

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Police violence and hate violence can go hand in hand. When cops approach or harass you:

Stay calm –The police may stop and detain you if they have a reasonable suspicion you committed, are committing, or are about to commit a crime.

Carry a form of ID – For trans & gender non-conforming folks, it may be a good idea to carry around a copy of your legal name change documents along with your ID. If you are arrested, you may not be placed with your own gender, but with whatever gender the police decide to assign you, or you may be placed alone. For immigrants (documented and undocumented) stopped by police for a minor offense, you may have your immigration status under review. Get a lawyer who works on immigration issues for LGBTSTGNC people (i.e. the Sylvia Rivera Law Project). Do not volunteer information about your immigration status. Ask to speak to a lawyer.

You can say “no” to a search – Police may frisk search you or pat you down if you’re believed to be a danger to others. Do not resist or push away, but tell the cop(s) that you do not give approval to any further search.

Write down the badge number – Get the cop’s badge number, name or other details. Also gather the name and numbers of any witnesses nearby.

Stay silent – If you are arrested, you can say nothing and talk to a lawyer before speaking to police. Whatever you do say may be used against you later in court. With a lawyer, you can explain your side later in court.

Get an attorney (lawyer) – If you have a lawyer, ask to see the lawyer immediately, or dial one of the LEGAL HELP numbers to get a lawyer.

After an arrest, you can make a phone call – When you are taken to a precinct or booking station for processing, ask police to contact a family member or friend. DO NOT share details of why you were stopped and arrested over the phone, even with your friends and family. Let the person you are calling know how you are doing, where you are being held, and to call a lawyer if one has not been brought to you.

To volunteer and learn more about the S.O.S. Collective and the Audre Lorde Project, reach us at the contact information below:

The Audre Lorde Project
85 S. Oxford Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11217
Telephone: 718.596.0342, ext. 22
Website: www.alp.org
E-mail: edixon@alp.org

The Audre Lorde Project (ALP) is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit and Transgender People of Color center for community organizing, focusing on the New York City area. Through mobilization, education and capacity-building, we work for community wellness and progressive social and economic justice. Committed to struggling across differences, we seek to responsibly reflect, represent and serve our various communities.

The S.O.S. Collective thanks FIERCE! and the Center for Anti-violence Education (CAE) for sharing their information on hate violence prevention.



LIVING AGAINST VIOLENCE

A GUIDE ON:

- ❖ Tips and tactics to challenge hate violence
- ❖ How to deal with police stops
- ❖ Phone numbers for legal help and emergency rooms

BROUGHT TO OUR COMMUNITIES BY:

The Safe OUTside the System (S.O.S.) Collective, an anti-violence organizing group at the Audre Lorde Project of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming (LGBTSTGNC) People of Color.



KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE

Leave a trail - Let someone you trust know your plans for the night. Tell them in advance the neighborhood and/or venue you will be at, and how you are getting there. If you go someplace else while you are out, call or text-message them your change of plans.

Know your surroundings – Remember the location, street names, intersection or buildings that stand out. Especially note any storefronts that stay open late.

Have a travel buddy – Take a friend or someone you trust when leaving a place at night, waiting for the bus or train, or heading to unfamiliar places.

No travel buddy? - Stay alert. Look confident while walking on the street or waiting for the bus. In subways, wait next to the conductor's booth for trains.

Keep your cell phone ready - Program the numbers of friends, family, the Anti-Violence Project (AVP), or anyone who can help you should you face or witness hate violence. If you don't have a cell phone, find the nearest public pay phone, so **keep spare quarters!**

Keep it movin' – If someone or a group is walking towards you, do not be afraid to cross the street or enter a store to avoid them. Do the same thing for someone following you either on foot or in a car. **Trust your instincts.**

SCREAM!! - Make a scene! Yell "I don't know you!" or "I don't know this person." Carry a whistle to blow, or yell "FIRE!!" Let the whole block know that you or someone else is being harassed by a stranger.

Run if you can - Look for open businesses to run inside when being attacked. Don't forget to shout!

Protect yourself – Guard your head and face with both forearms. If you are thrown to the ground, try to land on your butt or on your side, and tuck your head into your chest. If the attacker is standing over you, kick one of your legs out to hit the attacker's knees or groin area.

REMEMBER TO GET AWAY AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

Build Relationships – Get to know your neighbors, the storeowners, and people around your block. They are a part of your community! They can look out for you if you're harassed, just as you can do the same for them.

KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE

You can **DO SOMETHING** if you see someone getting harassed or attacked!

Shout or scream to alert the harasser(s)/attacker(s) that you are watching. Yell "FIRE" or anything to let the attacker(s) know people will be outside and help the survivor.

If you are not able to intervene, use your camera cell phone or digital camera's movie mode to capture the attacker(s) on video. This will help later the survivor(s) in holding their attackers accountable.

Get a good look at the attackers bothering the survivor. Note what clothes, shoes, and hats they're wearing, how tall they are compared to their targets, or any distinguishing feature to them.

Help the survivor(s) to a safer location when the harassers/attackers leave, unless their injuries require an ambulance to pick them up instead. If the victim needs emergency medical attention, contact one of the local emergency rooms listed on the next flap.

HELP OTHERS HARASSED BY POLICE:

Form a circle, at a safe distance, around the scene if the harassers are cops, so that the cops know that there are witnesses to how they act towards the person(s) they stop. It is not a crime to assemble and observe.

Look for each cop's badge number and name. Write them down or memorize them to share with the survivor(s) and/or nearby witnesses at a later time.

At a safe distance, take video of the cops, so that there is visible proof of the police's behavior towards the person(s) they stop. Taking pictures will also help document the incident.

ANOTHER BIG WAY TO HELP EACH OTHER:

Organize!

We have a responsibility to ourselves and to each other to stop the violence. Talk to others who've experienced violence, hold vigils, actions, or demonstrations, **join the S.O.S. Collective**, get informed, and get some real change done in our communities!

IF YOU'RE HURT FROM AN ATTACK:

GET TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM

Emergency rooms in Brooklyn:

Brooklyn Hospital, Fort Greene, 121 Dekalb Avenue, (bet. Ashland Pl & Brooklyn Tech Pl), 718.250.8000

Coney Island Hospital, Coney Island, 2601 Ocean Parkway, (bet. Ave. Z & Shore Pkwy.), 718.616.3000

Kings County Hospital, Crown Heights, 451 Clarkson Ave., (bet. New York Ave. & E. 37th St.), 718.245.3131

Long Island College Hospital, Cobble Hill, 97 Amity St, (bet. Henry St. & Hicks St.), 718.780.1972

New York Methodist Hospital, Park Slope, 506 6th Street (bet. 7th and 8th Aves.), 718.780.3148

Woodhull Medical, Bed-Stuy/Bushwick/Williamsburg, 760 Broadway, (at the corner of Flushing Ave), 718.963.8000

Wyckoff Heights Medical, Bushwick/Queens, 374 Stockholm St, (bet. St. Nicholas & Wyckoff Aves.), 718.963.7272

FOR SURVIVORS OF HATE VIOLENCE OR

POLICE HARASSMENT

Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, 212.714.1184

New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, 212-523-4344

Legal Help:

New York Civil Liberties Union, 212.607.3300

National Lawyers Guild [NYC], 212.679.5100

Sylvia Rivera Law Project, 212.337.8550

Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project,

212.714.1184

Urban Justice Center, 646.602.5600

If someone you know who has been arrested call

Central Booking in your borough:

Bronx 718.374.5880

Brooklyn 718.875.6586

Manhattan 212.374.5880

Queens 718.268.4528

Staten Island 718.876.8490