



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR SAFE PARTICIPATION IN PROTESTS IN MALAYSIA:



If a non-uniformed police stops you:

Request to see their **police card**. Suspended officers have red cards, and **do not have authority** over you.



You only need to provide your **name, IC number, and address** when questioned by a uniformed or non-uniformed police officer.



If there are further questions, ask if you are under arrest.

- If you are not arrested, you may walk away.
- If you are a witness, **you cannot be arrested**. Instead, you may be asked for a statement (Form 112). Cooperate and decide on a convenient time and place.
- If arrested, do not resist. You can **lawfully ask for a reason** and to be taken to the nearest station. You also have the right to call family or your lawyer.

Pro-tip: Intimidation can include **unwarranted & excessive physical or verbal force** used against compliant individuals.

Browse our **microsite:**
<https://unsilenced.amnesty.my/>
for more information.

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Ensure you have information about the **risks & benefits** involved. If unsure, talk to the organiser or a legal advisor.

E.g. In 2026, there is a moratorium on section 9(5) requiring a 5-day police notice. Still, the law has not been amended and spontaneous protests can attract more risk.



Have a safety plan. After deciding to protest, tell trusted individuals about your whereabouts & expected return.

- Tell them what to do if you do not return safely.
- At the protest, **pay attention to marshals' instructions** – their duty is to safeguard attendees.



Take precautions to enhance your digital security. **Log out from social accounts** and **enable passwords for personal data**. Inspector-ranked officers can check phones with a 'reasonable suspicion' of an offence.

PROTEST SAFETY IN MALAYSIA



WHAT IS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

& WHY IS IT A HUMAN RIGHT?

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE is an active intervention tactic that is used as part of a broader campaign strategy to raise awareness, increase pressure, & promote specific change.

Protest & assembly is a form of civil disobedience and is a critical way in which the right to freedom of conscience, expression and peaceful assembly can be exercised.

Civil disobedience is a right compliant with international law when exercised non-violently. This is true even where these non-violent protests infringe domestic laws and restrictions.

Where protests challenge domestic laws, it is important that the benefits outweigh potential risks and there is enhanced risk management for safety



5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ORGANISING SAFE PROTESTS



COMMITMENT TO NON-VIOLENCE

In compliance with international laws & standards.

ASK: IS IT WORTH THE RISK?

Based on a holistic assessment of risks & benefits. This is a critical component of an organiser's due diligence. Consider: Will it bring added value to a specific community?



UPHOLDING A DUTY OF CARE & PRIOR, INFORMED CONSENT

Take all possible measures to mitigate risks to participants' rights. This includes full disclosure of potential risks & benefits.

ENSURING ADEQUATE & APPROPRIATE TRAINING FOR ALL

E.g. regular protest participants, marshalls, or observer roles.



TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS

Organisers should own the consequences of a civil disobedience action & not retract.

PREPARING FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Below are some key considerations in planning for civil disobedience:

> Understand local relevance

- Understand the local socio-political context, including recent police response patterns and government sentiments.
- Consider the laws that have historically been used against protestors. In Malaysia, this is the Peaceful Assembly act, Sedition Act, and Communications and Multimedia act.

> Prioritise diversity, inclusivity, & active participation

- Collaborate with community members & activists as active decision makers or partners in every planning stage. This will support bringing clear & added value to communities.
- Consider how protesting may affect activists & community members differently, based on their gender, race, ability, etc.
- Include specific and tailored measures for safe participation.



Pro-tip: As part of due diligence, organisers typically have lawyers on standby. You may proactively notify organisers if you foresee needing assistance with police proceedings...

