

# Hassle free non-violent action

## A RESOURCE KIT FOR ACTIVISTS

### Defend the Defenders resources

The Environment Defenders Office (EDO) Victoria developed the *Defend the Defenders* resources to assist activists who are harassed because of their campaign activities.

*Defend the Defenders* resources may assist you and your group in understanding, preventing or responding to harassment.

They include:

- How to face legal threats
- Dealing with threats
- 10-point plan for handling claims of 'eco-terrorism'.
- Hassle free non-violent action
- Reporting on 'eco-terrorism', sabotage and vandalism
- Responding to claims of 'eco-terrorism': a compilation of source documents

They are available at the Victorian EDO website via [www.edo.org.au](http://www.edo.org.au)

*Non-violent action is a major tool for environmentalists. This guide aims to help activists to confront peacefully.*

*An outline of the range of non-violent campaigning strategies and tactics is provided. Plus tips on 'how to stay safe' at protest sites.*

FOR MANY YEARS environmental activists have run campaigns based on non-violent techniques – including the use of peaceful direct actions – as a way of drawing attention to environmentally damaging activities. Many campaigns using direct actions have been successful.

Non-violent protests can have a powerful effect on the course of campaigns. Some gain media coverage to promote debate in the public realm. Some can have an important effect in gaining vital time for other components of a campaign. Some prompt other decision-makers to change even without favorable media coverage. Direct action can draw people into a campaign and inspire presently inactive supporters to act on their convictions whether by writing to members of Parliament, joining a campaign group or participating in direct actions themselves.

## Campaign basics

There are a range of activities which are part of a long-term campaign including:

**Investigation.** Define the issues. Develop alternatives. Find people with information – technical to visual.

**Negotiation.** Meetings with politicians and other individuals / organisations to clarify and debate the issues. They provide a greater understanding of the different views. Negotiations can be divided into two types – those initiated by ourselves or institutionalised forms. Both have an important role.

**Public education.** Ultimately the power to achieve change lies with ordinary people. Politicians can only go on making bad decisions while we sit back and let them. A central task is to inform people what's going on and how they can help.

**Direct action (if it occurs):** Potential participants need to understand the risks they may face as demonstrators. The goals and aims of the direct action need to be clear. Expectations need to be realistic.

It is rare for a direct action alone to win a campaign. It may crystallise an issue for people previously uncertain or confused and it may even cause passive supporters of your opponents to think again. It can also lead to stronger opposition, especially at a local level.

It is rare for a direct action alone to win the campaign although it is often vital in conjunction with other campaign elements.

**Long-term campaign.** Campaigns may continue for some time to come – in some cases years. Campaign stages may have to be repeated and escalated using new and imaginative tactics.

Some stages will need to be tackled before others. There is not much point in visiting a politician (negotiations) before we've done our homework (investigations). Campaign stages tend to overlap or occur simultaneously, ie political lobbying and public education run in parallel in most campaigns.

While direct action protests can be effective in publicising concerns to the broader community, they are just one part of a broad-based campaign. While some campaigns can be successful without direct action protests it is rare for direct actions alone to succeed.

## What is non-violent action?

With the recognition of power lying with people, such power can be exercised to bring about social change through any or all of the following ways.

**Protest and persuasion.** Such as street marches, rallies, public meetings, picketing, and petitions, street theatre aim to persuade on-lookers and third parties or perhaps the opponent to support the campaign. Sometimes it may simply be to express dissent through largely symbolic means.

When the views expressed are unpopular, controversial or when the action itself goes against government policy, even the mildest action may have a powerful impact.

**Non-cooperation.** Includes strikes, boycotts, civil disobedience, refusal to pay taxes or rent. Demonstrators act by withdrawing or withholding social, economic or political co-operation. This sort of action may draw a legal response in an attempt to prevent the action.

**Non-violent intervention.** The demonstrating group tend to interfere with normal workings of their opponent's project or organisation by disputing their normal operations.

Non-violent intervention tends to pose a more direct immediate challenge than other methods and often brings quicker success or sharper repression. The response to this sort of action is potentially volatile either from the workers frustrated by being unable to do their job or governments and corporations making a legal response.

## How NVA works

Non-violent actions operate by producing power changes. For example, direct actions enable demonstrators to seek and gain support from a wider group than is actually involved in the demonstration.

The conventional view of social and political power is that power resides in

government, authority, in the ownership of wealth, the police force, and institutions such as the bureaucracy.

By contrast, the assumption underlying non-violent action is that the power of any government depends on the goodwill, consent and cooperation of the people who are governed.

In order to wield power governments must be able to direct the behaviour of other people, draw on a large pool of people and material resources, control some means of coercing dissenters (police force) and direct the bureaucracy that administers its policies.

Without the agreement and cooperation of community at large and the people that make up the bureaucracy, the government is powerless.

Politicians derive their power from the support from below and from the community in general. A successful campaign will therefore undercut that support.

Pressure on politicians is increased if thousands of people throughout Australia are inspired to take action for perhaps the first time.

Maintenance of the non-violent approach is essential to achieve favourable power changes.

Violence towards police or workers or damage to property gives governments, companies and individuals the opportunity to resort to repressive legal means or 'justification' for a violent response. If this occurs, the campaign issue becomes one of law and order rather than the issue.

Violence or property damage can cripple a campaign, increase support for your opponents and substantially increase the risk of violent attacks on activists.

## How NVA succeeds

Non-violent actions attain their goals in three ways:

- conversion
- accomodation
- non-violent coercion.

### Conversion

Means that the opponent has a change of heart or mind and comes to agree with the work towards the activist's goal. At the top of the social structure this is unlikely although sometimes dissident government officials or

*Non-violent action (NVA) "seeks to dramatise the issue so that it can no longer be ignored".*

## Martin Luther King

scientists do change their position, either openly or privately.

In line with this attitude, non-violent activists emphasise that they intend no personal hostility toward members of the opponent group.

There are a number of factors beyond the direct control of your campaign which can influence the conversion of opponents.

**The degree of conflict of interest.** If the opponent has strong vested interests in the issue at stake, the non-violent activists can expect that it will be more difficult to convert them to your point of view than if the issue at stake is of relatively little importance to the opponent.

**Social distance.** At one extreme, if members of your campaign are not even regarded as human beings, the chances of conversion being effected are very low.

**Personality of the opponents.** Some opponents are readily susceptible to conversion by sacrifices made by others.

**Shared beliefs and norms.** If the opponent and the activist share beliefs there is more likelihood of conversion.

**The role of third parties.** Conversion can be more likely if the opponent group cares about praise or condemnation from third parties (such as friends, the media, professional peers etc.) and how these groups respond to repression of the non-violent activists.

There are also factors directly under the control of campaigners.

**Refraining from violence and hostility.** If

*Direct action campaigns should be planned with a focus on “how will our actions help to further undermine the dwindling support held by politicians for this environmentally destructive activity?”*

the non-violent group wants to convert the opponent, it emphasises the importance of abstention from violence and expressions of hostility toward the opponent.

**Attempting to gain the opponent’s trust.**

Trust of the non-violent activists may significantly increase the chances of conversion. This trust may be cultivated through truthfulness (statements to the opponent and public should be as accurate as possible) and openness concerning intentions.

**Refraining from humiliating the opponent.** A person is much more likely to come around to your point of view if they don’t feel they will lose face doing so.

**Making visible sacrifices for the cause.** In many direct actions this can be a willingness to give up holidays, homes and comfort, and to accept the risk of possible injury to stand up for your beliefs. Sometimes this may be enough to make some people think again.

**Carrying out constructive work in developing viable alternatives.** Many people will stick to their support for current policies as long as they believe there are no alternatives, but may come around if alternatives are pointed out.

**Maintaining personal contact with the opponent. Developing empathy, goodwill and patience towards the opponent.** Conversion will be helped if activists can achieve a high degree of empathy for the motives, effects, expectations and attitude of members of the rival group. With such empathy, the non-violent activists may be more able to anticipate the opponents’ moods and reactions, and also have a more

sympathetic understanding of their outlook, feelings and problems, while disagreeing with them on policy.

**Accommodation**

Means the opponent gives in, partly or completely, not because they’ve changed their minds and not because they are completely powerless but because it seems a lesser evil than any other alternative.

In this path of change, the opponent resolves to grant the demands of the non-violent activists without having his/her mind changed about the issues involved. The main reason for this willingness to yield is the changed social situation produced by the non-violent action.

It differs from non-violent coercion in that the choice to partially or fully meet the activists demands is made while the opponent still has the power to continue resisting.

Accommodation may occur due to a range of factors including a low degree of conflict of interest, some actual and potential support for the non-violent activists in the opponent group and among influential third parties. Added to this can be the ineffectiveness of oppressive counter-measures, economic losses, an estimation that the campaign will only get stronger and an assessment that the risk of defeat is greater than victory.

**Non-violent coercion**

The other path of change is non-violent coercion where activists have it directly in their power to frustrate the opponents’ will. The green bans that prevented the demolition of historic building and parks are an example of that. Most commonly an intermediate process determines the outcome.

## NVA misunderstandings

There are three common misconceptions about non-violence.

**MYTH 1 – NVA won’t lose public support**

Many people assume that the simply choosing non-violence as a method of struggle will ensure public support. While it is true that there is less likely to be as much opposition to a non-violent campaign compared to a violent campaign, any direct challenge to recognised authority will bring some adverse response.

The stepping up of a campaign from lobbying and education to direct action will result in polarisation of the population – especially at a local level – and some loss of support. This loss of support is inevitable, and more importantly, in an effective long-term campaign it will be temporary. An understanding of non-violent campaign stages means you can anticipate this and not see it as a failure. You can work to minimise it through advance publicity which explains the issues and necessity for direct action.

### **MYTH 2 – NVA must try to physically stop the opponent**

It is common in campaigns involving direct intervention such as blockades, to come across the attitude that ‘we are going to physically stop work through our non-violent presence’. This is not necessarily true. A non-violent intervention is a way dramatising the issue. A blockade may delay work, or make it more expensive, or it may make it politically unacceptable to continue because of the publicity and arrests.

However, it is rare for direct action by itself to force a change in policy. Direct action needs to work with other education and lobbying components of a campaign to achieve long term change. In this context direct action is a way of bringing the issue to the attention of those involved, the media, other environment groups and the public in a way they cannot ignore.

Blockades and occupations are a dramatic way of peacefully demonstrating the sincere conviction of many people and getting media coverage. Any delay in work should be seen as a bonus, not the primary purpose of the action.

### **MYTH 3 – NVA means no physical harm to the non-violent group**

The third and most common misconception about non-violence, is the belief that “if we are non-violent the opposition will be as well”.

This is not necessarily true.

By choosing a non-violent form of struggle you are defining *your* values and methods, not those of your opponents.

Being non-violent does not mean you can not be hurt. However, strict adherence to non-violence substantially reduces the chances that your opponents will resort to violence. If your opponent knows of your commitment to

*“Without the agreement and cooperation of community at large and the people that make up the bureaucracy, the government is powerless”.*

non-violence it is less likely they will feel threatened themselves, thereby lowering the tension threshold.

If they know you will not attack them or their equipment they may be frustrated or angry at not being able to work but there is no direct threat to them or their property. Few opponents find it politically acceptable to use violence against a non-violent opponent. This assumes that any harassment is made visible to society.

However, if violence does occur and people are hurt, the view that adoption of non-violence was at fault is problematic. Confronted with legal or violent repression you can back down, remain firm or abandon non-violence.

If you back down, you reinforce the opponent’s belief in repression as an effective means of social control and also increase the likelihood of it being used in the future. In effect backing down is saying “If you do not want us to protest, all you need to do is this [be it batons, arrests, or fines] and we will stop”. Backing down under repression leaves the action group in a far worse position than originally existed.

Retaliating simply increases the spiral of violence by contractors and possibly police, increasing the prospects of more repressive legislation and reducing your base of support. Such a path guarantees both more casualties and a campaign loss.

Or you can stand firm and through communicating your personal and collective resolve persist and broaden your base of support until your opponents wilt.

# Staying safe at protest actions

While there will be aspects of action that will be personally rewarding, it is not a game or picnic. In any action situation there exists a potential for aggression and violence.

Everything possible must be done to eliminate the potential to violence, not only for your own and your opponents safety, but also to the very success of the action.

Participants in protest actions have considerable influence over the way in which a confrontation proceeds. It is often possible to avoid harassment by diffusing volatile situations. Where opponents do become violent the quickest way to reduce the tension is by refusing to become violent or retaliate.

This requires self-discipline both as individuals and as a group. The best basis for developing the discipline for participation in non-violent action is either directly through participation in actions or through NVA training. It is important to recognise that success in this type of protest action depends on it remaining totally peaceful, and retaining a dedication to the goals of the protest action.

## Things to consider in planning for your protest

**Plan for self reliance.** Ensure that all participants have training in non-violence and a significant number of people with experience at direct action protests. The first line of defence in avoiding harassment is your own experience and skills as a group. Avoid putting people new to protests in volatile and potentially violent situations.

**Don't rely on a police presence for safety.** Never plan a direct action assuming you can rely on police to be there to deter attacks and enforce the law. Often police are unwilling to maintain a constant preventative presence at protest sites due to budget restrictions, competing priorities in remote areas and occasionally indifference or political partisanship.

**Don't rely on a media presence for deterrence or documentation.** Never plan a protest assuming that the media will be there to deter attacks or document what happens. Few media organisations will send crews long

distances without knowing beforehand that it is a worthwhile story. The more remote your location, the less likely media will attend.

## Avoid and minimise harassment

The most effective way to prevent harassment is to refuse to become a part of it.

Both campaign groups and individuals can play important roles in preventing harassment, and where it does occur, minimising the impact and the risk of it recurring.

Preventative strategies include activities that are under the direct control of activists, such as the nature of the protest and the skill levels of the participants. There are also the actions of other players (media, police, contractors, and industry leaders) that can be influenced to ensure that differences over environmental policy do not escalate to violence and other forms of harassment.

There are some steps for activist groups to take to prevent harassment.

**Create the space for addressing the issue.** Often groups that have experienced harassment prefer to get on with campaigning and hope that by not talking about bad experiences the issue will go away. This risks not learning often simple lessons that can shape how future protests can be done in a less risky way.

**Prevention is better than cure.** Agree that as a group you will put effort into trying to prevent incidents occurring rather than solely responding after incidents occur. This will be a medium to long term project but ultimately essential for effective campaigning. In particular, this will require changed behaviour from activists, police, the media, contractors and industry groups.

**Document and evaluate past incidents.** The first step to developing a plan to prevent harassment is to document past incidents that have occurred to your group or others working on the issue or in your area. Start with the most recent and work back. The more information you have the better – details of what happened, how you reacted, the actions of contractors, police, media, industry and others.

Are there any obvious patterns? Are there lessons to be learnt? For example, if you have been in the same situation on more than one occasion did your responses and the outcomes differ? If so why? By looking at the examples you may be surprised to discover that simple changes in how you or others reacted made for a dramatically safer protest action. Are there any hints on what the factors were behind the incident that you should take note of in planning future protests? Look at the context of the incident – the timing, the location, the individuals involved).

**Do you have access to good legal advice?**

The more you know about the basics of the law the better – from legal aspects of protests and possible charges through to police procedures. Try to develop a pool of supportive lawyers who can be called on at important times. However, try to avoid wearing out your welcome with loading more and more onto the same people. And thank them when they help you.

**Are you well connected to local and state networks?** The better connected you are to the local community and regional and statewide networks the better your chances of preventing and minimising harassment. The more visible and the better regarded you are in the local community generally the less likely harassment is.

**Do you have the basic equipment and skills for gathering evidence.** If an incident occurs it is essential that you are effective at gathering high quality evidence for use in ensuring police can press charges, in any media work you may want to do and for your own evaluation. While witness statements are important the more incontrovertible the evidence you have the better – video, tape, photos and statements (in that order of priority).

## Simple steps when you are confronted by aggressors

**Don't make sudden movements.** If you are standing, keep your hands lowered at your side. (In some situations having your hands behind your back may be non-threatening but in others increase the fear in your opponent that you are hiding something or possibly a weapon.) Do not raise your arms in any way that could be interpreted as threatening.

**Stand still.** Do not approach the aggressor or back off (unless you decide for your physical safety that it is time to move away). If you are sitting down, stay sitting down if possible, and if you decide to stand up, do so very slowly.

**Never ignore an aggressor.** Ignoring an aggressive person, especially turning your back on them, can enrage them. Maintain eye contact without staring.

**Lower the volume.** The normal precursor of violent attacks is aggressive language. If you match their aggressive language, in their determination to be the 'winner' they will see it as a challenge to escalate the exchange to the next level. Don't swear and never raise your voice. To defuse the situation, you need to aim to lower the volume, tone and pace of the exchange. Always try to talk to him/her calmly and reasonably, bringing the conversation around to neutral topics (e.g. their family, hobbies, or anything else you can think of).

**Relate as a person.** The more they can relate to you as a person – though one with different beliefs – the less likely an attack. There have been situations where friendly relations with contractors and police have paid off in tense situations. You may only develop good relations with a few of your opponents but that can break up the dynamics of them acting as a group against you or at least give you some forewarning.

**Humour to the rescue?** If you can, divert the anger into laughter (this is difficult but incredibly effective). You can make a joke at your own expense but *never* seek to ridicule an opponent.

**Safety in small groups.** For any confrontation make sure that you are grouped with at least one other person. While there is increased safety in number, large groups of people outnumbering a contractor can be perceived as threatening.

**Try to ensure you have a 'buddy' system** of people paired to stick together during a protest. As far as possible try to watch each other's movements, identify and bring to general notice anyone harming others in your group, provide moral support for each other, and give your self another focus so you don't become centred on your own tensions.

## A few points about clothing in confrontation situations

- Remove all jewellery, particularly earrings
- Don't wear loose shoes, braces or other clothing with parts which could be used to drag you
- The longer your hair the better it is tied back or under a hat to avoid it being pulled
- Glasses should be on a cord around your neck (and preferably an old pair or at least have a spare set available should they get broken or lost)
- Remove all the sharp or potentially harmful objects from your pockets (e.g. pocket knives) which could be construed as weapons.

## Avoiding police violence

Remember that, just as in any other group in the community, some police at protest actions will be supportive, others ambivalent and some hostile. It is their job to uphold the law and occasionally arrest protesters. It is important to remember you no quarrel with them as long as they behave professionally.

It is also important to remember police officers are an uniformed and armed group.

Good liaison at all times, while not preventing confrontation or police harassment, will make life easier and more peaceful for both parties. At the same time recognise the police have a job to do and will generally – though not always – do it as peacefully as they are able. How they do their job can depend to a significant extent on your behaviour as well as your knowledge of and willingness to reasonably defend your rights.

Confrontation and mass arrests are tense situations when anger and frustration, on the part of part of police and demonstrators can erupt. Again it is essential to keep calm and not to resist arrest. Resisting arrest means doing anything other than voluntarily going with the police officer or going limp and allowing yourself to be carried away. Kicking, hanging on to each other, pushing, any movement that restricts the police arresting

you can be called resisting.

A police officer is instructed to use “all reasonable force” to effect an arrest – “reasonable” being interpreted by the arresting officer. If you resist they can force you to be arrested. This can result in them become angry, possibly violent, a higher penalty for you, and no benefit for your campaign.

If the media are present they will zoom in on anything which looks violent with a result that public sympathy for your campaign can decline rapidly. You need to win public support not alienate it.

Screaming, shouting abuse and ridiculing the police are not, and do not look like, non-violent actions and usually escalate the level of tension.

While you are being arrested talk to the police. If they haven't told you why you are being arrested ask him/her; if they are hurting you, say so. Don't necessarily expect them to reply as they may have been instructed not to talk to protesters. Don't get upset if they ignore you but it is worth attempting the dialogue anyway. If police are wearing numbers try to remember the number of the arresting officer.

It is useful if you have a notebook and pen to record important information such as the police officers number and name, exactly where and when you were arrested, other people present who could be witness or who were taking video/photos. This may later be critical information for your defence.

## What to do if the police behave unprofessionally

Occasionally police, especially those who personally oppose your actions or are under instructions from vindictive senior officers – will behave in an unprofessional manner – either initiating or turning a blind eye to harassment. Never just let this go unchallenged as it simply ensures that what they do to you they will go on doing to others.

To get anywhere in dealing with unprofessional police behaviour you will need very good evidence. Complaints about police behaviour in effect require a higher standard of evidence than would apply to anyone else – especially because in most jurisdictions it is police that investigate complaints against police.

**Record the details of exactly who was involved** – preferably their names and serial numbers – and what they did. The more witnesses and evidence (video, photos, tapes and written statements) the better. Write it all down as soon as possible, date it and have it witnessed. Get witness statements as soon as possible from as many others as you can.

**Gather all the evidence together immediately** and put it in one file. Never give anyone your only copy of documents or evidence (especially police – many have an uncanny knack of losing it).

**Find out who their senior officer is** and contact them personally. You will need to put your complaint in writing. If you can, get some friendly legal advice. Take care to avoid making claims or ascribing a motivation to police actions if you can't prove it. Be reasonable – sometimes the investigating senior officer is aware of a pattern of behaviour by an officer and is looking to your evidence as a basis for long overdue disciplinary action.

**Be prepared to put in time to follow through.** Complaints take time and are rarely dealt with quickly. Prepare yourself for the possibility that you will have to put energy into chasing your complaint through the system.

It is important to recognise that all complaints against police have at least some impact.

Most commonly complaints against police are not upheld but nonetheless the complaint will sit on their personnel file and be reviewed should they apply for a promotion or transfer. This becomes particularly telling if many complaints are made against particular officers.

Your individual complaint may be unsuccessful but unless you stand up for your rights the perpetrators are simply likely to keep on doing to others what they did to you. However, it is important never to make complaints unless you are prepared to put some time in and follow through.

## Media and direct action

Media coverage of direct action protests can effectively put an issue on a political agenda. However, you must be clear in your campaign planning exactly how much of your campaign strategy relies on media coverage of your

action for success.

Few direct actions can achieve changes in corporate or government policies without media coverage. Long term direct actions rarely gain sustained media coverage, especially if they are in a remote area. Short-term protests are usually more successful in gaining coverage, especially where they are close to media outlets.

The further you are from media centres, the more you will have to rely on your own media gathering and dissemination skills. Generally, it is easier to gain coverage on radio and newspapers where information can be gathered without being at the site. However, visually strong TV stories tend to have greater impact simply because the power of visual images to tell the story.

Appearance, no matter how unrepresentative, becomes reality to the viewer.

For this reason it is crucial to the success of social change campaigns to pay great attention to maximising the impact from TV.

It is also important to recognise that there is a world of difference between expression and communication. Expression is a one way process while communication is a two way process.

It is important to ensure that the images that appear do not undercut the message or distract viewers from the real story. There are some key points.

- Approximately one-quarter of people cannot recall any news item shortly after having watched a news bulletin; most can only remember a couple of stories.
- A TV story can be visually very complex – involving changing camera shots roughly every 5-6 seconds: thus the strongest retained images are those that are the simplest and bluntest – where the issue is summed up very briefly.
- It is worth bearing in mind that surveys indicate that somewhere in the order of 80 per cent of the information retained from a TV clip is related to the visual images and not the spoken words.

While TV is often seen as being objective the images chosen and how they are edited is not only subjective but determines how struggles are perceived.

Direct actions, if well-organised and careful attention paid to the visual images sought, can be a powerful way of putting issues onto the

## Managing the media

1. Be clear about your message.
2. Be clear about the stereotypes that may be portrayed and how you can avoid them being confirmed especially via images.
3. Be clear about who you are trying to communicate with. What will shift the unconverted and what will alienate them?
4. What is the standard file footage used for your stories? Is it accurate and appropriate? The more remote the site of your protest the less likely it is that media will attend. However, if they have file footage or photos, it makes it easier to combine it with a news release and interview with someone in town and still show footage of the area of concern.
5. Always tape your TV coverage and analyse it for what went well, what could be done better. From this write down the lessons for future actions.
6. Does your campaign have someone who compiles video, photographic, news clippings or tape material on all your media coverage? Do you ever evaluate it?
7. Be aware of and discuss with participants in media events what image you want to try and project. Are there dress standards that will help or hinder the campaign? Avoid doing TV interviews wearing personal clothing that is visually distracting – sunglasses/safety glasses, helmets, or bright or long earrings.
8. Assess scenarios, especially for direct actions, of things that could go wrong and have prepared responses. It is critical that agreements be established about what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Are you ready for all responses or are you planning to respond on the spot.

agenda. Ideally the idea of spending a lot of effort organising a protest is to clearly communicate an issue with supporters and the uncommitted. You are seeking mobilise the support of the already committed and win the support of those who are uncommitted.

## Dealing with provocative people

In some direct actions people participate for the purpose of starting a fight or to disrupt proceedings.

The best approach is to deal with aggressive people within your own ranks without accusation or suspicion, to calm them down, and, most importantly to remove them from the scene. By acting peacefully you can make the work of provocateurs extremely difficult, if not impossible.

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