



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE

SAFETY, SECURITY, & THREAT PREPAREDNESS

In this political moment, our communities face heightened threats from government actors such as ICE, the National Guard, and others. As NAACP leaders, staff, and members, it is vital to remain prepared, vigilant, and connected to local support systems. This guide equips units and members with practical steps to safeguard themselves, their communities, and their organizing spaces. The information below provides a framework for prevention, awareness, and response.

Core Principles:

1. Your Safety is Priority #1 – No organizing goal is worth endangering lives.
2. Proactivity Saves Lives – Build security protocols before an emergency.
3. Document Everything – Every incident, no matter how small, should be recorded.
4. Partnerships Build Protection – Strong relationships with trusted allies like law enforcement, local officials, and community organizations create accountability.

Do's and Don'ts for Safety

Do's

✓ Carry Identification:

Always have valid government-issued ID on your person. This ensures you can verify your identity quickly if questioned and helps avoid unnecessary escalation.

✓ Safely Record Interactions:

Generally, when in public, people have no reasonable expectation of privacy. In states where it is legal and when it is safe to do so, record interactions with ICE, National Guard, or other officials. This includes interactions between others and these officials. Use phone apps that automatically back up recordings to the cloud to prevent tampering or deletion.

✓ Connect with Local Law Enforcement:

Most departments assign Community Affairs Officers to work directly with organizations and residents. Introduce yourself and your leadership team. Make sure they know your meetings, staff, and volunteers. Maintaining a professional relationship ensures you are on their radar before issues arise.

✓ **Develop a Security Relationship:** Keep law enforcement aware of your events and advocacy work. Even if you never need them, familiarity builds trust. Share calendars of large public meetings or community events.



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✓ **Document All Threats**

Written and oral, threats of physical violence must be taken seriously. Threats may occur in person, via telephone, or through texts, e-mails, social media, etc. Record dates, times, and details, and keep a running log. Screenshot or otherwise digitally save all threats received through electronic means. Report escalating threats to local police, your NAACP state conference, and national leadership.

✓ **Request Presence for Public Meetings**

When hosting events open to the public, notify law enforcement and request a visible presence nearby. Programs such as **Stop/Walk/Talk** allow officers to circulate during gatherings, providing reassurance without intimidation.

✓ **Leverage Membership Strength**

Identify members with backgrounds in law enforcement, military, or security. Form a Volunteer Security Team to support meetings, rallies, and marches. Train the team to monitor entrances, escort participants, and liaise with police if needed.

✓ **Trust Your Instincts**

If something feels unsafe, it probably is. Leave the situation, alert leadership, and report your concerns.

✓ **Be Aware of Surroundings**

Check lighting in parking lots and meeting spaces. Identify all exits before an event begins. Ask: Does this building have cameras or personnel on site? During meetings, rallies, and marches, observe the crowd for suspicious behavior.

✓ **Conduct Safety Briefings**

Before public events, remind members of emergency procedures. Designate people responsible for calling 911, monitoring doors, and documenting incidents.

Don'ts

✗ Do not ignore small threats. They often escalate if left unaddressed.

✗ Do not engage in verbal or physical confrontations with ICE, National Guard, or police. Stay calm, record, and document.

✗ Do not assume everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Provide clear instructions before and during emergency situations.

✗ Do not allow meetings to continue in unsafe conditions (e.g., poor lighting, no exits, visible harassment).



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Best Practices for Meetings & Events

- **Pre-Event Preparation**
 - Share the agenda and safety plan with volunteers.
 - Designate a point of contact for law enforcement.
 - Ensure that persons responsible for safety have one another's cell phone information.
 - Establish a "buddy system" so no member leaves alone at night.
 - Park in lighted non-isolated areas.
- **During Events**
 - Place volunteers or security team members at entrances/exits.
 - Keep first aid kits and emergency contacts readily available.
 - Assign one person to document incidents in real-time.
- **Post-Event Follow-Up**
 - Collect feedback on safety concerns from members.
 - Update security plans regularly.
 - Report any incidents to your state conference security liaison.

If Confronted by Law Enforcement, including ICE or National Guard

- Remain calm and respectful, do not argue.
- Do not touch the officer.
- Ask if you are being detained or free to leave.
- Exercise your right to remain silent until legal counsel is present.
- Unless state law prohibits recording, video record any encounter. Keep your hands in plain sight.
- If you are not involved in the encounter, document but do not interfere.
- Notify leadership and legal counsel immediately.

Community Partnerships

- Build connections with civil rights attorneys and legal aid groups that can provide rapid response support.
- Partner with local churches, mosques, and community centers to provide safe meeting locations.
- Establish communication networks (text chains, WhatsApp groups) to share alerts quickly.

Key Reminders

- **You are important.** Prioritize your safety.
- **Build relationships before crisis.** Connect with law enforcement and allies early.
- **Document, document, document.** Written, video, and audio records protect you and your unit.
- **Trust your instincts.** If it feels unsafe, it probably is.

Contact for Support

For additional guidance, technical assistance, or to report security concerns, contact:

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