

Empower yourself

Always challenge – be assertive

Ask under what legal powers the police are doing what they are doing and ask why what you are doing entitles the police to exercise these powers -more often than not the cop will not know what legal powers he/she has. You can use this to later take a complaint to IPCC or sue for wrongful arrest/search ect.

If arrested or detained:

Try and let someone know where you are being taken. If in a crowd/mass action - shout your name - so you can be located later by legal support and note the numbers of the arresting/detaining officer(s).

Other than challenging why - do not give any information to the police.

Right to silence

If you know nothing else know this you do not have to answer any questions the police ask or sign any statements that the police ask to sign. You may have to give your name and address (and if you have been arrested your date of birth as this may get you out of police station quickly than not giving it)

Be prepared

Get training.

Think about what may happen in advance and arm yourself with empowering tools (information/stuff/mates/training etc).

Take bus card if there is legal support.

Think about what “stuff” you need and don’t need to have with you.

Have a buddy or affinity group

Look after each other.

Try to make sure that you are with people who know your name and address (so they can confirm it with the police if you’re charged and are waiting to be released) and will look out for you.

If you witness an arrest/detention:

Write down the name of the arrested person or a description of them including what they are wearing, anything that can identify them and where they were arrested. Photos.

Write down the number of the arresting officer(s) and ask the police officers where they are taking the arrested person and make sure a legal observer knows the location of the police station where they are being taken.

Go to the police station where they are being held and see what you can do.

If you are injured or witness an injury:

Get emergency medical treatment from the ambulance service. Independent doctors can examine and photograph injuries (so can you or a buddy) -this may help in the event of legal action against you or the police.