

**RESIST**



**PINK UNICORN GUIDE**  
**2STGE+ Survival Zine**  
**& Community Organizing Toolkit**

Jan. 24, 2025 | Version 4.0 | Trans Resistance Network

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# URGENT NOTICE

## PAUSE UPDATING GENDER ON PASSPORTS & SOCIAL SECURITY DOCUMENTS

Reports indicate that agents in at least some US Passport offices are being directed to confiscate passports and/or supporting documents for anyone trying to update their gender marker!

We have multiple reports of denied passports and threats of supporting information like changed birth certificates being confiscated. Your documents may be at risk if you go to a Passport office to update your gender marker or renew a previously amended passport.

Until we have more information, we are advising to pause in updating your Social Security gender. Don't panic. Be smart. Wait for more clarification before seeking to make these changes.

Make sure you keep notes of any interactions including date, time, agency, specific address, names, and under what authority are they confiscating documents. Please forward them to TRN so we can keep a record of what is happening.

## BORDER CROSSINGS

We do not have reports of problems with border crossings. However, if you seek to cross borders with previously changed passport documents, make a Safety Plan first to pre-plan for unexpected detainment, document confiscation, etc. Make sure someone knows where you are crossing, when you are planning to cross, and carry emergency contact information with you should something unexpected occur.

If possible, have a non-2STGE+ person travel with you so they can implement the Safety Plan should something unexpected occur.

# WHAT TO DO RIGHT NOW

## 1. Get to a Sanctuary state if possible.

Sanctuary states are now the best buffer against Federal anti-trans laws, executive orders, and enforcement. **This DOES NOT mean they are safe from Federal action.** It just means they may be safer with more supports– for a longer time.

## 2. Switch to secure communications.

If you have not done so already, **PLEASE change over encrypted-to-encrypted email like Proton, or in chat programs like Signal.** Anything trans related should be happening through encrypted channels and over VPNs/TOR.

## 3. OTRN! - Organize together right now!

**We cannot isolate from each other.** No matter where you are, urgently organize with your friends to make sure you are \*collectively\* covering your food, clothing, shelter, and personal safety in more difficult times. Check out our organizing guide in this document.

## 4. Politicians won't save us. We protect us!

Take community led or safe self-defense classes and organize with others for community defense. Learn how to protect yourself and your community by contacting a Leftist or Queer friendly (or led) gun club like John Brown Gun Club or [Socialist Rifle Association \(https://socialistra.org/\)](https://socialistra.org/) in your area.

## 5. Stockpile meds.

Ask your doctor for multi-month containers, extra dosage, etc. How can you get extra?

## 6. Know your rights!

NEVER talk to cops, ICE, FBI, or other law enforcement without an attorney present. When it comes to the survival of our community remember: **See nothing, say nothing.**

# RESIST 'LIST MAKING'

Fascist groups and government officials in several states have already attempted list-making of our community and those who provide care to our community. There is a considerable risk this will expand to Federal agencies and law enforcement as 2STGE+ (and Queer) existence is criminalized.

If you have been getting assistance, support, services from any **government agency**, your personal details are at risk of collection. Government data can be easily obtained with or without Federal warrants for the alleged purposes of health, safety, or "homeland security."

**501c3 nonprofit organizations** will be targeted with legislation (already proposed) that allows the Treasury Dept. to designate nonprofit organizations as political enemies and shut them down without due process. The IRS may also be weaponized against community nonprofits with the ability to seize, copy, and audit records. Your personal data may be at risk.

To the extent possible, call or contact any nonprofits or government agencies and demand to know specifically how your data is being kept anonymous or protected from law enforcement investigation. **You have the right to have your data removed or erased. Demand it.**

**TRN is NOT a 501c3 precisely because we knew this day could come.** If you have sought support from TRN and also a non-profit organization, make sure the other org does not retain any of your identifying information and uses end-to-end encryption and coded, encrypted data storage for any personal information they have collected.

We also know the Federal government has monitored foreign pharmacy or DIY based HRT deliveries. If you receive your meds this way, your information may be at risk of collection.

*Resisting list making and classification of group members makes it harder for fascists to inflict worse forms of oppression on our communities.*

# SECURE COMS

If you haven't already, **NOW IS THE TIME to install and adopt secure communications.** Secure coms is a **necessary step** in these times when our lives are being criminalized and online surveillance tools are expanding:

- ✓ Reduces the ability for law enforcement to find information they can use against you.
- ✓ Helps prevent transphobe and fascist attacks like doxxing and stalking.
- ✓ Helps prevent list making of 2STGE+ people and families.
- ✓ Protects other friends, doctors, and organizers you are in contact with.



The most secure form of communication is **face to face talking with no phones or devices present.** Phones and devices can be activated remotely, and track your movement patterns and location in relationship to others in your social network. **Leave your phones at home if you need to talk about something important like DIY or are having an underground meeting.**

## DIGITAL COMS RISK TABLE

<b>MOST SECURE</b>	<b>ENCRYPTED TO ENCRYPTED OVER TOR BROWSER / WITH VPN.</b> "VPN over TOR" is most secure. Connect to VPN first, then open TOR browser. This hides your IP address from the first relay in the TOR server network, which is more vulnerable to attacks than VPN servers.
<b>BETTER SECURE</b>	<b>ENCRYPTED TO ENCRYPTED</b>
<b>LESS SECURE</b>	<b>Encrypted to Not Encrypted</b>
<b>LEAST SECURE</b>	<b>Not Encrypted to Anything</b>
<b>OPEN DOOR</b>	<b>Not Encrypted to Gmail, Discord, with your social media account open.</b>

## a) MAKE SAFER CONNECTIONS

- **Secure your home WIFI network.** Change the default network names and passwords. Encrypt your wifi network connections. <https://www.wikihow.com/Secure-Your-Wireless-Home-Network>
- Use a VPN connection (free) **Proton** (<https://protonvpn.com/?ref=prdmenuvpn>).
- Use a safe browser (free) **Tor Browser** (<https://www.torproject.org/download/>)

## b) USE ENCRYPTED APPS

- Email: **Protonmail** (<https://proton.me/mail>), **Tuta** (<https://tuta.com/secure-email>), or **Riseup** (<https://riseup.net/en/email/webmail>).
- Chat/Communications: **Signal** (<https://signal.org/>) Free, easy to download and install.

## c) OTHER THAN INTERNET

- Build **LoRa (Long Range) radio hardware**:  
<https://anarchosolarpunk.substack.com/p/encryptedcomms?triedRedirect=true>

## d) MORE SECURITY TIPS

- **Remember or safely write down passwords** – do not store them in your browser.
- **Email subject lines are NOT encrypted** and should never contain sensitive data.
- Strongly **encourage your friends** to also use anonymous names and encrypted coms.
- If you may be arrested or detained by law enforcement, **disable** fingerprint and facial logins, sign-out and **delete** Signal and other communications.
- If you are having a sensitive conversation, do it privately with **phones in another room**.

## e) SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

- Tech billionaires are investing in Trump's rule. Quit X/Twitter. Diminish Reliance on Facebook and Instagram.
- Cleanse your timelines of incriminating information and photos.
- **DO NOT TAG** your friends or community members. Help prevent list-making.
- **Choose Mastodon and Bluesky** if you use social media.
- If you use Discord, only use **verified Discord servers that filter and actively manage membership.**

## f) SECURE COMS TOOL SUMMARY

<u>ONLINE TOOL</u>	<u>SUGGESTED SOFTWARE/APPS</u>
Email	Protonmail   Riseup   Tutanota   Hushmail
Messenger	Signal Private Messenger
Video Chat	Jitsi or Signal
Online Documents	Cryptpad.fr or <a href="https://pad.riseup.net/">https://pad.riseup.net/</a>
File Sharing	Encrypted email to encrypted email, or Cryptpad.fr
Internet Browser	Tor Browser
Operating System	TAILS, QUBES
Search Engine	Startpage.com   Qwant.com   Duckduckgo.com
VPN Tools	Proton VPN   Riseup VPN



**MORE ABOUT DIGITAL SECURITY:** <https://riseup.net/en/security/resources>



## g) MORE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- **ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY SIGNAL THREADS**

Creating an anonymous announcements-only Signal thread enables movement or group participants to communicate, share news, and coordinate horizontally. Using Signal threads in this way supports greater participation and activity from those involved in liberation movements like trans survival.

<https://crimethinc.com/2024/05/27/the-sunbird-how-to-start-an-announcements-only-thread-on-signal-and-how-organizers-in-austin-used-one-to-coordinate-solidarity-with-palestine>

- **BURNER PHONES**

Burner phones can be useful tools but they must be purchased, activated, and used within certain limits and security parameters to remain anonymous.

<https://crimethinc.com/2017/03/27/burner-phone-best-practices>

- **DIGITAL SECURITY AT PROTESTS**

<https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-protest-safely-surveillance-digital-privacy/>



### NOTES & DOODLE SPACE

A large, empty rectangular area enclosed by a dashed red border, intended for taking notes or doodling.

# Protect Your Mental Health

Navigating these times is hella difficult. There is no shame in feeling overwhelmed and scared. But in order to survive, we have to find the courage to seek support when depression and hopelessness set in. **Every single one of us matter!**



<https://thrivelifeline.org/>

## **In crisis? Text: US (313) 662-8209**

Free 24/7/365 hotline (texting only) support by trained, non-judgmental Crisis Responders who share underrepresented identities and backgrounds.

Must be 18+ years old / Trans led & operated / Does not engage in non-consensual active rescue.



<https://translifeline.org>

## **US (877) 565-8860**

Canada (877) 330-6366

Free crisis hotline by and for trans people. Will not call emergency services without your explicit verbal informed consent.

Hotline hours: Monday through Friday

10 AM – 6 PM Pacific

11 AM – 7 PM Mountain

12 PM – 8 PM Central

1 PM – 9 PM Eastern



<https://www.callblackline.com/>

## **US (800) 604-5841**

Provides a space for peer support, counseling, reporting of mistreatment, witnessing and affirming the lived experiences for folks who are most impacted by systematic oppression with an LGBTQ+ Black Femme Lens. Also has the Call Blackline app available on Apple Store and Google Play.

# Safety Planning

Two Spirit, Transgender, and Gender Expansive+ people are increasingly becoming targets for verbal abuse and physical violence by transphobes and fascists during this time. As trans existence becomes more criminalized, gender expansive people and our families may be targeted by state and Federal law enforcement. We strongly advise 2STGE+ people to practice smart safety protocols and to prepare a safety plan for times when threats arrive in a sudden or unexpected way.

A Safety Planning allows you and your friends to plan in advance for dangerous situations. Having a list of actions to take helps clear thinking, reduces panic, and allows you to act faster when your safety may be threatened.

## SAFETY PLANNING BEST PRACTICES

- 1) Talk openly with your family and children about possible actions you may need to take in order to be safe. This could mean leaving your housing with little notice, having to evade law enforcement or CPS, and escaping confrontation with street level Fascists/militias.
- 2) If you need to exit your housing quickly, how will you do so? (door, window, back door, fire escape)
- 3) If you need to leave your housing in an emergency, where will you go?
- 4) Make a list of people you can rely on to call and help in emergency situations. Talk to them now so everyone is clear about the threats and actions to take to get safer.
- 5) How will you get to the next place? Do you have your own reliable transportation, or do you need someone's help?
- 6) If you need a ride from someone else, select a safer place to meet for the ride, ahead of time. It might be smart to give that location a code-name in case you cannot say the address out loud.
- 7) What do you need to do to travel safer? If possible, keep your gas tank full. Be aware of potential checkpoints to avoid. Don't draw attention to yourself while driving.
- 8) Make a Go-Bag (see the list further down) so you can leave quickly.
- 9) Identify a person with less risk who can safely notify other members of the community (if sweeps of multiple people are happening). Contact them as soon as possible, but do not jeopardize your own safety.

## TIPS FOR STAYING SAFER

Many community members report an increase in verbal and physical threats. We expect these threats to continue or increase. We benefit by thinking ahead of time about how to be safer when we are on the street.

1. Travel with a buddy or in groups, especially at night.
2. Be prepared to run away from conflict if necessary, or if trained, to engage in self-defense.
3. If you find yourself in a confrontation, try to move to space that is lower risk like multiple exits, lots of bystanders, no potential weapons, etc.
4. Make sure your allies know how to respond in a confrontation with you. Do you want them to intervene? Stay quiet? etc.
5. Who can you call besides cops to help you? Police may not respect your safety or rights.
6. If you have your phone with you, keep it in the same place every time so you can access it quickly.
7. Maintain situational awareness. Where are the exits in a building or in a crowd? Who looks sus (loud, obnoxious, wearing clothes or symbols of fascists, etc.)? If police are present, do they appear relaxed, or moving towards your group?
8. Identify a safe place to go if your home becomes unsafe. If houseless, gather with other 2STGE+/Queer folks since there is more safety in numbers.
9. Keep a “go-bag” with money, keys, important documents, and meds in a safe place.
10. Keep important phone numbers in one place.
11. Do not take your cell phone to a protest or gathering where arrest is possible. If you must take a phone, get a one use burner phone and discard it when done.
12. Be prepared to erase contacts, Signal accounts, etc. if it appears you will be arrested. Don't let police make lists of your other 2STGE+/Queer friends.
13. Leave extra clothes and meds with a friend or family member.
14. Know your rights in the state you are in, but NEVER rely on law enforcement respecting your safety or rights.
15. Keep track of your friends and community members. Do regular check-ins.

## GO BAG ESSENTIALS

Some in our community may find their local areas too unsafe to stay, and will need to flee. A ready Go-Bag is essential in case you need to travel quickly or unexpectedly, whether alone or with assistance from others. Think through which scenarios will trigger your need for a Go-Bag. Will it be

used to flee a place, or make your way back to a safer place if stuck in a distant location? Be specific. Each scenario may change what is in your Go-Bag, but keep it as light and mobile as possible (less than 25% of your body weight). Keep it handy, in a safe and known place so you can pick it up and go.

### **Go-Bag Checklist**

Check a box for each item included in your go-bag.

- Id for yourself / driver's license / passport / social security card
- Medications, glasses, etc.
- Your birth certificate
- Other family and children's birth certificates (important!)
- Cash money
- Phone, charger, and phone #s
- Keys: house & car
- Checkbook, ATM card, credit cards, Transit passes or subway cards
- Passwords to online accounts (keep encrypted and hidden to the extent possible)
- Children's favorite toys and/or blankets to help calm them in a stressful time
- Lease agreement (in case you need to prove you belong in a space)
- Pictures, items of sentimental value
- Bottle of water
- Food (protein bar, trail mix)
- Poncho or rain jacket
- Change of clothes + pair of socks
- Warm hat and gloves
- N95 respirator
- Hand sanitizer
- Headlamp + batteries
- Small tactical flashlight at least 1000 lumens
- Pepper spray
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- First aid kit

## SELF DEFENSE BASICS

- ◆ Check out basic state self defense laws/what items can be legally carried for self defense. This is important **so you or your friends don't accidentally incriminate your selves with law enforcement.**
- ◆ **Spray paint can be an ideal defensive weapon.** It blinds temporarily, marks assailants for identification, will be harder to ID as a weapon by prosecutors (it's for my art!). Most assailants will not think to use it as a weapon against you (which is unfortunately what will happen with most knives, stun/guns, locks in socks etc with an untrained victim against a stronger or trained assailant). Even a stainless steel water bottle is thought of as a deadly weapon in the wrong hands & does not have the same benefits. Stun guns vary in efficiency (many are not enough to drop someone). Knives require immense skill to be used effectively. Spray paint is easily accessible and cheap.
- ◆ **Map out your daily routines.** Things like commutes or daily habits. Varying up commutes and routines is incredibly helpful from a personal defense point.
- ◆ **Create a home defense plan.** Searching ideas on the internet can be helpful to get an idea of what is possible.
- ◆ **Take personal/women's self defense classes.** Sometimes organizations offer these services for free or low cost, depending on the area.
- ◆ **Procure a conceal carry permit if feasible.** It's not always possible for a few reasons but always good to look into.

# ORGANIZING TOOLKIT

The following resources are offered to support organizing with your friends and comrades. By this point, we believe it is clear we cannot rely on politicians, government systems, laws, institutional nonprofits, or large segments of society to act in the best interest of 2STGE+ people. **We must pivot to a different way of thinking that is centered in trusted community, mutual-aid, and solidarity among oppressed peoples.** History shows us this is how you survive fascism.

Here is a great analysis for considering resistance during the coming months and years:

<https://crimethinc.com/zines/the-case-for-resistance>

**First, 2STGE+ people must do everything possible to avoid isolating themselves.** Our long term survival is dependent upon community organizing and supporting each other through difficult times – whether we live in an environment that accepts our existence, or not. *We persist!*

Don't get hung up on the word, "organizing." In simpler terms, it means you and your trusted friends figure out how you can meet your individual and collective survival needs, together.

## Survival needs are:

*Food/water*

*Warm shelter*

*Gender and weather appropriate clothing*

*Safer restful sleep*

*HRT/meds*

*Self-defense*

*Basic first aid*

*Belonging/relationships/culture*

Before we go further, make sure you understand the difference between **ABOVE GROUND** organizing vs **UNDERGROUND** organizing. In more oppressive conditions, much of our organizing may need to happen underground in order to ensure safety and to get our needs met, like accessing HRT or getting healthcare.

**Above Ground Organizing:** *Publicly visible, use public systems, act within defined legal/social limits*

**Underground Organizing:** *Secret, strategic, organized with trusted comrades, may be unlawful*

Research shows closed groups and underground organizing decrease the probability of capture by law enforcement, and eases the effects of those captures on movement building. Adopting the proper mindset that leads to effective and secure underground organizing skills, enhances survivability of oppressed groups whether your actions are growing your own food, DIY, or resisting on the street.

## a. Underground Organizing

Resistance can be divided into:

- ◆ **Above ground groups** generally do not carry out risky illegal actions, and are organized to use public institutions and media communications. A nonprofit 501c3 is above ground.
- ◆ **Underground groups** exist primarily to carry out repressed activities or those deemed “illegal,” and are organized in ways that maximize their own security and effectiveness.
- ◆ **Mixed groups** may have different aspects of their organizing which utilize both above ground and underground structures with varying levels of separation between the two. As repression and punishments become more severe, groups may further split into underground and aboveground factions. Groups should consider the security vulnerabilities in such split groups. As surveillance and police repression increase, we advise that that a resistance group either participates above ground or underground to reduce these vulnerabilities.

### Underground Groups generally have the following traits:

- ✓ Membership is closed or closely guarded.
- ✓ Roles or activities may be compartmentalized.
- ✓ Works to appear unremarkable or invisible to repressive systems.
- ✓ Members may appear apolitical or inactive.
- ✓ Decisions are made internally and covert to outside systems.
- ✓ Practices security culture and communicates through guarded/encrypted channels.
- ✓ Works to prevent Fascist retaliation on other community members not involved.
- ✓ May undertake threat modeling and counter-intelligence activities.

If you make the decision to organize underground during this time, we advise that you study the history of underground organizing in the U.S. and other countries. Here is one article to start the process:

<https://publicseminar.org/2017/10/lessons-of-clandestine-organizations/>





We have some community reports that indicate the Federal government is tracking foreign pharmacy or DIY based HRT deliveries. **Community members should consider less risky alternatives** should these kinds of solutions become unlawful and/or law enforcement becomes more active in this area.

### ***Remember! Don't Talk About...***

- ◆ Your involvement or someone else's involvement with an underground community group.
- ◆ Your or someone else's desire to get involved with such a group.
- ◆ Your or someone else's participation in accessing criminalized gender affirming care.
- ◆ Someone else's advocacy for such actions.
- ◆ Your or someone else's plans for a future illegal action.
- ◆ Friends who are getting DIY or gender affirming care.
- ◆ Don't ask others if they are a member of an underground group.
- ◆ Don't talk about criminalized actions in terms of specific times, people, places, etc
- ◆ See nothing. Say nothing. No exceptions.

## ***b. The Criminalization of Trans Lives – Know Your Rights***

It's almost certain the criminalization of trans lives will continue at all levels. We believe the chances of having to deal with local, state, or Federal law enforcement are increasing. This is especially important given the most basic parts of our lives are being targeted – and acts of getting gender affirming care, or even just using the bathroom may be considered “unlawful.” In other words, acts of trans survival will be **civil disobedience**. An act of civil disobedience is when you refuse to obey a law because you believe it to be morally wrong or harmful.

If you choose to participate in civil disobedience, **preparation and security are absolutely essential**.

It's important to know your legal rights if you must deal with law enforcement. Be aware that cops may try to trick you, and may not respect your rights or protect your personal safety.

**Here are some basic tips when dealing with police:**

- ◆ It doesn't matter whether you are guilty or innocent. **Never talk to police officers, FBI agents, ICE, Homeland Security, etc.** It doesn't matter if you believe you are telling police officers what they already know. It doesn't matter if you just chit chat with police officers. Any talking to police officers, ICE, FBI agents, etc. can be used to harm you or others.
- ◆ **Know your rights** (see the next section). Remain silent. Ask to speak to an attorney.
- ◆ **Never allow a police officer, FBI agent, etc. into your home without a signed, properly dated search warrant.**
- ◆ If you invite a police officer into your home, they have consent to search your home.
- ◆ If they come to your house to ask questions, **do not let them in.** From inside your door, or from outside with your door shut behind you, politely say "I wish to remain silent." Ask them if you are under arrest or if they have a search warrant.
- ◆ If they come in anyway, don't resist arrest. Say "I do not consent to a search."
- ◆ **If the FBI comes to your door without a warrant, talk to them through a closed door.** Ask to see their credentials. Do not answer any questions. Tell them to leave their card. Contact the ACLU or National Lawyers Guild office in your area.

**Know Your Rights:**

- ◆ Common **Know Your Rights** information for dealing with police: [https://www.aclu-co.org/sites/default/files/field\\_documents/24-51870\\_aclu\\_police.pdf](https://www.aclu-co.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/24-51870_aclu_police.pdf)
- ◆ **Stopped on the street:** <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/stopped-by-police> and <https://www.nyclu.org/resources/know-your-rights/what-do-if-youre-stopped-police>
- ◆ **Those involved in accessing gender affirming care** should use this resource: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/abortion-supporters-and-helpers>
- ◆ **Trans Families:** <https://www.aclu.org/publications/protecting-rights-transgender-parents-and-their-children>
- ◆ **Traveling within the 100 mile border zone:** <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/border-zone>
- ◆ **Know Your Rights with ICE:** <https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/know-your-rights-with-ice/>
- ◆ **Grand Jury Investigations, FBI Harassment, and Your Rights:** [https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/various-authors-grand-jury-investigations-fbi-harassment-and-your-rights?\\_language=en](https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/various-authors-grand-jury-investigations-fbi-harassment-and-your-rights?_language=en)

## c. Basic Organizing Tools

Remember, organizing just means you and your trusted friends figure out how you can meet your individual and collective survival needs, together.

- ✓ Who will you organize with?
- ✓ How will you organize?
- ✓ Where and how often will you meet?
- ✓ How will you safely meet and communicate with each other?
- ✓ How will you make decisions together?
- ✓ What basic needs can you try and meet together?
- ✓ What resources or skills can you share with others?

<https://neighborhoodanarchists.org/organizing-guide>

The link above takes you to a website with a lot of **great tools for organizing yourselves collectively** including organizing structures, decision making, etc. These tools are helpful whether you organize above ground or underground. Organize together right now!

## d. Tactics, Strategies, and the Principle

It's useful to understand three common terms of resistance organizing:

**Principle** – The moral, spiritual, or philosophical beliefs that grounds and motivates a person to take a set of actions for a certain purpose. **Ex.** *Trans people deserve to have their needs met.*

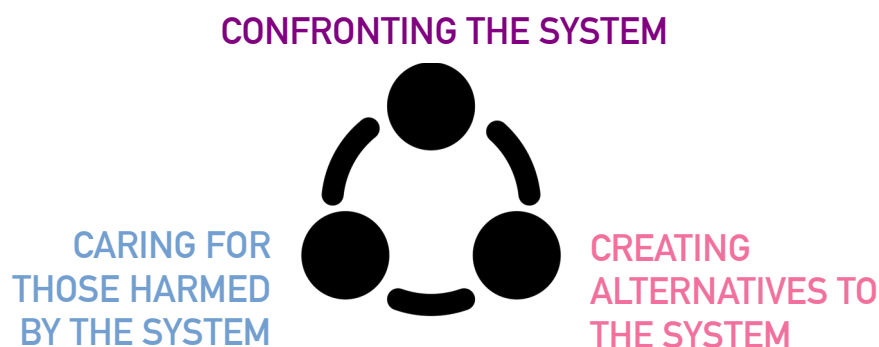
**Tactic** – An action or set of repeat actions designed to achieve a certain goal. **Ex.** *Setting up a community-run food distro delivery to get food to trans people with mobility challenges.*

**Strategy** – The game plan needed to achieve a certain long term vision or effect. A strategy relies on different kinds of tactics to achieve its aim. **Ex.** *We want to provide trans people with enough food and basic needs so they can also help others to be safer and more resourced.*

**Tactics and Strategies can be compromised and reconsidered, but NEVER, EVER compromise on the Principle.**

## e. Positioning Strategic Action

There are three inter-connected modes of organizing that are useful to consider when acting in resistance against unjust and oppressive systems during times like these.



- **CONFRONTING THE SYSTEM:** Any kind of lawful or unlawful strategy or action attempting to confront the oppressive system. This could include court battles, direct action protests, sit-ins, union organizing, general strikes, or monkey-wrenching among a whole host of tactics.

Some confrontations are meant to trouble aspects of the system, some are used to educate and radicalize others to take action, some are meant to draw attention away from other activities, and others might just be to create chaos and expend the resources of the oppressive system on ghost-like attacks so they can't be used elsewhere.

- **CARING FOR THOSE HARMED BY THE SYSTEM:** An oppressive system is always churning out people harmed both directly and indirectly by its actions. Caring could mean medical care, food pantries, street medicine, mutual aid supports, peer-led therapy and support groups, prisoner solidarity, and other community based healing structures.
- **CREATING ALTERNATIVES TO THE SYSTEM:** To escape oppressive systems, we must create our own systems that meet the basic human needs (and more!) of people in caring and liberatory ways. Food security, clothing, safe and warm shelter, medical care, self-defense – are all systems that can be created in the cracks of the failing but violent system we are resisting.

Creating these alternate systems is essential in building and maintaining solidarity among oppressed groups. The more alternatives exist, the safer people feel to act.

## d. Mutual Aid

**Mutual aid** is a form of solidarity-based support, in which groups or communities work together in common struggle, rather than leaving individuals to fend for themselves.

Humans have been working together to care for each other long before it had a name. Indigenous and other non-Western peoples have typically prioritized collectivism and sharing over individual survival and continue to do so despite colonial pressure. Mutual aid works.

Here is a good introduction to mutual aid:

<https://climatejusticealliance.org/what-is-mutual-aid-a-primer-by-the-climate-justice-alliance/>

How to create a mutual aid network:

<https://afsc.org/news/how-create-mutual-aid-network>

Here's a zine about grassroots mutual aid:

<https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MutualAid-AnIntroduction.pdf>

Here is a good mutual aid tool kit that was formed around COVID 19 by organizer Mariame Kaba and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.. It needs to be considered in current terms that fit our communities, like the need to organize for our survival with safer community members, and the use of secure communications and security culture. Take what is helpful, leave the rest.

<https://reduced.to/o4mxm>

Here is a deep dive into Mutual Aid and mutual aid systems:

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/dean-spade-mutual-aid>

What is pod-mapping and how can it help organize mutual aid?

<https://ausm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Pod-MappingTAGGED.pdf>

*“In our oldest stories, we are reminded that... when we rely deeply on other lives, there is an urgency to protect them.”*

*Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass*

## e. Establish Local Organizing Space

Creating a safe space to organize and celebrate the community is vitally important in these times. When safer, establish face-to-face relationships between 2STGE+ people as well as people doing different kinds of organizing and who are impacted by different aspects of the Trump agenda. This grows much needed solidarity and resists fascism. Use good security culture and make sure participants are vouched for by others you trust.

Use community gatherings for events like:

- Information sharing sessions.
- Clothes swaps and food distros.
- Support groups and skill shares.
- Community led self-defense classes.
- Local organizing to support internally displaced trans-refugees.
- Celebrations of our existence.

Community organizing spaces should be known pre-selected spaces where you have a chance to screen people at entry. It might be a community group space, a 2STGE+ friendly church, or friendly office space of someone in the community. Create an event safety plan just in case.



**NEVER DISCUSS UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS. ALWAYS PRACTICE GOOD SECURITY CULTURE. PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY!**

## f. Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups are small groups of people with a common interest who organize to take action together. Affinity groups organize without hierarchical leadership and often act underground with agreed upon security protocols. Affinity group structure is one effective structure to use if you undertake DIY or other civil disobedient actions. Read up on affinity groups in the following:

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/shawn-ewald-affinity-groups>

<https://www.thedirectactionmovement.com/starting-an-affinity-group>

<https://crimethinc.com/2017/02/06/how-to-form-an-affinity-group-the-essential-building-block-of-anarchist-organization>

## g. Direct Action

"Direct action" is a form of creative resistance in which groups of people act on their own agency, ignoring established political and social institutions. Unpermitted protests, civil disobedience, and DIY HRT are just a few forms of direct action. Learn more about direct action organizing:

<https://crimethinc.com/2017/03/14/direct-action-guide>

[http://www.organizingforpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/da\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.organizingforpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/da_handbook.pdf)

## h. Community Defense Projects

Community-based defense projects unite the community to act in their own defense and well-being. Self defense classes can be the catalyst to bring people together, sharing useful skills and creating the trust that equip people to act collectively. From this beginning, you can form affinity groups with those you trust and begin discussing what kinds of action you would be prepared to engage in together, in response to fascist attacks and the criminalization of trans existence.

An important aspect of Community Defense is the work to establish bail funds, defendant support structures, and resources for collective defense ahead of time, so you'll be ready in advance of worse case scenarios. This is also a good time to revitalize prisoner support projects in preparation of worse case scenarios.

## e. Safe Houses

A safe house can be sourced from many places, but it's usually the home or business of a friend or community contact who willingly supports and sympathizes with whatever covert activities you might undertake. It could also be a squat, rural camp, church room, rental home, apartment, or hotel room.

Locations may include:

- The homes of family and close friends
- Commercial buildings you own, have permission to access or are owned by friends/family
- Churches that have offices open during the day
- Contacts through any organizations you belong to
- Hotels — Make sure they allow pets if you have them.
- Campgrounds
- 24-hour retail stores or restaurants

There are usually two types of uses for safe houses: defensive and offensive.

A **defensive safe house** is one that hides people and keeps them safe from investigation, capture or surveillance. It may be a short or long term space.

An **offensive safe house** serves as a place for people to conduct covert operations. It could be a place where sensitive materials are kept, surveillance is being conducted, or acts as an organizing hub during an action.

Creating safe houses may be dependent upon distance. While safe houses located far away from where people live (like a rural camp or cabin), can be useful, especially for long term defensive needs, establishing a network of safe houses within easy walking or driving distance of community or group members is important.

It's also important to have a **pre-determined criteria or threat matrix for evacuating** so less experienced people do not second guess themselves over the decision to leave for a safe house, and end up making the fatal mistake of waiting too long.

The second step is to **consider each possible event and determine how far you would have to go in order to be safe**. This is a key consideration. These safe houses should be located far enough away so they are not in the same type of immediate danger as your home.

Safe house locations are best stored in people's memory, and not in digital and paper records. Safe houses should not be visited while carrying your cell phone, or with a car that has built-in GPS.



## → DIY

As access to gender affirming care and HRT shrink, our communities will need to find creative ways to get our needs met. These creative solutions have always been part of our community forever, and we acknowledge those elders who have come before and found a way to be themselves regardless of social conditions or available materials.

1. **Learn how to safely perform DIY** Hormone Replacement Therapy for testosterone and estrogen. Find sources for injection supplies and get disclaimers and warnings.  
<https://diyhrt.wiki/>
2. **HRT Cafe** is a website that provides information and links for people who want to do their own hormone replacement therapy (HRT) with medications. You can find suppliers, homebrew guides, medication pages, and more on this site. <https://hrtcafe.net/>
3. The **Boob Not Bombs** project and the **Fairywing Zine** is an anarchist distribution project for the idea of distributing estrogen cheaply or for free.  
<https://crimethinc.com/2022/12/15/producing-transdermal-estrogen-a-do-it-yourself-guide> and  
<https://cryptpad.fr/drive/#/2/drive/view/isZDZxnR6gLfyvL94EdSYfypGFV1J3yD0oGOLk4cerU/>
4. **Trans DIY on Reddit.** Those using Reddit should use anonymous accounts, VPN, and be careful with making contacts with unknown persons on the website.
5. **Ordering HRT meds from other countries.** Persons exploring this option should be aware TRN has direct reports of imported medications being tracked by Federal agency officials. We expect this surveillance to expand.
6. Look for information from community medical providers committed to sustaining care.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CONNECT TO A VPN BEFORE VISITING ANY SITES REGARDING DIY. USE THE MOST SECURE COMMUNICATION TOOLS TO DISCUSS ANYTHING ABOUT DIY WITH OTHERS.**

Be careful. Use good security culture. Keep no records. **See nothing. Say nothing.**

Example of How a DIY Network Could Operate:

<https://apnews.com/article/honduras-abortion-total-ban-723473fb24e14f0401e0a7428ae78eb5>

# BORDERS & ASYLUM

As Fascists further target and criminalize our communities, many 2STGE+ people are considering leaving the United States for another country.

**Currently, no country explicitly offers asylum to U.S. citizens on the grounds of being persecuted because of being 2STGE+.** This includes Canada, Mexico, or any of the European Union.

Canada is in the process of increasing border patrols and managing asylum seekers/refugees. Canada should not be viewed as a guaranteed country for long-term asylum at this time. Anyone with a passport can visit Canada for six months, and then ask for an extension.

TRN will be sharing more information as it develops about safely crossing borders. Currently, we suggest looking into the following countries as being generally safer destinations for 2STGE+ people based on existing protections.

- ➔ Canada | Germany | Malta | Iceland | Portugal | Spain | Uruguay | Chile | Brazil
- ➔ Sweden and Denmark have historically been safer countries, but Right Wing efforts to pass anti-trans legislation is gaining traction.

1. Do your research before committing to such a move as political and social situations can change quickly: <https://www.asherfergusson.com/global-trans-rights-index/>
2. Look up VISA options and residency pathways for those countries you are interested in. If/until asylum claims become accepted in other nations, U.S. citizens will need to find VISA and residency pathways that will work for their individual situations.
3. If you can afford it, contact an immigration attorney in the countries you are interested in. Many attorneys offer free-consultations where you can get some of your questions answered.

