

# RESPONSIBLE RESISTANCE

FIGHTING THE POSSIBLE DICTATORSHIP



# INTRODUCTION

Complacency, apathy, disinformation and division are among the aspiring dictator's most valuable allies.

But organized pockets of resistance occurring repeatedly and simultaneously will flummox him --- and inspire people and institutions to do the same.



# CONSIDER

Resisting the developing dictatorship is going to require some sacrifice on your part. Most of this will mean dedicating a lot of time.

Unfortunately, we are also living in an era of increasing political violence. This is something else to seriously consider.



# THE OPPOSITION

Don't automatically assume the worst about people who disagree. You will find that many Trump supporters are simply ill-informed or misguided. Often a simple, friendly, one-on-one conversation can help someone see the reality of the situation.



# STAY AWARE

Become and stay well informed. Don't get your news from social media (which is teeming with lies). Instead, stick to sources that have established track record for accuracy and reliability.

HHM James I strongly recommends the Associated Press (AP) web site and app. Founded in 1846, the AP is a non-profit, non-partisan news organization. It has won 59 Pulitzer Prizes (as of 2025), journalism's highest honor. Both its web site and its app are free.



## STEP 1 DO YOUR HOMEWORK

There may already be a nearby organization that is actively fighting against Donald Trump and his supporters. Such organizations almost always welcome new volunteers and supporters. This is an option to consider.

To organize and lead your own effort, conduct some research. Does your senator or congressman support Trump? A writing campaign may be the choice. Is there a local company or organization affiliated with Trump? A protest or a boycott is a possibility.



## STEP 2 GET THE WORD OUT

You can't do this alone. You will need volunteers, donors and other supporters. Start by speaking with friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.

Craft a message that is clear, simple and concise. (Yes, this may mean crafting a slogan).

Create a web site. This should clearly state the goals, how people can participate and how to stay informed, etc. There are companies that help you (some offer free web hosting).



Social media is a natural and easy option for gathering and sharing information. But be aware not to overly rely on it (not everyone you want to reach will be on the chosen platforms) and that it is very easy for opponents to post disinformation online to discredit your efforts.

## STEP 3 GETTING ORGANIZED

Yours can be an informal group or an incorporated entity recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). A good place to start is Wikipedia. Search for "political action committee." You may even be lucky to have an attorney among your volunteers.

Consider partnering with or seeking advice from an existing organization. You will need to establish a leadership team (perhaps a formal board of directors), committees, etc.



## STEP 4 CHOOSING A COURSE OF ACTION

There are three basic options: a letter writing campaign, protesting on site and a boycott.

### LETTER CAMPAIGN

A letter campaign can be especially effective when it is directed at a sitting politician. This is because politicians are understandably sensitive to public opinion.

Email and online petitions have become popular options. However, email messages can easily be dumped into spam folders and online petitions can be easy to ignore. The best letter campaign is the old-fashioned one: when a politician and his staff are presented with bulging mail sacks delivered to the office.



1. Choose the politician (s) that you think most need to receive your message.
2. Help your supporters with suggested bullet points so they can be consistent. Explain what you want him to do (but no form letters. They must be unique and personal). Each letter should be short and to -the-point. Avoid personal insults and obscenities.
3. High volume and timing are important. Bring together as large a group as possible. Have them write and mail their letters around the same time.

Be receptive to a post-campaign meeting the politician (his reaching out means the effort worked). Don't meet with him alone and take notes. Stick to your message. Be calm and respectful. Keep the lines of communication open after the meeting.

### PROTEST (ON-SITE)

The most visible action is the protest: picketing (and often speaking) at a public place or outside the office of a company/organization supporting Trump.

A Trump property --- a golf course, office tower, etc. --- is an obvious first choice. But most localities lack something owned or operated by the Trump family. That's okay. There are plenty of other options.

Every city or town has a common gathering place (downtown, public park, fairground). Politicians have local offices to serve their constituents. A retailer whose stockholders support Trump might have a store in your town. There may be other such places.



## TIPS

**NEVER ENCOURAGE, ENDORSE OR ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE OR HATE SPEECH.**

**DO NOT TRESPASS ON OR DAMAGE PROPERTY.**

**BLOCKING PEDESTRIANS OR VEHICLES IS NOT PROTECTED SPEECH.**

**THERE MAY BE COUNTER PROTESTERS. DON'T IMPEDE THEIR RIGHTS.**

**DON'T LET YOURSELF BE PRODDED INTO A YELLING MATCH OR OTHER OVERLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR.**

After selecting the location, contact your local authorities. A permit is not usually needed for a protest. However, public safety will be an issue. Most cities have policies regarding protests. Sitting down in advance with officials means police officers (to protect everyone present and discourage bad behavior) and emergency resources on hand (medics, fire personnel).

It is vital to stay on message. Be well organized and peaceful. Make sure your protesters are equipped (signs, banners, etc.). Consider having one or more speakers. Record the event for your web site and social media.

Alert the media. This is important for obvious reasons (more on that later).

You and your fellow protesters may be subject to arrest (see the sidebar on the right). Be prepared.

## BOYCOTT

A boycott can be an effective method for changing behavior.

The first thing to do is research: who is financially supporting Trump or his allied entities (such as the Heritage Foundation). Some of these may be specific companies or their most prominent shareholders. Retailers are especially sensitive to boycotts.

Reach out to other individuals and organizations that may agree with your goal of instigating change through a boycott.

Choose a single firm (trying to boycott multiple businesses or an entire industry tends to be too big and complicated to succeed). Be realistic. Don't expect to push any company to the financial edge. But you *are* trying to affect its public image and put an unignorable dent in its revenue.

Once the subject of the boycott is selected, make your objective clear to the relevant company and the public --- to end all support for Trump or the relevant organization.

Expect one aspect of the boycott to be on-site protesting. Have printed materials (such as flyers) to distribute to consumers, especially outside the business. Be very active with local media. Request meetings with the company to discuss your concerns. Write to key officers or stockholders.

Be patient. Remain consistent. Boycotts take time to grow and to have effect.



# TIPS

**STAY CALM. DON'T ARGUE WITH A POLICE OFFICER. KEEP ALL CONVERSATIONS CIVIL AND RESPECTFUL. THE OFFICER MAY SIMPLY WISH TO BE INFORMED ABOUT YOUR PROTEST.**

**ASK IF YOU ARE BEING DETAINED OR ARRESTED. DON'T FIGHT BACK OR ARGUE. TELL THE OFFICER THAT YOU ARE EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT AND TO HAVE A LAWYER.**

**IN MOST SITUATIONS, AN OFFICER CANNOT ARBITRARILY SEARCH YOU OR YOUR BELONGINGS. DON'T CONSENT TO A SEARCH.**

**BE SURE TO DOCUMENT HAS MUCH OF THE ENCOUNTER AS YOU CAN. WRITE DOWN THE NAMES AND BADGE NUMBERS OF THE OFFICERS AS WELL AS MANY WITNESSES AS YOU CAN. RECORD THE INCIDENT WITH YOUR PHONE (IF POSSIBLE). DON'T FORGET TO RECORD ANY INJURIES YOU SUSTAIN OR MEDICAL CARE YOU REQUIRE.**

**CONTACT A LAWYER.**

**BE PREPARED TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. IT WILL HAVE AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, A CIVILIAN COMPLAINT BOARD OR BOTH.**



# PUBLICITY

Publicity is a critical component in facing the aspiring dictatorship. The subject of your campaign (letters, protest or boycott) is not your only focus. So is the public. It is vital to continually increase the number of people who oppose Trump in a non-violent, responsible manner. More people mean more pressure.

Building this support is only possible through effective publicity.

- ◆ Keep your message clear, simple and concise (again consider a slogan).
- ◆ Remain positive. Emphasize the benefits of your campaign's outcome. (Stoking too much fear can spur some individuals to violence).
- ◆ Designate a spokesperson. This person needs to be well-versed in your campaign and its related issues. He/she should be calm, confident and poised.
- ◆ Develop a list of media contacts. Write and distribute press releases. Write editorials. Agree to media interviews. Hold a press conference.
- ◆ Utilize all the tools available --- not only online (web site, videos, blogs) but the traditional (flyers, pamphlets, posters).
- ◆ Appear at community events with flyers, an information booth or as a speaker.

*There is a standard format for the professional press release. It is important for your organization/campaign be viewed as serious and well-run. The example here can be used as a template.*



## TIPS

**RESEARCH YOUR INTERVIEWER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HIS STYLE, METHODS AND APPROACH.**

**HAVE A GOAL: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THROUGH THIS INTERVIEW?**

**PREPARE SOME POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. CONSIDER WHAT CHALLENGING QUESTIONS MAY ARISE.**

**BE AS HONEST AND ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE IN YOUR RESPONSES.**

**PRACTICE WITH SOME MOCK INTERVIEWS.**

**ALWAYS STAY CALM AND CONFIDENT. USE SIMPLE, CLEAR LANGUAGE. BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR INTERVIEWER AND HIS AUDIENCE.**

**CONDUCT A POST-INTERVIEW REVIEW. THIS WILL HELP YOU IMPROVE FOR FUTURE INTERVIEWS.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact Jane Smith  
jane@oursite.net  
(412) 555-1234

### Headline Goes Here

The first paragraph contains all the key data of your resistance project (goals, method, etc) in a complete and concise manner.

Subsequent paragraphs go into details. This can include examples that explain the need for the resistance effort. This is also a good place to put statistics. Quotes from leaders and supporters can go here.

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The final paragraph should include your group's mission statement, web site address and related information.

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## THE RESULTS

- ◆ Have you had positive, multiple mentions in the local media?
- ◆ Has your effort grown by drawing in more people and supporters?
- ◆ Has the subject of your action --- letter campaign, protest, boycott --- changed their position and stopped backing Trump?
- ◆ Were you able to accomplish your goals with the resources (especially time and money) available? Did the effort go into debt?
- ◆ Have you reached your goal in a peaceful way?

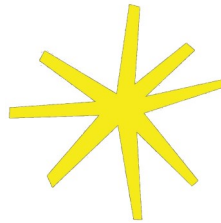


## MORE RESOURCES



### The Activist Handbook

[activisthandbook.org](http://activisthandbook.org)  
Activist Handbook consists of over 450 guides and various external resources to help you make more impact with your campaign.



### The Freedom Forum

[www.freedomforum.org](http://www.freedomforum.org)  
Freedom Forum is one of the nation's leading voices on the First Amendment and the five freedoms it protects.



### The Citizen's Handbook

[citizenshandbook.org](http://citizenshandbook.org)  
Originally a print resource first published in 1995, *The Citizen's Handbook* is now a free web site offering guidance for responsible grassroots organizing.



### The National Lawyers Guild

[www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)  
Established in 1937, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) is the nation's oldest and largest progressive bar association and was the first one in the US to be racially integrated. The guild operates a network of activists and legal experts called the Mass Defense Program to provide assistance to protests and movements



### American Civil Liberties Union

[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)  
The ACLU was founded in 1920 and provides legal assistance (often direct legal representation) in cases where civil liberties appear to be at risk. Every state has at least one office/affiliate.

# ABOUT

The mission of the private Honorary Monarchy (a.k.a. Project Norton) is to encourage responsible resistance to the burgeoning Trump dictatorship; reward speaking truth to power and seek solutions to issues as inspired by the legacy of Emperor Norton I.



*Please do not link your organization/campaign to the Honorary Monarchy unless permission has been granted.*

[www.thehonorarymonarchy.com](http://www.thehonorarymonarchy.com)