

Small Acts of Defiance



Resistance doesn't have one form, and not everyone can take to the streets. Given the wide range of bodies, souls, and spirits in the movement, we decided to create a "short-list" of small but meaningful acts of defiance that people can do from anywhere! Everyone wants to resist executive overreach and authoritarianism, and that can take place at home, online, or within your daily life!

Here are some ideas to get you started:



Flood Inboxes

Email, call, or write your local/state representatives demanding action, transparency, & accountability

You can use scripts readily available at the resources below, or create your own!

- **5 Calls**

- <https://5calls.org>

- Gives you *short scripts* for calling your senators, representatives, and other officials on current issues.
- Updated regularly based on national and local events.
- Also includes phone numbers and helps you track your calls.

- **Common Cause Action Center**

- <https://www.commoncause.org/take-action>

- Offers **email templates**, **petition links**, and **call scripts** on voting rights, democracy protection, and ethics in government.
- Especially good for campaigns related to executive accountability and anti-corruption.

- **Indivisible**

- <https://indivisible.org>

- Offers issue-specific **toolkits**, **call scripts**, and **sample emails** to Congress.
- Also provides training materials for organizing your own call-in days or letter drives.

- **ACLU Action**

- <https://action.aclu.org>

- Has powerful **letter-writing tools and call scripts**, especially around civil liberties, immigration, and protest rights.
- Often lets you **customize your message** with a personal story.

- **Resistbot**

- <https://resist.bot>

- Text "RESIST" to 50409 to send a letter to your officials in under 2 minutes.
- You can also write longer messages and **have them faxed or emailed** to the right offices.

- **Action Network**

- <https://actionnetwork.org>

- host **email campaigns**, pre-filled with scripts you can personalize.

- Great if you're organizing your own email or call campaign too.

Write Letters to Local Newspapers

Submit short op-eds to local newspapers about threats to democracy, constitutional violations, or abuses of power.

Here are links to a few local GA newspapers that accept local opinion pieces:

- **Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC)**
 - **Op-Eds:**
 - Submit guest essays or first-person pieces via email to opinion@ajc.com
 - Include your name, contact information, and a brief bio.
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Email letters@ajc.com
 - Letters should be no longer than 150 words and include a daytime phone number for verification.
- **Macon Telegraph**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Submit via their online form: [Submit a Letter](#)
 - Ensure your letter is concise and includes your contact information
- **Columbus Ledger-Enquirer**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Use their submission form: [Submit a Letter](#)
 - Provide your full name, address, and phone number for verification.
- **Savannah Morning News**
 - **Op-Eds and Letters:**
 - Submit via email to letters@savannahnow.com
 - Include your name, address, and a daytime phone number
- **Augusta Chronicle**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Email letters@augustachronicle.com
 - Include your name, address, and a daytime phone number.
- **Rome News-Tribune**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Email news@romenews-tribune.com
 - Provide your name, address, and a daytime phone number.
- **Valdosta Daily Times**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Submit via email to letters@valdostadailytimes.com
 - Include your contact information.
- **Albany Herald**
 - **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Email letters@albanyherald.com
 - Provide your name, address, and a daytime phone number.
- **Gainesville Times**

- **Letters to the Editor:**
 - Submit via their online form: [Submit a Letter](#)
 - Include your contact information for verification.

Yard Signs & Window Posters

Create or display flags, posters, signs, etc. in your windows or in your front yard. This forces others to pay attention, even for just a moment. Making your home a beacon & a reminder to others that they are not alone!

File an FOIA Request

Submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to learn more about government actions. This action item is eligible for a fee waiver and anyone can submit one!

Follow these links to submit an FOIA and get tips about an effective FOIA request:

- **Determine the Appropriate Agency**
 - Identify the federal agency that holds the records you seek. Each agency has its own FOIA office and procedures.
 - You can find a list of federal agencies and their FOIA contacts at [FOIA.gov](#).
- **Check Existing Information**
 - Before submitting a request, search the agency's website or [FOIA.gov](#) to see if the information is already publicly available.
- **Draft A Request**
 - While there's no specific form required, your written request should include:
 - **Your contact information:** Full name, address, phone number, and email.
 - **A clear description of the records:** Be as specific as possible about the documents you want.
 - **Preferred format:** Indicate if you prefer electronic or paper copies.
 - **Fee waiver request** (if applicable): Explain if the disclosure is in the public interest and not for commercial use.
 - You can submit your request via mail, email, fax, or through the agency's online portal. Many agencies accept electronic submissions; check their specific FOIA page for details.
- **Submit and Track Your Request**
 - After submission, you can track the status of your request through the agency's FOIA portal or by contacting their FOIA office directly.
 - Agencies are required to respond within 20 business days, though complex requests may take longer.
- **TIPS:**
 - The Department of Justice (DOJ) has an online guide that covers FOIA requests and tips/information that you may find useful in submitting a request
 - [DOJ FOIA Guide](#)

Wear It

Whether its t-shirts, pins, buttons, or patches, send a message while going about your day-to-day. A small reminder of the current events that you can wear may get others to take action as well!

Disrupt the Narrative

Reply to misinformation with education rather than emotion. Comment on posts from elected officials or “news” sources that correct their misinformation. The MAGA-extremists love to portray dissenters as “emotionally volatile”; lets circumvent that narrative and attack from a place of education.

***Note:** This strategy is most effective if you do NOT interact or reply to comments that try to demine or poke-fun at your correction. They seek attention, do not give it to them. Simply correct the misinformation and move on; silence & the perception of being ignored upsets them the most.

Boycott and Divest

Refuse to spend your money with companies that are complicit in civil rights violations, genocide, climate destruction, removal of DEI policies, etc.

GAVU has a comprehensive list of ongoing boycotts as well as reasonable boycott alternatives. It is easier to boycott when you have reliable replacements to choose from!

For those who wonder if boycotting truly works:

As of May 21, 2025, Target has experience significant losses across the board due to consumer boycotts. Target reported a 2.8% decrease in 1st quarter sales, with a 5.7% of in-store sales. Target stock has declined by 27% year-to-date, reflecting investor concerns of boycotts and increasing tariffs.

Reports indicate that Target has lost over \$12.4 BILLION in revenue and has seen its stock price drop by \$27.27 a share!

Read & Recommend

Buy banned books, read about fascism, resistance, and civil rights history. While also educating yourself, you can later educate others in your circle. Once finished reading, you can gift the book to a fellow resister or leave it in a “Free Little Library” box for others!

Here is a quick list of books to consider:

- **Understanding Power & Authoritarianism**
 - “On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century” by Timothy Snyder
 - “How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them” by Jason Stanley
 - “The Shock Doctrine” by Naomi Klein
- **Movements, Protest, & Civil Disobedience**
 - “This Is an Uprising” by Mark Engler and Paul Engler
 - “Hope in the Dark” by Rebecca Solnit
 - “Rules for Radicals” by Saul Alinsky
- **Critical Thinking & Media Literacy**
 - “Amusing Ourselves to Death” by Neil Postman
 - “Manufacturing Consent” by Noam Chomsky & Edward Herman
- **Race, Justice, & American Power**
 - “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander
 - “Freedom Is a Constant Struggle” by Angela Y. Davis
 - “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You” by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds

Donate What You Can

Support grassroots organizations, legal defense groups, or independent journalists that are working to hold those in power accountable.

GAVU has a resource for organizations to donate to, check it out on our website!

<https://georgiavoicesunited.org/resources/>

Guerrilla Art

Guerrilla art is temporary, unexpected, and politically charged artwork that appears in public spaces. Guerrilla art is about disrupting the ordinary, sparking conversation, and reclaiming public spaces for expression.

Key Characteristics of Guerrilla Art are:

- Often installed secretly or anonymously
- Can be visual art, installations, or interactive
- Frequently addressed social justice, political issues, or cultural critique
- Low-budget, DIY, and grassroots-friendly

Here are a few examples of Guerrilla Art:

- **Posters and Stickers** – designed with activist messages or imagery, they can be easily plastered on public walls, poles, or transit stops
- **Sidewalk Chalk Art** – low cost chalk art that has slogans, poetry, or demands, which is a quick and easy way to get a message across anywhere in-town
- **Statue Interventions** – putting protest signs near or on historic monuments or statues with political significance

- **Projection Art** – project powerful messaging or images onto buildings at night, making a large protest sign that many can see

Guerrilla Art is accessible activism! You do not need permits, credentials, or an art gallery to display your message. It allows everyday people to use their creativity to speak truth to power.

***Note:** This action is not permitted and can result in fines if one chooses to resort to this type of activism.