

WHAT TO DO WHEN POLICE IS HARRASSING YOU

Identity check:

- The police has to give you a reason for screening you.
- They can ask your name, date of birth, registered address and nationality. (If you're under 18, they can also ask the names of your parents or legal guardian).
- **DON'T ANSWER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS! THIS IS YOUR RIGHT.**
- If you can't or don't want to show an ID, police can temporarily arrest you to prove your identity.

Search:

- A search of your clothes, bag and body is only lawful if the cops inform you what they are searching for and why they expect to find it on you (of all people).
- Your mouth, anus and vagina are off limits for the police – unless there is an order of a public prosecutor.
- If they take stuff from you, ask for a receipt. Police has to give back your belongings when their suspicion dispels.

What to do when the cops arrest you:

- Turn off your mobile phone.
- Don't make any other statement. Don't sign anything.
- You are entitled to two successful calls and an interpreter.
- Cops tell you to come to the police station with them? You don't have to go - unless they are arresting you. If the cops want to take you with them, ask: "Is this an arrest?" If not, don't go with them.

Support and Solidarity:

There are many people who don't approve of police controls. When there is a bystander watching, they might want to support you.

The group „Kieberei, Was geht? Initiative gegen Polizei auf unseren Strassen“ collects informations and documents police harrasment. If you experience or see racist police controlls, send us a report.

<https://wasgeht.noblogs.org>, wasgeht@riseup.net

OBSERVING POLICE CONTROLS

When you are witnessing a police control, show solidarity with the person affected! Don't ever leave anyone alone with cops. Here are some thoughts on how you can be supportive.

It's best to think in advance about how you want to intervene. Every situation is different and some may be stressful. There is a chance that you as observer will be controlled as well or that the cops threaten you with punishment, for example for interference with an official act. Observing police controls is legit, though.

You can do the following:

- Before interfering, check: do you carry troublesome things? Are you in a situation, where it wouldn't be too problematic to be controlled?
- First, make contact with the affected person. Ask them if they would like support. Make clear that you are showing solidarity.
- If the person wants your support: you can tell the police that you are a 'Vertrauensperson' which is a legal definition that makes it harder for cops to send them away.
- Ask the cops why the person is being controlled.
- To film or to record audio can potentially be useful. Be sure to check if the affected person is okay with you recording. By no means put stuff online that isn't pixelated.
- If you are turned away: back off a few steps and continue observing.
- Ask the affected person if you should call someone.
- In case of arrest: can you find out where the person was taken? Try to get more information there.
- Give the person a note with your contact data. This way they can get in touch for you to act as a witness. Mind that the police might take your data.
- When the control is over, ask the person if the cops gave everything back and if there is any additional need for support.

**Show solidarity –
don't let anybody alone with the police!**

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