

SAFETY MESSAGES

FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING PROTESTS

Protesting for our rights and in solidarity with one another is a huge part of our history as LGBTQ+ people, united as a human rights movement.

In a time when we are seeing escalating disinformation, stigma and violence directed at trans and gender diverse people, many of us will be attending protests and speaking out.

At protests, it's important to think about how you will stay safe. We have developed some tips for safety:

- 1 If you are organising a protest** in an area you're unfamiliar with or don't live in, make sure you've consulted with community leaders who know what's happening locally.
- 2 Know your rights.** In Australia you have a right to peacefully assemble, to privacy and to protest. But remember, in NSW, it is unlawful to protest in ways that block major roads, bridges, tunnels or public transport.
- 3 Consider downloading and printing a bust card,** a resource that contains key tips for protestors and numbers for legal support. Legal Observers NSW has bust cards that can be downloaded for free.
- 4 Consider attending with friends** or telling a friend where you'll be.
- 5 Be reflective** of your own needs and vulnerabilities which might be different to others.
- 6 Know what potential triggers may be for you** and take action to avoid or minimise these. This may involve informing support people of these.
- 7 Consider creating a safety plan** ahead of the protest. Research the protest accordingly and consider establishing meet-up locations and times in case you get separated.
- 8 When you get to the protest,** be aware of your surroundings and think about how you will exit the space if it becomes unsafe.
- 9 It's always okay to leave** if you are feeling anxious or unsafe.
- 10 Do not engage with counter-protestors,** keep the focus on the message you want to share with the public.
- 11 If the protest become violent,** stay with your friends and try to find the nearest emergency exit.
- 12 Stay hydrated,** use sunscreen, protective clothing and sunglasses to protect you from sun. Sunglasses are often shatter resistant, so this can also help keep your eyes safe from any liquids or items that could be thrown. Consider packing a basic first aid kit.
- 13 If you can, bring a camera or phone** so that you can document any acts of violence. Make sure your phone and/or camera batteries are fully charged.
- 14 Ask for consent** before taking pictures of people. Do not post images of individuals online without permission.
- 15 If you don't feel safe attending a protest,** remember there are lots of other ways to show solidarity with your communities. This could include donating to an organisation related to your cause or sharing messages of solidarity on social media.

FOR LEGAL ADVICE & SUPPORT

LawAccess NSW provides legal information and referral for people who have legal problems in NSW.

www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au | 1300 888 529

Inner City Legal Centre provides a free statewide legal advice service for the LGBTQ+ community

www.iclc.org.au | (02) 9332 1966

Redfern Legal Centre provides a free statewide legal advice service about police powers, access to police records, and police complaints.

www.rlc.org.au | (02) 9698 7277

Aboriginal Legal Service NSW provides legal support for First Nations people

www.alsnswact.org.au | 1800 765 767

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES

CounterAct provides resources, training and support for communities taking action on a range of issues

www.counteract.org.au

Legal Observer NSW provide information, resources and support on protest rights.

www.legalobserversnsw.org

Activist Rights provides information, resources and referral info on protest rights.

www.activistrights.org.au

ACON provides counselling services for LGBTQ people in need of support

www.acon.org.au | (02) 9206 2000

This resource is intended only to provide you information to consider should you voluntarily choose to attend a protest event. This information is not intended to be legal advice.

