

THE LESBIAN AVENGERS STILL EAT FIRE

an anti-fascist handbook inspired by queer liberationism



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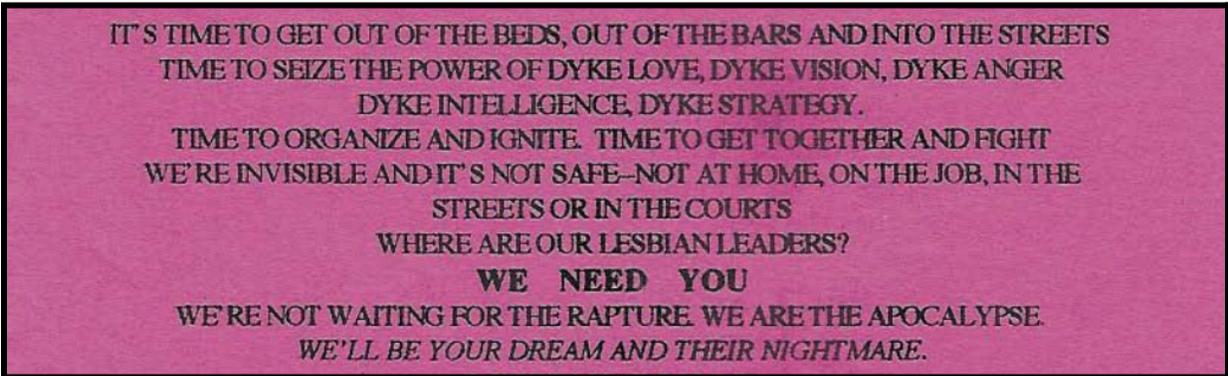
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“Lesbians! Dykes! Gay Women! We want revenge and we want it now!”

In 1992, six activists showed up to NYC’s Gay Pride March and began handing out cards with this exact slogan. Their goal: to recruit members to a newly formed political direct action group, the **LESBIAN AVENGERS**, that would “champion the fight for lesbian survival and visibility...while empowering lesbians to become experienced organizers who can participate in political rebellion.”

The Avengers protest movement spread like wildfire, opening 60+ chapters in cities across the US and coalition building with organizations like ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power), African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, and Las Buenas Amigas. This surge of participation attracted a great deal of controversy, not simply because the Avengers rejected conventional forms of resistance in favor of catchy calls-to-action and irreverent, grassroots tactics, but also because of the mission itself. What began as a bold attempt to decenter cis, white, gay men from the queer liberation movement and make lesbian relationships a normalized part of public life soon evolved into recognition and explicit opposition of anyone who impeded marginalized people’s ability to survive and thrive: fascists, capitalists, white nationalists, police, the Christian right, etc.

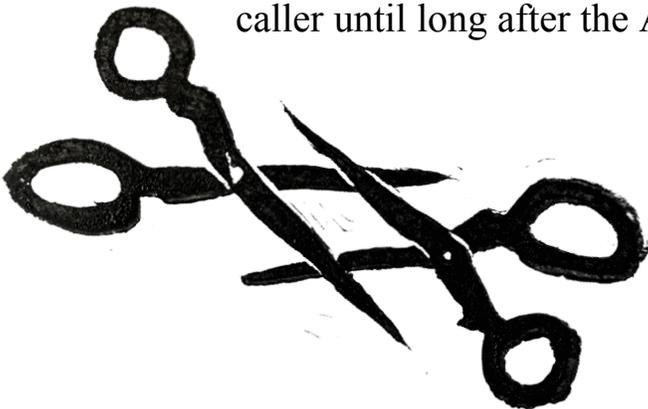


IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF THE BEDS, OUT OF THE BARS AND INTO THE STREETS
TIME TO SEIZE THE POWER OF DYKE LOVE, DYKE VISION, DYKE ANGER
DYKE INTELLIGENCE, DYKE STRATEGY.
TIME TO ORGANIZE AND IGNITE. TIME TO GET TOGETHER AND FIGHT
WE'RE INVISIBLE AND IT'S NOT SAFE--NOT AT HOME, ON THE JOB, IN THE
STREETS OR IN THE COURTS
WHERE ARE OUR LESBIAN LEADERS?
WE NEED YOU
WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR THE RAPTURE. WE ARE THE APOCALYPSE.
WE'LL BE YOUR DREAM AND THEIR NIGHTMARE.

Out for Power

Direct action is, by definition, a public and extreme form of political intervention that aims to produce shock, discomfort, and ultimately, change. It was also the Lesbian Avenger's weapon of choice for fighting the establishment, only they were unified by the understanding that this type of justice work should be as fun as it was effective. Their inclination towards creativity and theatrics was reflected in their advocacy, for example...

- The organization held Dyke Marches in major cities to celebrate sapphic pride. The Boston Dyke March gained extra media attention after "Bedgate" in 1996, when local chapter members mounted a bed on wheels and pushed it downtown so that couples could kiss, go topless, and simulate lesbian sex in the middle of the street. Flyers for the event proclaimed "Our desire is a powerful, world-rocking force!"
- In 1992, the NYC Public School Board 24 refused to adopt the "Children of the Rainbow" curriculum, which sought to teach students about multiculturalism and queer family structures. In response, the Avengers showed up at a local elementary school and handed out lavender balloons inscribed with the phrase "Ask about Lesbian Lives" while a marching band of sixty gays played "When the Dykes Come Marching In."
- In 1995, multiple chapters of Avengers stormed the offices of Exodus International, a conversion therapy center, and released a thousand crickets to emulate a biblical plague of locusts. One building secretary called the police, but all she could manage to say was "there are lesbians here with bugs!" and the dispatcher dismissed her as a prank caller until long after the Avengers had fled the scene.



The Burning Butch

Of all of the Lesbian Avenger's direct actions, fire eating was perhaps the most visually memorable. The tradition began in 1992 when Hattie Mae Cohens, a formerly incarcerated Black lesbian, and Brian Mock, a disabled white gay man, were burned alive in their home in Salem, Oregon by a group of white supremacists. It was a hate crime that rocked the queer community to its core, but it also became a rallying point for Avengers nationwide.

At first, the organization planned to hold vigils in honor of the martyrs, but these gatherings quickly evolved into a larger recognition of the co-occurrence of violence against queer people and communities of color as well as the system that failed these individuals in life and refused to properly investigate their deaths. In NYC, activists built a shrine and remained there for four continuous days in freezing temperatures, passing the time by performing spoken word poetry and keeping a sea of candles lit. Some mourners even showed up with torches and engaged in ritual fire swallowing while chanting "The fire will not consume us. We take it and make it our own."

This refrain and the "Burning Butches" who repeated it soon emerged as an iconic feature of the Avenger's direct actions. Indeed, just one month later, fire eaters would march down 5th Avenue during rush hour in opposition of Oregon's homophobic Ballot Measure 9. The next year, a similar event would take place outside of the White House. Each instance solidified the symbolic importance of fire eating as a bold reclamation of identity in the face of those who would seek to incinerate it.



This is Your Inheritance

Although the Lesbian Avengers disbanded in 1997, the embers of their movement have not gone out. Rather, both their impact and the strategic documentation of their direct actions resound through the decades. The Avenger's intention was always to inspire and prepare the next generation of rebels and rabble-rousers, creatives and free thinkers, hell-raisers and good neighbors, and one of the ways they did so was by publishing their activism tips and tricks in zines like "A Handy Guide to Homemade Revolution."

The handbook you are holding now is, by and large, a successor to these original publications, one that synthesizes the Lesbian Avenger's techniques and updates/applies them to the current (and increasingly dire) political moment. It is by no means a comprehensive or unbiased guide to organizing, but it is an attempt to help YOU...not just lesbians, not just queer people, but allies, students, workers, anyone who has been shaped by or suffered at the hands of the system...to fight for your future through whatever form or scale of resistance feels right.

A disclaimer; we are not here to convince you that this country has already descended into fascism, or for that matter, that the system has always been fucked and the US government never strayed from its imperialist roots. We are not here to explain that your silence will not save you, that retreating down the path of inaction is an infallible way to sign away your own safety and that of your lgbtq+, female, immigrant, POC, low-income, disabled, and otherwise marginalized neighbors. If these facts have not already made themselves plain, they will do so soon enough, and although there is value in reaching out to those we disagree with and radicalizing the masses, it is in the spirit of the Lesbian Avengers to mobilize first and recruit later.

This is a call to action. The ruling class has grown far too accustomed to living by the light of a burning building. Make them feel the heat.

No “New Normal”

Authoritarian regimes do not take root overnight, but they also do not announce their arrival. It is up to us, then, to recognize the warning signs before fascism gets both feet in the door, most notably...

- Unquestioning support/idolatry of a singular leader or party
- Excessive patriotism
- Corruption, cronyism (appointment of unqualified friends/associates to leadership positions), and fraudulent elections
- Inability to separate church and state
- Protection of corporate power
- Disdain for artists and intellectuals
- Media censorship
- Rampant sexism
- Blaming underprivileged communities for social and economic issues
- Widening class division
- White replacement theory or similar false beliefs about how privileged people are under attack
- Eugenicist notions of national “purity”
- Stochastic terrorism (ideological incitement of violence by public figures who do not commit crimes themselves but who spew hateful rhetoric with the knowledge that, sooner or later, someone will act on it. Example: Charlie Kirk)
- Obsession with national security
- Increased use of military and paramilitary forces
- Suppression and intimidation of opposition
- Human rights violations
- International expansionism

Sound familiar?

The completion of each of these criteria depends on the willful lack of acknowledgement and consequential normalization of escalations within the public sphere. The simplest way to combat fascism, therefore, is to refuse to accept the “new normal.” Know the hallmarks of fascism and point them out. Decide what is important to you and shout it from the rooftops...

Some low-effort action items...

- Bring up politics in daily conversation, especially when it makes people uncomfortable
- Remain critical of individuals and institutions that claim to be “apolitical”
- Deprioritize features of popular culture that distract from the current political moment (celebrities, billionaires, luxury brands, microtrends, etc.)
- Amplify the work of activists and educators online and in print media (but don’t limit your justice work to re-sharing)
- Wear/display signifiers of your allyship
 - Pride flags, pronoun pins, Palestinian flags/poppies/kuffiyehs, safety pins, political buttons, etc.
- Compete for visual real estate by replacing any hate speech/symbols you may come across with political messaging, stickers, public art, etc.
- Remember that optimism and pessimism are not mutually exclusive



The Leftist Librarian

The early years of many dictatorships have been saturated with book burnings, ransacking of libraries, and regulation of academic spaces. Literal bonfires aside, the associated tendency towards anti-intellectualism and censorship has crept its way into the 21st century, becoming particularly apparent under the Trump administration. Recent measures function to divide the body politic, discourage free thinking, guarantee that a portion of the workforce remains unskilled and therefore easily exploitable, and deprive people of the historical context and tools required to be successful dissidents. For this reason, one of the most radical things you can currently do is take education upon yourself and share your knowledge with others. Curate a library of thought that they cannot burn down.

- Read some goddamned books (from a library or independent bookstore!)
 - Fiction, nonfiction, anti-racism, feminist and queer theory...anything works, bonus points if it's banned
- Go to a library/school board meeting and encourage them to keep controversial literature on their shelves
- Review [aclu.org/know-your-rights](https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights)
- Learn about different political parties, labels, and proposed government structures to solidify your own ideology
 - Democratic Socialists of America ([dsausa.org](https://www.dsusa.org)) may be of interest to anyone who is still reading this zine
- Make a habit of reading the (national AND international) news. Don't rely on any one media outlet and be prepared to fact check
- Avoid information gaps and ideological echo chambers by reading outside of your political affiliation
 - Use the Ground News Blindspot Tracker to view discrepancies in reporting across the party spectrum

- Learn to identify AI generated propaganda/fake news
- Pick a topic you're unfamiliar with and commit a few hours to researching it/reaching a basic level of understanding (ex. Palestinian liberation, the prison industrial complex, gender affirming care)
- Host a "Presentation Night" with family or friends and take turns teaching each other about what you've researched
- Start conversations with people you disagree with, for while it may prove difficult, it is in the spirit of class consciousness and collective liberation to listen well and often. This does not mean you need to tolerate abuse or disrespect from people with truly hateful beliefs. This does mean you have a responsibility to try and humanize, find common ground with, and ultimately mobilize your neighbors so long as your physical and psychological safety are maintained.
 - When addressing problematic behavior, practice "calling in" instead of "calling out"



Bother Your Local Lawmaker

Hegemony cannot be fought solely through institutionalized means—it is inherent in the institutions themselves—but this does not mean that engagement with federal or municipal politics is unproductive. Quite the contrary, it is worthwhile to work within the current government system to elect candidates with leftist values, to enshrine protections for marginalized communities, and to pass legislation that generally advances your cause. This means you should...

- Vote in every election and encourage others to do the same (write letters to voters through votefwd.org)
- Do your research before filling out a ballot
- Remember that voting is not a revolution. We vote for the conditions under which we will continue to stage revolution
- Go to eac.gov/help-america-vote to become a poll worker
- Focus your voting rights advocacy on protecting access to mail-in ballots, preventing voter intimidation, reversing gerrymandering, and restoring voting rights to people disenfranchised by felony charges
- Sign petitions
- Volunteer for a political campaign
- Bombard your representatives with calls, emails, and letters. Their offices are required to keep a log of which issues their constituents are concerned about
 - Download the 5 Calls app—it will give you the contact information for your congresspeople, up-to-date summaries of current issues, and call scripts so that you can phone in and endorse or oppose house resolutions, propose legislation, etc.
- If you want to be a real pain in the ass, show up at the offices of a public servant to air your grievances in person
- Attend/speak at open government meetings like those held by a city or town council, county board of commissioners, board of education, etc.

Break the Fucking Rules

When respectful appeals are getting you nowhere, when every attempt to negotiate with authority is unsuccessful, you must escalate to defying authority. Take what the oppressor says to buy. Create what the oppressor says to consume. Engage in ethical vigilantism. Refer back to the wise words of Audre Lorde: “the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.”

“If you want revenge, first call a meeting”

- Invite like-minded people
- Maintain a non-hierarchical format (such as The Circle Way)
- Brainstorm. If you settle on an illicit tactic, keep in mind that the point (unlike public/street protests...more on these later) is *not* to get caught, so have a contingency plan, a getaway car, a lawyer on speed dial, etc.
- Host follow-up meetings! Or dances, or open mics...building community with your fellow subversives is never a waste of time

Do something!!

- Circulate political messages using graffiti, leafleting, or wheatpasting
 - 4:1 water + flour = excellent poster glue and carving over posters with a razor blade makes them harder to remove
- Dabble in sabotage
- If you see someone stealing from a large corporation, turn a blind eye
- Come up with creative and symbolic ways to disrupt (Crickets, anyone? What about fake blood?)
- Recognize that, when in excess, even arbitrary directives can set us up to be unquestioning and self-policing when the limitation of our freedoms becomes more overt. This is called anticipatory obedience and it’s why stupid rules are worth breaking, too!
 - For example: In the wake of student demonstrations on campus, Lehigh University updated its guidelines to state that “chalking is prohibited on all vertical surfaces.” Do with this information what you will (ignore the fuck out of it)



Take to the Streets!

Protests are some of the most effective forms of “rule breaking” because they function as an implied threat to the establishment while putting the people’s power on display. When organizing or attending a demonstration, plan everything in advance and take measures to protect yourself from physical harm, legal consequences/arrest, doxxing, and government surveillance.

Planning: Issue, Demand, Mode, Tone

- The best protests have a unified message, so pick an issue (ICE abductions, unregulated access to guns, military takeover of blue cities, etc.) and a demand (updated legislation, changes in government spending, financial disclosure and divestment within a specific institution, etc.)
- Decide what mode of protest serves your cause...
 - Rally - protesters, typically with signs, gather in one place and listen to public speakers
 - Vigil - a rally held in memoriam of someone or something
 - March - protesters with signs walk from one location to another
 - Walkout - abruptly leaving workplace or school
 - Strike - organized work stoppage
 - Sit-in/die-in - protesters sit or lie down in a public space to cause inconvenience and thereby draw attention
 - Encampment - a long-term sit-in, sometimes lasting days or weeks
 - Soft blockade - a sit-in (often a human chain) that completely blocks a road, building access point, etc.
 - Hard blockade - a barrier made of vehicles/large inanimate objects rather than human bodies
 - Event disruption - interrupting a conference, dinner, legal proceeding, etc., typically with signs, chanting, singing, or shouting

- Guerilla theater - street theater with a political message
- Something of your own invention...think outside of the box!
- When advertising or making signs for a protest, use visuals and language that set the tone. Consider who you want to participate and how you want the direct action to be perceived. For instance, a joyful and family-friendly demonstration might incorporate bright colors, music, and extra disclaimers about avoiding escalation for the sake of underage participants. Alternatively, you can take a leaf out of the Avenger's book and make a statement/draw attention by *violating* the expected tone...a modern example of tone violation would be the surge in people wearing inflatable frog costumes to anti-ICE protests in Portland, Oregon. Either way, make your advertisements concise and eye-catching.

Stay safe:

- Don't go alone! Bring a protest buddy
- Establish an emergency contact and memorize their phone number or write it on your arm
- Protect your identity by masking up, covering any tattoos, and wearing nondescript clothing
- Leave your phone at home or disable biometrics (Face and Touch ID) so that your tech can't be searched without a warrant
- Communicate your plans over heavily encrypted messaging apps like Signal rather than iMessage
- Do not post photos from protests
- Do not register for protests
- Do not engage with counterprotesters
- Document all interactions with law enforcement. Protest footage and even badge numbers could prove to be vital legal protection or evidence in cases of police misconduct
- Tell EMTs everything and cops nothing (or, if you are arrested, say only that you want a lawyer)

- Wear comfortable close-toed shoes, shatter-resistant eye protection, and no contact lenses or eye makeup in case you are tear gassed
- If you are exposed to tear gas, evacuate the area immediately. Take even, shallow breaths. Do not touch your face. Flush your eyes with cool water or LAW solution (50% antacid, 50% water) for 10-15 minutes. Change your clothes ASAP
- For white folks at protests: weaponize your privilege! Recognize that police brutality is racialized and consider physically placing yourself in front of those who are most likely to be subject to it
- For larger or riskier protests, train and designate a few organizers as marshals. These individuals should wear some item of clothing that makes them easily identifiable and will handle all interactions with media and law enforcement, make split-second decisions about the protest route and whether or not to escalate, and be responsible for blocking traffic

Yes, it's Okay to Punch Nazis:

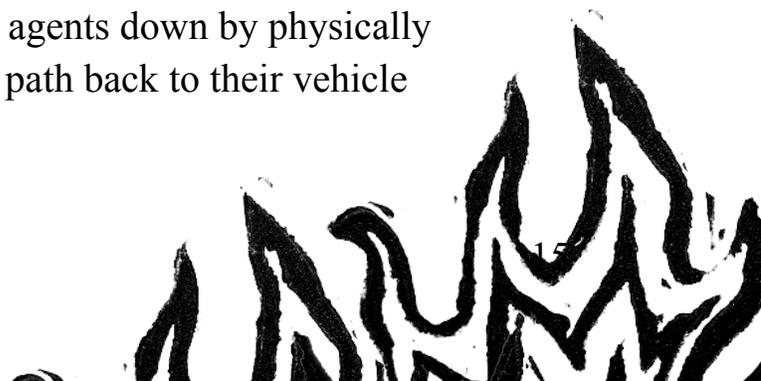
- Nonviolent civil disobedience is undeniably the safest and most accessible mode of protest. However, when peaceful dissent does not get the desired response, when it is met with force despite the cooperation of participants, or when the issue in question is particularly urgent, it begins to feel like an exercise in futility. In such cases, escalating past legal thresholds can be an effective strategy. Any protesters who take this step will likely be painted as “violent” by the media, but ask yourself, are burnt flags, vandalism, self-defense against police in riot gear, etc. really an unreasonable response to state-sanctioned violence of the scale that we are seeing? Curbing disruption is not a priority when you are being terrorized by your own government.

Fire Melts ICE

Good resistance movements are characterized by both proactive and reactive measures, and the latest evil that requires us to be consistently reactive is the deployment of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a form of secret police in everything but name. ICE has used immigration crackdown as a tool for scapegoating marginalized folks for social ills and advancing a white nationalist agenda. Furthermore, the agency has demonstrated a willingness to expand beyond arresting people for “immigration crimes” to target Trump oppositionists with visas or citizenship status, generally terrorize people of color, use children as bait, and most recently, fatally shoot multiple legal observers. When our neighbors are being racially profiled, torn away from their families, housed in literal concentration camps, deported, and murdered, civilian bystanders become political first responders of sorts. It is time to embrace this role, to “scheme and scream and fight real mean,” to treat these incidents as what they are—abductions—and act accordingly.

If you see ICE:

- Report ICE activity to the rapid response hotline for your area and any other local forums you know of (like Nextdoor)
 - Use the SALUTE method to describe the situation - Size (number of agents), Actions (what they are doing), Location, Uniform (they may be in plainclothes or wearing vests that say ICE, DHS, or CBP), Time, Equipment (number and variety of weapons, vehicles, etc.)
 - Lehigh Valley Rapid Response Hotline - 610-850-9930
- Make a fucking scene. Shout “la migra!,” blow a whistle, follow them in a car and honk, do everything in your power to ensure that their cover is blown
- If you are willing and able, slow the agents down by physically obstructing the flow of traffic or the path back to their vehicle



- If agents are trying to enter someone’s private residence, place of work, etc., announce loudly that NO ONE need open their door unless ICE can prove that they have a judicial warrant
- Call the rapid response hotline for your area to report ICE activity

If you witness someone being detained:

- Film the entire interaction continuously and do not edit your film
- Ask for the name of the individual and offer to contact their family, but understand that they may not feel safe answering
- Remind the individual that they have the right to remain silent, to not sign anything, and the right to a lawyer
- If enough bystanders are present, you can attempt to intervene and de-arrest the individual, but use your judgement...you do not want to be charged with “obstruction of justice,” antagonize an official to the extent that it’s taken out on detainees, or put your own life in jeopardy
 - “Obstruction of justice” and “harboring a fugitive” charges can also be leveled against you if you help someone escape from ICE by bringing them into a private residence. The same cannot be said, however, if they enter that space of their own volition. You may be able to take advantage of this loophole by making the entrances to private property accessible to someone fleeing abduction without outright inviting them inside

Post-abduction aid:

- Send footage to your local immigrant rights organization and verbally include the date, time and location
- Send photos of ICE vehicles and plate numbers to stopice.net to register them in a plate-tracking database
- If you have an abducted individual’s A-Number (a 9-digit “alien registration number), you can locate them using locator.ice.gov or check up on the status of their case at acis.eoir.justice.gov
 - If you do not have this information, try calling all local detention centers and asking if the individual is in their custody
- Seek free legal aid for immigrants at immdef.org, nilc.org, and nlg.org

- Refer people to respondcrisistranslation.org for translation services

Other action items:

- Gather a group of neighbors and start your own rapid response network
- Flood the official ICE hotline with bogus tips (1-866-347-2423)
- Dox ICE agents
- Reach out to hotel chains, restaurants, and other businesses in your area and request that they refuse service to ICE agents
- Offer to accompany undocumented neighbors to immigration court
- Petition your school/place of employment to enact sanctuary policies
- Support businesses run by immigrants and undocumented folks so they have the chance to go home early
- Attend an ICE Watch/Rapid Response training to prepare your community for immigration raids

A note on safety:

- The murder of legal observer Renee Good marks a critical transition in Trump's fascist project, not because the violence itself was unprecedented, but because even whiteness is no longer enough to protect civilians from being targeted for their ideology. This realization—that dismantling white supremacy requires us to lose the benefits of the system—has brought about understandable fear among government critics and folks who are accustomed to their privilege, and we would do well to translate this fear into caution, particularly when it comes to carrying out riskier interventions like blockades and de-arrests. All of this being said, we cannot afford to be scared away from the frontlines by the tragedy in Minneapolis. Retreat and compliance may feel like the safer options, but here's the thing—if your safety depends on your willingness to stand by and watch others be brutalized, you are not actually safe. You have just taken the side of the oppressor in order to prolong your sense of security and normalcy, and sooner or later, the boot you lick will trample you too. This is why we must not back down. There is no use in waiting for danger to come and break down our doors when it can still be stopped in the streets.

Tarjetas Rojas

Red Cards/Tarjetas Rojas are legal aid tools designed to inform immigrants of their constitutional rights and, in the event that a card carrier is detained by ICE, to be handed to an agent as a reassertion of those rights. We've provided the Spanish and English text that is usually found on these cards so that you can make your own and distribute them in your community. Alternatively, ilrc.org/redcards provides ready-to-print templates in 56 different languages.

- I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the US Constitution.
- I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the US Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.
- I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

- NO ABRA LA PUERTA si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
- NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho a guardar silencio.
- NO FIRME NADA sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está fuera de su casa, pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- ENTRÉGUELE ESTA TARJETA EL AGENTE. Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

Make Their Pockets Hurt

In this era of techno-fascism and corporate control, boycotting is one of the most passive yet effective forms of activism at our disposal. Your choices as a consumer can undermine and put pressure on those with economic power, and although no consumption under capitalism is truly ethical, your intentions can be. Rather than feeling guilty for every purchase you make or shaming others who may rely on certain corporations to get their necessities, focus on identifying organizations and products from which you *are* able to redirect or cut spending.

Baseline boycotts:

- Amazon - exploitation and hazardous working conditions, provides software to the Israeli military, Jeff Bezos = greedy billionaire
- Target - scaled back DEI initiatives shortly after Trump was elected
- Spotify - ran ICE recruitment ads, invests in military AI, underpays its artists
- All billionaires - there are no ethical billionaires, they do not need or deserve your attention or financial support
- Any other major company that has not taken steps towards carbon neutrality, improved worker's rights/support for unions, DEI programming, etc.
- Use goodsuniteus.com to check on the politics of your favorite companies

Rage against the machine (Generative AI):

- Stop using models like ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, etc. that are intended as a consumer product or search engine rather than a career-specific tool. Such technologies erode critical thinking, validate chronic users to the point of "AI psychosis," and can be used to spread false information or manufacture child porn. AI data centers are also on track to emit millions of tons of greenhouse gases, to use a similarly shocking amount of water to cool their servers (upwards of 5 million

gallons a day per facility), and to continue to depend on the use of cobalt, which is often mined in countries where child labor is unregulated. These centers, furthermore, serve as agents of environmental racism, as their disproportionate construction in historically Black neighborhoods leads to the depletion and pollution of drinking water or displacement of families altogether. Finally, OpenAI (which created ChatGPT and other bots) has established partnerships with problematic companies like Palantir, which is actively supplying the Israeli military with AI-enhanced weaponry and assisting the Trump administration in its surveillance efforts by consolidating existing data on American citizens into a single database. All in all, the harm caused by generative AI far outweighs any benefits. Sacrificing your morals is a high fucking price to pay for convenience.

Bid Big Oil goodbye:

- This one is a big ask, particularly for folks who live in car-centric cities or do not have the means to change their mode of transportation. However, if you do have that privilege, consider making the switch to other sources of energy, walking/biking more often, or commuting via public transport. Not only is this a more environmentally friendly approach, but it also has strong implications with regard to international violence. Oil, after all, has played a central role in America's strategic destabilization of Middle Eastern and North African governments like those in Iraq, Iran, and Libya, often leading to the arming of militant groups and mass murder of civilians. Israel's US-backed expansion into the Gaza Strip is motivated by the presence of untapped natural gas reserves. Trump's highly illegal military coup in Venezuela intends to both seize the country's oil and to use the pursuit of this resource as an excuse for the advancement of broader imperialist goals, thus playing into the long history of US-orchestrated regime change in Latin America. Needless to say, where there is oil, there is blood.

Be more pro-planet:

- In the spirit of conscious consumption, it is also worthwhile to implement more sustainable/low-waste practices in your daily life. Just do not lose sight of the fact that holding corporations accountable for their contributions to climate change is a far better strategy than policing individuals.
 - Buy secondhand or from small businesses
 - Set up clothing and book swaps, tech and appliance lending circles, etc.
 - Embrace public transport
 - Use reusable containers and shopping bags instead of plastic ones
 - Don't just throw everything in the trash. Petition your city for recycling or compost services if they do not already exist, or else utilize recycling centers and start a compost pile
 - Learn practical and creative skills like mending, carpentry, and cooking



Mutual Aid

Neoliberal capitalism paves the way for social stratification by privatizing essential services and prioritizing profit over people. We can fight back against this system by creating unconditional networks of care on the community level. When people are being stripped of their ability to live and thrive, small-scale aid and simple kindnesses are acts of resistance.

- Volunteer with Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs)
- Donate funds or resources to a local food pantry, shelter, or other NPOs
- Use mutualaidhub.org to find organizations or register new ones
- Create and maintain third spaces and green spaces
 - Little free libraries and tool libraries
 - Community garden (particularly helpful in food deserts)
 - Public art installation
 - Organize community events in underutilized public spaces
 - Learn to view nature as a relative rather than a resource and treat it as such. The earth is deserving of our mutual aid efforts, too.
 - Spend time outdoors
 - Collect litter
 - Organize trail cleanup efforts
 - Plant trees
 - Remove invasive species
 - Donate to conservation efforts and the NPS
 - Contact your lawmakers about key legislation related to funding for the EPA and NPS, regulation of corporate impact on air and water quality, Land Back/indigenous stewardship, etc.
- Take care of your neighbors
 - Start by abandoning transactional mindsets. Selflessness is cool. Hyperindividualism is bullshit.
 - Fight for improvements to local infrastructure

- Dismantle anti-homelessness architecture
- Cook, clean, mend, etc. for someone who needs the help
 - Take a leaf out of the Black Panther's book and start a free breakfast program
- Offer childcare
- Connect with elders who may be experiencing loneliness
- Train to sustain
 - For those with a medical background, volunteer as a street medic at protests
 - Even if you have no experience in medicine, consider getting certified in First Aid/Stop the Bleed in case, god forbid, those skills are needed at a protest or ICE intervention
 - Train as a crisis hotline worker for agencies like The Trevor Project, the LGBT Youth Talkline, etc.
 - Become a volunteer escort for abortion clinics like Planned Parenthood so patients can feel safe going to their appointments
 - Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) so that you can represent children at judicial proceedings related to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, foster care placement, instances of abuse, etc.



Direct Action Bingo

Make political art	Attend an ICEWatch training	Have a conversation with someone you disagree with	Read a book	Campaign/phone bank for a leftist political candidate
Attend a protest	Join an existing direct action group	Make a zine of your own	Swear off generative AI	Help someone register to vote
Make reading the news a routine	Save local ICE Rapid Response hotlines in your phone	Share this zine!	Check if your school or place of work has sanctuary policies in place	Bring someone a meal
Call your reps every day for a week	Research an issue you're unfamiliar with	Read some leftist poetry	Add a political pin/symbol to your backpack/bag	Donate money or time to a cause
Write an anti-fascist message in chalk	Go pick up trash	Make a list of corporations you plan to boycott	Be gay do crime	Distribute Tarjetas Rojas

Be the Spark

You are allowed to be exhausted. You are allowed to be disheartened. You are allowed to be afraid. But you must not stop paying attention. Bear witness to the silent construction of a capitalist hellscape. The circulation of propaganda that pits neighbors against one another. The struggle between those obsessed with taking ownership of stolen land and those who understand that the land owns us. The worsening of state-sponsored terrorism and surveillance. The legacy of colonialism, less of a ripple effect, more so an unending trajectory of violence that will ricochet off the walls of the establishment until those walls are burned to the ground.

Understand that our predicament is not a hopeless one, but it also cannot be remedied by the dismantling of existing power structures alone. We have to dream up an alternative, a “counter-imaginary” (as feminist scholar Judith Butler would call it) for a new political system, a vision compelling enough to make *everyone* feel that there is room for them in the world that radical activism envisions. This is the task at hand. To imagine, to think local, regional, national, global, cosmic, to let anger and empathy feed each other rather than contradict one another, to love with a vengeance and to translate that love into justice work. The **LESBIAN AVENGERS** were not the first, nor the last, to put these ideas into practice, and their methods and execution certainly weren't perfect, but they are still uniquely situated to inform our contemporary attempt at revolution. That's why we're putting their wisdom, their tools, their fire in your hands and asking you to do something with it...





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