

# WHY

AN INFORMATIONAL ZINE  
ABOUT PROTESTING WITH  
VOICES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

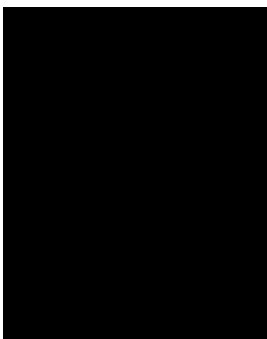
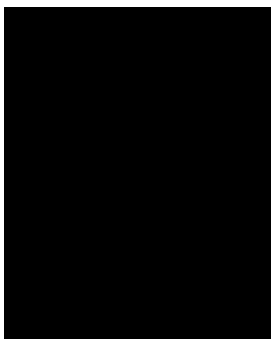
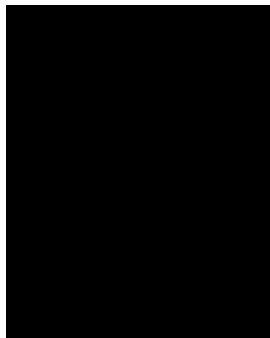
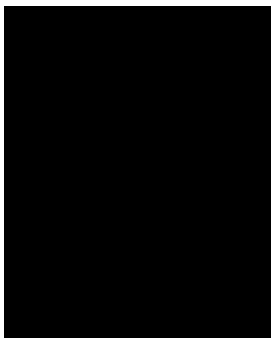
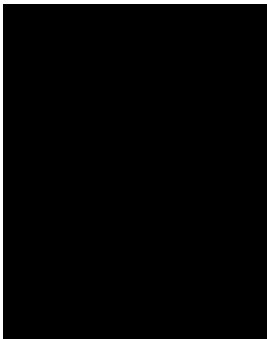


# WHY



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# PROTEST



The idea for this zine came when I read an anonymous Facebook post on a friend's page several months ago. The post was about why protest matters. I shared the words on my own Facebook page and asked friends to add their responses to the list.

As months passed, I found myself trying to explain why protest matters to several children and young people I love. I started wondering if others were having similar conversations in their communities and if they needed a resource to help frame those discussions. So I decided to make a zine that included crowdsourced responses from social media to the question: 'Why Protest?'

In addition to words from my Facebook friends and some Twitter followers, the zine includes photos by my friend, movement photographer, Sarah Jane Rhee of Love and Struggle Photos and from my personal collection of vintage images. The zine was generously designed by Megan Doty.

'Why Protest?' is available for free downloading in the hope that everyone who can will make their own copies to share with their communities. Hand the zine out at protests, use it to start discussions about why protest matters, and pass it along to the people in your lives who are newly engaged in politics. Protest is just a start and is only one form of action that contributes to social change & justice. In the end, we need to organize if we want to build power.

Mariame Kaba  
Project NIA  
NYC (March 2017)



## ORIGINAL ANONYMOUS FACEBOOK POST

What do public actions // protesting do?

- Allows for people who have a common issue to gather in public space
- Redefines public space for assembly, dialogue, expression instead of silence, isolation, violence
- Connects people's hearts, feelings and voices energetically
- Gives us practice in trusting our intuition, collectively
- Interrupts the "normal" way of being in public space when normal is protecting oppressive ways of being
- A form of collective communication—shows the national what is concerning locally, and international community solidarity and outrage through media, social media
- Helps those most impacted feel like they have support, a voice, even when state-controlled media, education systems, are silencing/isolating stories of oppression and violence
- Practicing a protected right under the constitution—freedom of assembly.
- Practice being in solidarity, what your role is, while confronting the police state
- A way to garner masses to for social, political, economic change, a space to reject what's wrong and envision what we want.

I have seen changes happen because of protesting. Protesting for me is about holding a space. (Hold the space, hold the space, hold the space, love each other, be wise about infiltrators, hold the space). Whether you take the streets or not, now is the time to figure out your role in standing in solidarity with most impacted communities, many of whom have been out here on these streets for decades.

*Anonymous Post on Facebook, November 13, 2016*

**HOLD THE SPACE, HOLD THE  
SPACE, HOLD THE SPACE,  
LOVE EACH OTHER, BE WISE  
ABOUT INFILTRATORS,  
HOLD THE SPACE.**

Publicly say that the status quo is not okay. — Teresa Silva // In the midst of nightmare, opens up spaces of joy in finding ourselves in one another's good company. Our hearts need this. — Kay Whitlock // It also is a space for learning and unlearning. For example, for me as a white person, being in protest spaces showed me things my sheltered experience didn't — namely, how openly and brazenly the police target POC, even when they are only 2 or 3 POC out of 100+ people total in a crowd. — Alexis Goldstein // There's an immediate education/awareness component, because other people in the space — who aren't part of the protest, but are walking by, driving by, inside of a nearby building, etc. — are alerted that something important enough to be protested is going on. They read the signs, listen to the chants, sometimes hear the speakers, sometimes take a hand-out or ask questions, and at least for a moment, the issue is at the forefront of their minds. Sometimes, it's even the beginning of a mindset shift (that happened to me, walking past a Palestine solidarity protest when I was in high school). — Maya Schenwar //



Because it is stark evidence of dissatisfaction. It inconveniences the public, disrupts the status quo, brings issues out of the shadows, into the light — Daryle Brown // It is effective in both channeling collective anger and changing minds. — Natalie Bennett // If we want a different way of life, we have to arm up our imaginations and call on others to do the same. — Kelly Hayes //

# RESPONSES TO WHY PROTEST



To expose abuses of power — Nancy Michaels // For our future ancestors — Silvia Ines Gonzalez // Protest lets you envision the world you want to live in — Salome Chasnoff // Because using our voices collectively helps us build power. — Ramona Gupta // Protest restores our humanity — Hilda Franco // Because it's my constitutional right — Stacy Erenberg // I protest to use my voice when I know others cannot — Maria Elaine // Protest to breakdown what is today and build a better tomorrow — Sangi Ravichandran



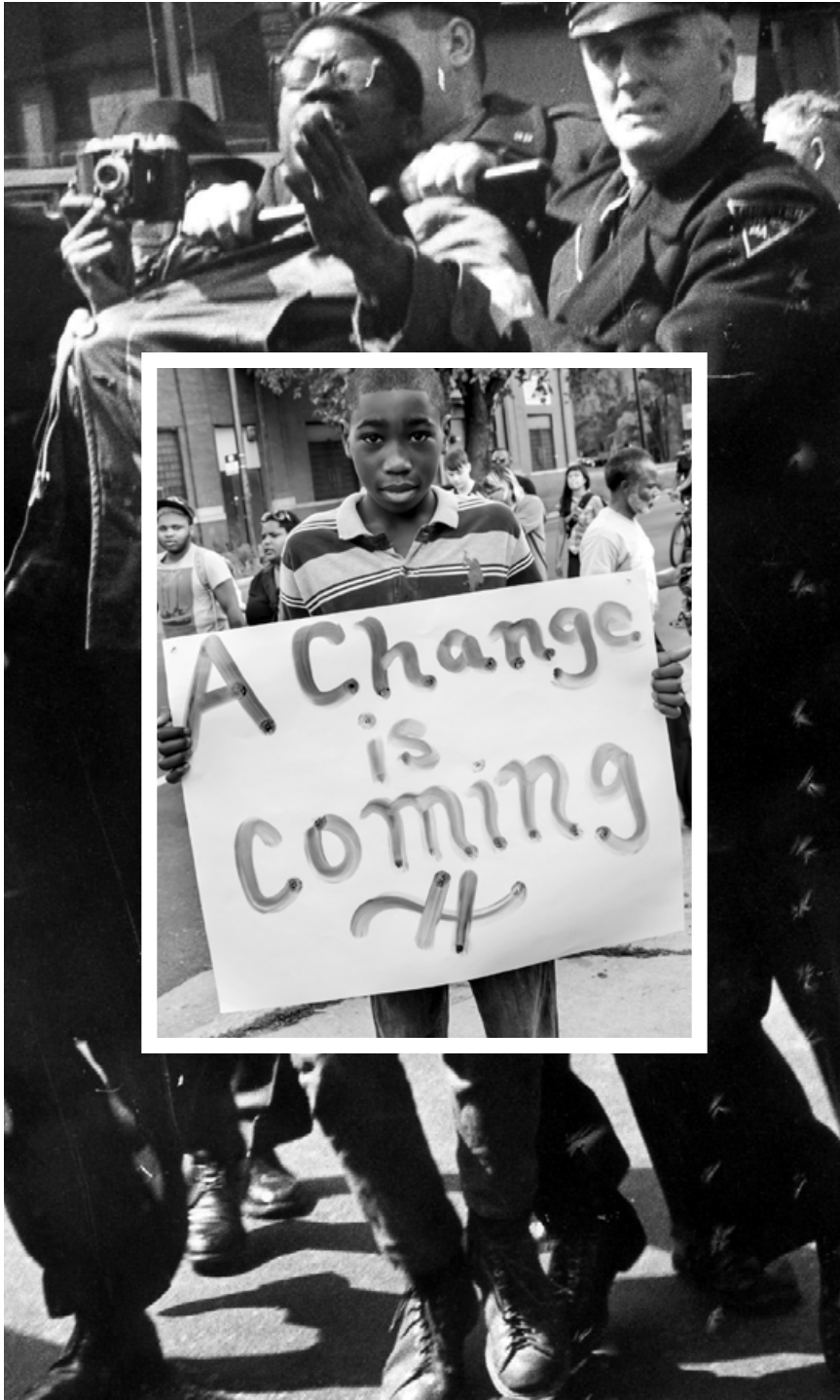


# BECAUSE SILENCE IS CONSENT.

— VALERIE LEONARD

If we want a different way of life, we have to arm up our imaginations and call on others to do the same. — Kelly Hayes // **Because not to, is to surrender** — Elsa Saeta // Because it's important to be with others, to register a collective body, a collective of voices. A protest produces a kind of energy created only by being together. — Sarah Ross //

Otherwise, the bullies rule the playground — Kathy Emery // Being involved in protest helps us find community when we feel discouraged about the world around us. Protesting today is the way we show gratitude to our ancestors struggle and the way we build the future for them next generation. — Beth Richie // **Because obedience does not relieve pain** — Amy Partridge //



# FROM

It's about power. For all of human history, it's always been about power. You stand w/ the oppressors or the oppressed. @Pennellopee99 // Because it occasionally works. @jolpaj // Find and grow community, exercise, get attention to issues and it scares those who think they are in charge. @terrigoth // I protest to say out loud that I don't agree with this & I LOVE & SUPPORT the people I am standing/marching/protesting with. — @yourstrulyret // To stand in the way of oppression — @wecanendracism // Protest is the ultimate act of democracy; of the America we may lose the under this corrupt regime. Protest because there so many who can't. — @1165 // Because shit ain't gonna unfuck itself — @cato\_of\_utica // Because those in power don't want us to, and that's a pretty solid endorsement. — @red\_enrages //

# TWITTER



Protest to honor the elders. Protest to teach the children. Protest because you can. Protest now because you might not be able to later.

— @S2dept8

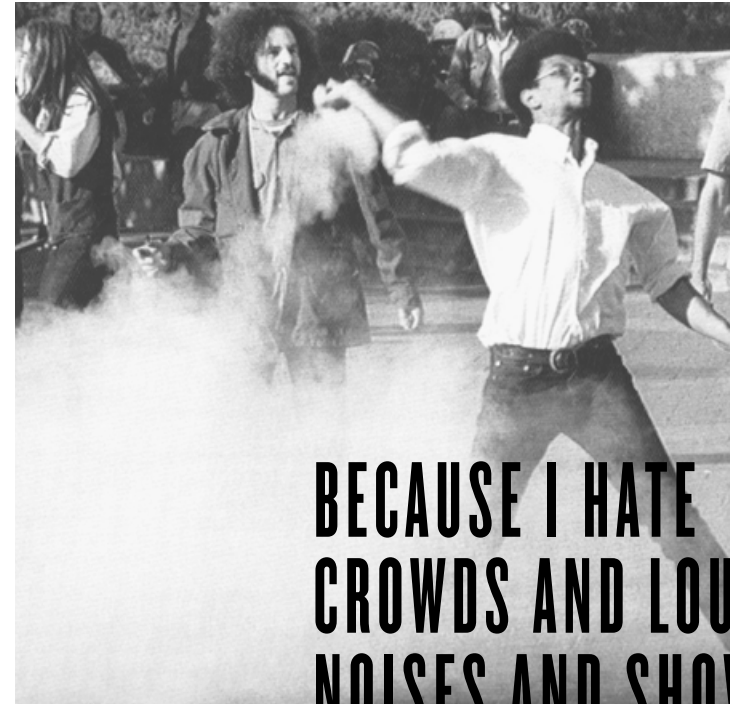


Because sometimes you need to shut things down to open them up

— @AllisonTebbe

I protest because it's where I hear the voices that are otherwise silenced by power and custom.

— @mazarines



**BECAUSE I HATE  
CROWDS AND LOUD  
NOISES AND SHOVING  
BUT I HATE INJUSTICE  
WAY MORE**



— @CHICK\_IN\_KIEV



# MY CHILDREN ARE WATCHING.

@JENMCBIGGS

I protest because my parents taught me that it's my civic duty to stand up to oppression. — @laurenmpayne // Protest to find each other. Protest to learn how. Protest to live fully. Protest to be free. Right now. — @DelfinnieFinn // Because putting your physical body in a public space is a powerful way to send a message. — @JennyKno // Because this world isn't going to fix itself and I will not be complicit in the acts of the oppressors — @Morilious // Protest crafts solidarity from people acting together. Private reaction is translated into public action & the image of power is disrupted. — @Militant-Millenn // To reimagine public space, to shift power dynamics, to show our commitment to each other, to afflict the comfortable — @madgeofhonor // Because protest helps folks find other people willing to struggle with them. — @dawrongguy // It's fun. — @JawlessMonk // Because the victims of oppression should not be the only ones "inconvenienced" by oppression. — @alan\_uplc // Because it's the only language our Kenyan Government understands — @QueenOlwala // I protest because powerful change is collective and there's always strength in numbers — @linguinibean // Because silence is complicity. We must raise our voices against all that

is heartless and unjust in our world. We must resist. Loudly. — @McShaneRachel // Because we have to disrupt this white supremacist capitalist system of oppression so that the average person can't just keep w status quo. — @Druhim // To mark moments and reclaim space. To assert existence, survival, resistance. To sustain something like hope. — @Hermit\_Hwarang // Because I lost two people I loved while everyone was complacent with the status quo. — @Bumbleputt // Because it gets people out of their rut and reminds them that nothing about the way things work, how we live day to day is carved in stone. — @catastrophemick // Because black lives matter. To support muslims, refugees, immigrants, and trans people. To make my support visible. For catharsis. — @TheAnthonyStock // Because we are out of time to wait for things to get better — @yes-jonstark // The revolution will not kick off from your living room. — @GnatseePunches // Because millions on the street is stronger than a few misspelled tweets! — @PrincessAfromCA // Because to resist is to exist— complacency is death for our communities. — @Glampyr // To practice bravery, to practice standing up, to practice using our voices among others so we'll have the strength to do it other times too. — @sarahjaneblum // So our two sons learn that doing the right thing sometimes means making trouble. — @jehiahdowdy // To get a chance to listen to people who feel passionate about a cause, to exchange ideas, to devise a way forward. — @Herodedadlus // I protest to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, as they say. — @CourtneyHammett // Because my family deserves the freedom to be who we are openly. because the ones who fought before us struggled so we could do just that. — @idleNefelibata // There are no permanent victories it's essential to keep resisting. — @RxBun // History has proven, time and time again, that the only way for working people and people of color to win is through strategic protesting! — @leesology // Because it simultaneously forms community and weaponizes it. — @localfanzine // I protest now so that my children & their children'll know that I fought on many fronts to preserve & extend gains the ancestors fought for. — @TennilleNAllen // Visible resistance and loud expression of values shows others they are not alone. Trump speaks for himself; not for me. — @MollyRPerkins // For my kids, for everyone's kids, for the world they'll inherit — @theseantcollins // Speaking up is part of the democratic process. Leaders need to be reminded that they work fo



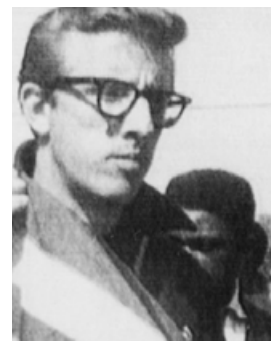
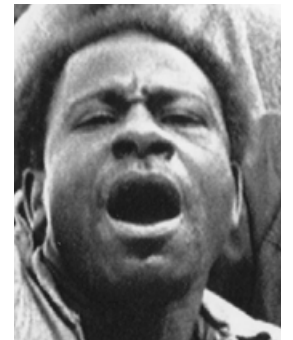
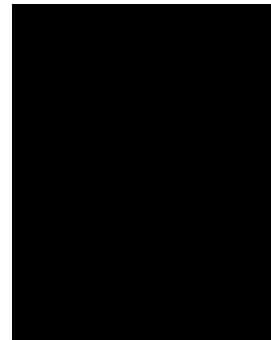
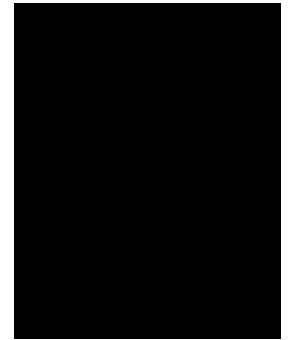
us. They are our voices not the other way round. — @talene  
// To get the voices of the people heard. We don't take this  
shit. Politicians you are accountable to us not yourselves.  
— @trishmcisaac // Prayer aint enough. Protesting teaches  
how to be in community, that everyone has a place. —  
@typicalcircle // Solidarity — @jbphebus // Because we might  
not have a future otherwise. — @bbhorne // Because optics matter.  
A marching crowd of thousands sends a message bigger than  
a million tweets and emails. — @BurnANazi // It is a(n)...love letter,  
catharsis, momentum builder, right, advocacy, community  
building, necessary action & showcases tension of now! — @jh-  
sting32 // The alternatives are crying, vomiting and giving up, and  
momma didn't raise a child who did that. — @BayArea4Bernie //  
For those who can't. — @robotsimmons // Because sometimes  
it's the only way to assert humanity — the only way to seek justice,  
love mercy and walk humbly with God. Jesus protested!  
— @AsutsaGovedi // So I can sleep at night. — @prestonmajor

# TIPS FOR PLANNING PROTESTS

BY KEVIN REUNING



Decide on what your message is. Everything should revolve around that message, at least as much as possible. // Decide who your core audience is: are you targeting the media? decision-makers? those on the sidelines? Or even just trying to rally your supporters and engage them (this is a perfectly acceptable reason to hold a protest). // Think of how to connect your message to that audience through action. Symbolism matters here a lot. Occupy took over Wall Street. BLM held die-ins. The Tea Party had Tax Day rallies. All of these things connected the action to the message. // Decide on the level of disruption you want. // Plan out mundane details (somewhat depends on the event). // Don't ignore the fact that protests are useful in themselves, they give a sense of agency that is often sorely lacking. //



SHOOTINGS--Some of the tw  
project demonstrate  
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