing bulky backpacks or tote bags, and don't bring any prohibited substances, in case of arrest.

Bring a portable phone charger and cable.

Wear clothing and footwear you can move quickly in.
DIGITAL SAFETY PROTOCOL

If you do bring your phone, turn your location on with trusted contacts.

Location data can also make you highly traceable. You might instead consider turning your phone off, putting it on airplane mode, or leaving it at home.

Documenting police violence can be helpful, but instead of posting immediately be mindful of sharing images that have protestors face easily identifiable.

Use a face blurring app to conceal individual identities; practice using these apps in advance.

Disable face recognition and thumbprint sign-in to unlock your smartphone.
For NYC, write the phone number for the Good Call hotline on your body in sharpie: 1-833-346-6322. Good Call will provide free legal support 24/7.

You might also add other phone numbers of your personal contacts. You may not be able to access your phone or it might run out of battery.

Carry at least four quarters – jails still have pay phones and calls are not free.

Plan with your contacts in advance about whether or not you want people to tag you on social media with references to your arrest.
COMMUNICATION
SAFETY
PLANNING

Use an encrypted texting app like Signal to communicate when planning for an action and communicating during the protest.

Talk to someone who won’t be at the protest about your plan. Establish a check in time and let your person know when you’re home.

Make a plan for a meet up spot with people you are attending the protest with, in case you get separated or are unable to use your phone to connect.
OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT ACTIONS

Be a check in person for someone who is going to protests.

Contribute financially to resources supporting protests and the fight for equity.

Cover someone's shift at work or watch their kids.

Spread the word on social media, being careful not to reveal identities or locations that could be tracked by police.
AFTERCARE

Make sure you take time and space to rest, eat, and recharge afterwards.

Drink lots of water.

Be mindful of what you’ll need to meet your responsibilities after an action, including getting to work or engaging with family.
IMPORTANT NUMBERS & RESOURCES

New York City Anti-Violence Project
212-714-1141

Good Call
1-833-3-GOODCALL
(1-833-346-6322)

www.avp.org