

## 198 METHODS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

Far too often people struggling for democratic rights and justice are not aware of the full range of methods of nonviolent action. Wise strategy, attention to the dynamics of nonviolent struggle, and careful selection of methods can increase a group's chances of success. Gene Sharp researched and catalogued these 198 methods and provided a rich selection of historical examples in his seminal work, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* (3 Volumes), Boston: Porter Sargent, 1973.

### THE METHODS OF NONVIOLENT PROTEST AND PERSUASION

#### **Formal Statements**

1. Public Speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Declarations of indictment and intention
6. Group or mass petitions

#### **Communications with a Wider Audience**

7. Slogans, caricatures, and symbols
8. Banners, posters, displayed communications
9. Leaflets, pamphlets, and books
10. Newspapers and journals
11. Records, radio, and television
12. Skywriting and earthwriting

#### **Group Representations**

13. Deputations
14. Mock awards
15. Group lobbying
16. Picketing
17. Mock elections

#### **Symbolic Public Acts**

16. Displays of flags and symbolic colors
19. Wearing of symbols
20. Prayer and worship
21. Delivering symbolic objects
22. Protest disrobings
23. Destruction of own property
24. Symbolic lights
25. Displays of portraits
26. Paint as protest

27. New signs and names
28. Symbolic sounds
29. Symbolic reclamations
30. Rude gestures

#### **Pressures on Individuals**

31. Haunting" officials
32. Taunting officials
33. Fraternalization
34. Vigils

#### **Drama and Music**

35. Humorous Skits and pranks
36. Performances of plays end music
37. Singing

#### **Processions**

36. Marches
39. Parades
40. Religious processions
41. Pilgrimages
42. Motorcades

#### **Honoring the Dead**

43. Political mourning
44. Mock funerals
45. Demonstrative funerals
46. Homage at burial places

#### **Public Assemblies**

47. Assemblies of protest or support
46. Protest meetings
49. Camouflaged meetings of protest
50. Teach-ins

#### **Withdrawal and Renunciation**

51. Walk-outs
52. Silence
53. Renouncing honors
54. Turning one's back

### THE METHODS OF SOCIAL NONCOOPERATION

#### **Ostracism of Persona**

55. Social boycott
56. Selective social boycott
57. Lysistratic nonaction
58. Excommunication
59. Interdict

#### **Noncooperation with Social Events, Customs, and Institutions**

60. Suspension of social- and sports activities

61. Boycott of social affairs
62. Student strike
63. Social disobedience
64. Withdrawal from social institutions

#### **Withdrawal from the Social System**

65. Stay-at-home
86. Total personal noncooperation
67. "Flight" of workers
68. Sanctuary
69. Collective disappearance
70. Protest emigration (hijrat]

#### THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

##### **Actions by Consumers**

71. Consumers' boycott
72. Nonconsumption of boycotted goods
73. Policy of austerity
74. Rent withholding
75. Refusal to rent
76. National consumers boycott
77. International consumers' boycott

##### **Action by Workers and Producers**

78. Workmen's boycott
79. Producers' boycott

##### **Action by Middlemen**

80. Suppliers' and handlers boycott

##### **Action by Owners and Management**

81. Traders' boycott
82. Refusal to let or sell property
63. Lockout
84. Refusal of industrial assistance
65. Merchants' general strike

##### **Action by Holders of Financial Resources**

86. Withdrawal of bank deposits
87. Refusal to pay fees, dues, and assessments
88. Refusal to pay debts or interest
89. Severance of funds and credit
  90. Revenue refusal
91. Refusal of a government's money

##### **Action by Governments**

92. Domestic embargo
93. Blacklisting of traders
94. International sellers' embargo
95. International buyers' embargo

96. International trade embargo

#### THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: THE STRIKE

##### **Symbolic Strikes**

97. Protest strike
96. Quickie walkout (lightning strike)

##### **Agricultural Strikes**

99. Peasant strike
100. Farm Workers' strike

##### **Strikes by Special Groups**

101. Refusal of impressed labor
102. Prisoners strike
103. Craft strike
104. Professional strike

##### **Ordinary Industrial Strikes**

105. Establishment strike
106. Industry strike
107. Sympathetic strike

##### **Restricted Strikes**

106. Industry strike
109. Bumper strike
110. Slowdown strike
111. Working-to-rule strike
112. Reporting sick [sick-in)
113. Strike by resignation
114. Limited strike
115. Selective strike

##### **Multi-Industry Strikes**

116. Generalized strike
117. General strike

##### **Combination of Strikes and Economic Closures**

116. Hartal
119. Economic shutdown

#### THE METHODS OF POLITICAL NONCOOPERATION

##### **Rejection of Authority**

120. Withholding or withdrawal of allegiance
121. Refusal of public support
122. Literature and speeches advocating resistance

##### **Citizens' Noncooperation with Government**

- 123. Boycott of legislative bodies
- 124. Boycott of elections
- 125. Boycott of government employment and positions
- 126. Boycott of government depts., agencies, and other bodies
- 127. Withdrawal from government-supported organizations
- 128. Boycott of government-supported organizations
- 129. Refusal of assistance to enforcement agencies
- 130. Removal of own signs and placemarks
- 131. Refusal to accept appointed officials
- 132. Refusal to dissolve existing institutions

#### **Citizens' Alternatives to Obedience**

- 133. Reluctant and slow compliance
- 134. Nonobedience in absence of direct supervision
- 135. Popular nonobedience
- 136. Disguised nonobedience
- 137. Refusal on an assemblage or meeting to disperse
- 138. Sitdown
- 139. Noncooperation with conscription and deportation
- 140. Hiding, escape, and false identities
- 141. Civil disobedience of 'illegitimate' laws

#### **Action by Government Personnel**

- 142. Selective refusal of assistance by government aides
- 143. Blocking of lines of command and information
- 144. Stalling and obstruction
- 145. General administrative noncooperation
- 146. Judicial noncooperation
- 147. Deliberate inefficiency and selective noncooperation by enforcement agents
- 146. Mutiny

#### **Domestic Governmental Action**

- 149. Quasi-legal evasions and delays
- 150. Noncooperation by constituent governmental units

#### **International Governmental Action**

- 151. Changes in diplomatic and other representations
- 152. Delay and cancellation of diplomatic events
- 153. Withholding of diplomatic recognition

- 154. Severance of diplomatic relations
- 155. Withdrawal from international organizations
- 156. Refusal of membership in international bodies
- 157. Expulsion from international organizations

#### **THE METHODS OF NONVIOLENT INTERVENTION**

##### **Psychological Intervention**

- 158. Self-exposure to the elements
- 159. The fast: a) Fast of moral pressure, b) Hunger strike, c) Satyagrahic fast
- 160. Reverse trial
- 161. Nonviolent harassment

##### **Physical Intervention**

- 162. Sit-in
- 163. Stand-in
- 164. Ride-in
- 165. Wade-in
- 166. Mill-in
- 167. Pray-in
- 166. Nonviolent raids
- 169. Nonviolent air raids
- 170. Nonviolent invasion
- 171. Nonviolent interjection
- 172. Nonviolent obstruction
- 173. Nonviolent occupation

##### **Social Intervention**

- 174. Establishing new social patterns
- 175. Overloading of facilities
- 176. Stall-in
- 177. Speak-in
- 178. Guerrilla theater
- 179. Alternative social institutions
- 160. Alternative communication system

##### **Economic Intervention**

- 181. Reverse strike
- 182. Stay-in strike
- 183. Nonviolent land seizure
- 184. Defiance of blockades
- 185. Politically motivated counterfeiting
- 186. Preclusive purchasing
- 187. Seizure of assets
- 188. Dumping
- 189. Selective patronage
- 190. Alternative markets
- 191. Alternative transportation systems
- 192. Alternative economic institutions

**Political Intervention**

- 193. Overloading of administrative systems
- 194. Disclosing identities of secret agents
- 195. Seeking imprisonment
- 196. Civil disobedience of 'neutral' laws
- 197. Work-on without collaboration
- 198. Dual sovereignty and parallel government

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**SOURCE**

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