

Information on Racism and Repression

Dealing with repression is part of the resistance against prevailing conditions - it cannot lie on a few shoulders. In recent years we have noticed that individuals are often treated with particular severity. It affects individuals, but it means all of us. In these cases, solidarity is the most important antidote we have. Repression does not affect all people equally. This makes it all the more important that we show solidarity with those who are more affected by it.

BIPoC¹ are more affected by repression due to racism than *white*² people. It is the task of all activists who plan the action and participate in it to develop an anti-racist practice that takes into account the different realities of participants and makes it possible to work together in solidarity and emancipation. Racism concerns us all. Anti-racism is a duty.

It can be a very empowering feeling to participate with hundreds and thousands of people in the different actions during the Action Days. But not all bodies are equally endangered or protected. Many BIPoC, or non-*white* persons are affected by Racial Profiling and more often than average by police violence. This can also happen on the way to an action, in or after the action. Unfortunately, legal rights cannot protect oneself against this in a concrete situation. Although such police behavior is clearly illegal, it does occur time and again. Therefore, it is important that everyone and especially *white* people who witness such a situation act in solidarity and support. But also note that people want different reactions in such a situation, so there is no one, single solution.

- Always try to contact the person concerned first: Ask how they are doing and what they need. Signalize that you are on their side. If you can't talk to the person, first check if their affinity group or friends are nearby. They may be better able to judge what the person needs.

Possible actions you can take

In the situation:

- As the person concerned: There is no right or wrong action in the situation. The most important thing is to focus on your needs. You know best what you need, for example whether you want to get out of the situation as quickly as possible or if you want attention or interference from other people. It can be helpful to discuss possible scenarios with your affinity group in advance.
- You witness or are affected by racial profiling or racist police violence: Anyone can ask for the badge number and the name of the officer. Denial of the badge number is illegal, but in practice it is still common.
- Anyone can be taken as a witness³. We see the danger of being called as a witness against the person concerned if the police makes a counter report, which is police practice. It can be more helpful to give the person concerned your contact details. They can then consider afterwards how they want to proceed and whether you can support them.
- Depending on the wishes of the person concerned: Stay close by, observe, intervene, say stop, create attention around it, call the legal team, get further support, film if necessary.
- If you as an observer are unsure, you can also talk to other people nearby and think together about what you can do. As a *white* person, doing nothing or remaining in silence should not be an option (→ *white* silence). If you are affected by racism yourself, you should not only focus on the person concerned but also on your own safety.

¹ BIPoC: stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The term, which originates from the US-American civil rights movement, is a self-description and does not describe the biological characteristics of humans, but a social construction that assigns people a certain social position. What BIPoC have in common are shared experiences of racism, exclusion from the *white*-dominated majority society, and collective attributions of "otherness. The concept sees itself as emancipatory and in solidarity. It positions itself against attempts at division through racism and culturalization as well as against discriminatory designations by *white* majority societies.

² *white*: in contrast to terms like Black and People of Color, is not a political, empowering self-description, but describes a dominant position that is usually not named. The name serves to make *white* privileges visible, because they are usually invisible to *white* people. Racism also structurally assigns *white* people a certain social position. This position is associated with privileges, dominance and a standard for judging non-*whites*, without itself being marked *white*. To make clear that *whiteness* is not an empowering self-designation, we write it in *white* small and italic letters, in contrast to the empowering self-designation Black, which we write in capital letters and non-italic.

³ Be aware that both disciplinary complaints and even more so testimonies can lead to the fact that you do not leave the action anonymously.

In retrospect:

- Approach the affected person carefully and ask if you can support them (e.g. talk, drive away, medical care, exchange contacts).
- As an affected person and as an observer, it can be helpful to write a memory protocol⁴ to be able to remember the incident later.
- A disciplinary complaint⁵ can be filed afterwards with the police chief of the respective state, but should be discussed with the person concerned first.
- If you are affected and want to take action against racial profiling or racist police violence, we recommend that you talk to other affected people, anti-repression structures or solidarity lawyers beforehand.

Attention for observers

All actions can have a different effect on those affected and may even make the situation worse. Therefore, you should talk to each other about such situations beforehand, if possible. In this situation, you should first take what the person concerned communicates to you. For example, if the person wishes to behave calmly, you should not ignore the wish just because you personally think it is politically important to scandalize the situation.

Furthermore, non-*white* people without an EU passport, with a precarious residence status, or people who are illegalized may be threatened with deportation. In chapter 6 of our Legal Aid Manual you will find information on this topic. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us or send us an email. We will try to give you the information you need to decide how to assess your personal risk of repression. But as a *white* person, be careful with your ascriptions, many BIPOC activists have a German passport.

Stronger together to counter repression!

**How to contact the Legal Team (German: Ermittlungsausschuss/ EA) during the action:
0049 (0)30 340 603 13**

⁴ Tips for writing a memory protocol, as well as risks, are available here:
<https://antirepression.noblogs.org/polizeikontakt/gedaechtnisprotokolle/>

⁵ Be aware that both disciplinary complaints and even more so testimonies can lead to the fact that you do not leave the action anonymously.