

# **Ideas for Nonviolent Action**

## **Nonviolent Protest & Persuasion**

### **Formal Statements**

Public Speeches  
Letters of opposition or support  
Declarations by organizations and institutions  
Signed public statements  
Declarations of indictment and intention  
Group or mass petitions

### **Communications with a Wider Audience**

Slogans, caricatures, and symbols  
Banners, posters, and displayed communications  
Leaflets, pamphlets, and books  
Newspapers and journals  
Records, radio, and television  
Skywriting and earth-writing

### **Group Representations**

Deputations  
Mock awards  
Group lobbying  
Picketing  
Mock elections

### **Symbolic Public Acts**

Displays of flags and symbolic colors  
Wearing of symbols  
Prayer and worship  
Delivering symbolic objects  
Destruction of own property  
Symbolic lights  
Displays of portraits  
Paint as protest  
New signs and names  
Symbolic sounds  
Symbolic reclamations

### **Pressures on Individuals**

Fraternization  
Vigils

**Drama and Music**

Humorous skits and pranks  
Performances of plays and music  
Singing

**Processions**

Marches  
Parades  
Religious processions  
Pilgrimages  
Motorcades

**Honoring the Dead**

Political mourning  
Pretend funerals  
Demonstrative funerals  
Homage at burial places

**Public Assemblies**

Assemblies of protest or support  
Protest meetings  
Camouflaged meetings of protest  
Teach-ins

**Withdrawal and Renunciation**

Walk-outs  
Silence  
[Renouncing honors](#)  
Turning one's back

**Noncooperation: Social****Ostracism of Persons**

Social boycott  
Selective social boycott  
Excommunication  
Interdict

**Noncooperation with Social Events, Customs, and Institutions**

Suspension of social and sports activities  
Boycott of social affairs  
Student strike

Social disobedience  
Withdrawal from social institutions

### **Withdrawal from the Social System**

Stay-at-home  
Total personal noncooperation  
“Flight” of workers  
Sanctuary  
Collective disappearance

## **Noncooperation: Economic**

### **Actions by Consumers**

Consumers’ boycott  
Non-consumption of boycotted goods  
Policy of austerity  
Rent withholding  
Refusal to rent  
National consumers’ boycott  
International consumers’ boycott

### **Action by Workers and Producers**

Workmen’s boycott  
Producers’ boycott

### **Action by Middlemen**

Suppliers’ and handlers’ boycott

### **Action by Owners and Management**

Traders’ boycott  
Refusal to let or sell property  
Lockout  
Refusal of industrial assistance  
Merchants’ “general strike”

### **Action by Holders of Financial Resources**

Withdrawal of bank deposits  
Refusal to pay fees, dues, and assessments  
Refusal to pay debts or interest  
Severance of funds and credit  
Revenue refusal  
Refusal of a government’s money

### **Action by Governments**

Domestic embargo  
Blacklisting of traders  
International sellers' embargo  
International buyers' embargo  
International trade embargo

### **Symbolic Strikes**

Protest strike  
Quickie walkout (lightning strike)

### **Agricultural Strikes**

Peasant strike  
Farm Workers' strike

### **Strikes by Special Groups**

Refusal of impressed labor  
Prisoners' strike  
Craft strike  
Professional strike

### **Ordinary Industrial Strikes**

Establishment strike  
Industry strike  
Sympathetic strike

### **Restricted Strikes**

Detailed strike  
Bumper strike  
Slowdown strike  
Working-to-rule strike  
Reporting "sick" (sick-in)  
Strike by resignation  
Limited strike  
Selective strike

### **Combination of Strikes and Economic Closures**

Hartal

Economic shutdown

## **Noncooperation: Social**

**Rejection of Authority**

Withholding or withdrawal of allegiance  
Refusal of public support  
Literature and speeches advocating resistance

**Citizens' Noncooperation with Government**

Boycott of legislative bodies  
Boycott of elections  
Boycott of government employment and positions  
Boycott of government depts., agencies, and other bodies  
Withdrawal from government educational institutions  
Boycott of government-supported organizations  
Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents  
Removal of own signs and placemarks  
Refusal to accept appointed officials  
Refusal to dissolve existing institutions

**Citizens' Alternatives to Obedience**

Reluctant and slow compliance  
Nonobedience in absence of direct supervision  
Popular nonobedience  
Disguised disobedience  
Refusal of an assemblage or meeting to disperse  
Sitdown  
Noncooperation with conscription and deportation  
Hiding, escape, and false identities  
Civil disobedience of "illegitimate" laws

**Action by Government Personnel**

Selective refusal of assistance by government aides  
Blocking of lines of command and information  
Stalling and obstruction  
General administrative noncooperation

Deliberate inefficiency and selective noncooperation by enforcement agents  
Mutiny

**Domestic Governmental Action**

Quasi-legal evasions and delays  
Noncooperation by constituent governmental units

**International Governmental Action**

Changes in diplomatic and other representations  
Delay and cancellation of diplomatic events  
Withholding of diplomatic recognition  
Severance of diplomatic relations  
Withdrawal from international organizations

Refusal of membership in international bodies  
Expulsion from international organizations

## **Nonviolent Intervention**

### **Psychological Intervention**

Self-exposure to the elements

The fast

- a) Fast of moral pressure
- b) Hunger strike
- c) Satyagrahic fast

Reverse trial

Nonviolent harassment

### **Physical Intervention**

Sit-in

Stand-in

Ride-in

Wade-in

Mill-in

Pray-in

Nonviolent raids

Nonviolent air raids

Nonviolent invasion

Nonviolent interjection

Nonviolent obstruction

Nonviolent occupation

### **Social Intervention**

Establishing new social patterns

Overloading of facilities

Stall-in

Speak-in

Guerrilla theater

Alternative social institutions

Alternative communication system

### **Economic Intervention**

Reverse strike

Stay-in strike

Nonviolent land seizure

Defiance of blockades

Politically motivated counterfeiting

Preclusive purchasing  
Seizure of assets  
Dumping  
Selective patronage  
Alternative markets  
Alternative transportation systems  
Alternative economic institutions

**Political Intervention**

Overloading of administrative systems  
Seeking imprisonment  
Civil disobedience of “neutral” laws  
Work-on without collaboration  
Dual sovereignty and parallel government