



Know Your Rights

Asian American Solidarity - #JusticeforGeorgeFloyd Protests

Asian Americans have joined protests in solidarity with Black activists to demand justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and many other victims of police violence and systemic racism in our country. The Asian American community cannot fight xenophobia and racism without also fighting pervasive anti-blackness. Our movements are stronger when we fight together for justice

As marches and vigils continue, AALDEF has prepared this fact sheet to help protesters protect their health, safety, and rights as they demand change:

How to Protest Safely:

If you are sick, are at high-risk for COVID-19, or live or work with someone who is high-risk, **do not attend protests**. If you are healthy, please consider these suggestions as you head out the door:

- **Bring a mask**
- **Maintain social distance**
- **Find a protest buddy** (someone not attending the protest with whom you can check-in before and after the protest)
- **Protect your privacy** by turning off location services on your phone
- **Bring your ID, a small amount of cash, and a contact card** with the names and contact information of two loved ones
- **Carry at least two bottles of water** to ensure you are hydrated. If you are pepper sprayed, flush the affected area with water.
- If possible, **do not wear makeup or contacts**.
- **Be cognizant of press interactions**. You don't have to speak to the media if you do not want to.
- **Bring hand sanitizer and PPE if possible**

After attending protests, **self-quarantine** for at least two weeks if possible and try to **get tested for Covid-19**. Most insurance companies are required to waive co-pays for testing, and many urgent care sites are now doing both virus and antibody testing. **Follow instructions from event organizers regarding where to protest, when to move, and how to communicate** during these peaceful protests.

Police Interactions and Protesting:

The First Amendment guarantees you the right to free speech, regardless of your immigration status. Your rights are strongest in public spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, and parks. In public areas, you have the **right to photograph** anything, including the police. The police can search bags and containers in marked secure areas. **You can refuse**, and you should be allowed to leave.

If the police stop you while you're protesting:

- Stay calm and do not resist.
- **Ask if you are free to leave.** If the police say yes, walk away slowly.
- If you are under arrest, you have the right to ask why.
- **You have the right to remain silent.**
- You have the right to ask for a lawyer. Do not sign anything without advice from your lawyer first.
- **You have a right to make a local phone call.** If you're calling your lawyer, the police cannot listen in.
- You never have to consent to a search of your belongings.
- **Police officers cannot confiscate or demand to view your photographs or video without a warrant.** They are not permitted to delete any of your data.

If you are not a U.S. citizen and you want to join a protest, you have all of the rights above, including the right to remain silent. Follow these tips:

- If you have a valid work permit or green card, **carry it with you at all times.**
- If any government officer asks, **you do not need to tell them where you were born,**
- **how you came to the United States,** or anything about your immigration history.
- Do not lie or provide false documents.
- **You have the right to refuse to show ID documents** showing your country of origin

If you think your rights have been violated, do the following:

- **Write down everything** you remember about the incident.
- **Get bystanders' contact information** as witnesses.
- **Write down officers' badge** or patrol car numbers
- **Take photos** of any injuries

Bail Funds:

If you, a friend, or a loved one was arrested at a protest and cannot afford bail, the following bail funds may be able to provide bail assistance if you are in the **NYC area**.

- The Brooklyn Community Bail Fund (<https://brooklynbailfund.org/>)
- The Liberty Fund (<https://www.libertyfund.nyc/>)
- Emergency Release Fund (<https://emergencyreleasefund.com/>).

If you are arrested **outside of NYC** while protesting, [here](#) is a list of bail funds by state; this bail fund operates at the national level:

- National Bail Fund (<https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbnf-directory>)

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