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 disrobing
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 reclaims
30. Rude gestures

**Pressures on Individuals**
31. Haunting” officials
32. Taunting officials
33. Fraternization
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
48. 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
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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
148. 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
168. 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
180. 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

SOURCE
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