**#NoBanNoWall: How to Organize a Peaceful Protest or Action**

President Trump’s order banning Muslims puts bigotry into our laws. While there are real concerns about public safety, this is just scapegoating a minority. We’ve fought this kind of discrimination all over the world for decades, and we will fight it here.

And Trump’s temporary shutdown of the refugee program is cruel and inhumane. We demand that the United States stop turning its back on people fleeing violence.

**Remember the Human Impact of the Muslim Ban**

Come together to lift up stories about the human impact of the Muslim ban. It directly affects our communities. Many people are uncertain about their safety and future in this country. Some are afraid to travel and confused about whether they can. Many are stranded away from their families. You can educate your community, build solidarity, and call people to action that will protect human rights.

The first step is to reach out to your community to bring people together. In moments like this, people respond in many different ways. You’re reading this because you are called to action, and your action can bring hope. Organizing a vigil can help your community turn pain, fear, and anger into action, and is the next step in building a powerful movement to protect human rights.

Organize your first peaceful protest or vigil this week, or join one already being organized. Publicly proclaim that you will fight back against policies that discriminate.

**7 Steps to Organizing a Protest or Action**

1. Build your team: Reach out to friends, Amnesty group members, and members of your community to see who else is ready to speak out. Bring everyone together quickly – even if it’s just a group text! – and decide who is doing what. With just a few more hands, you can easily do all that’s needed before your action. Check out the checklist below for tasks that might be needed, and add others as you plan quickly. Protip: rather than asking, “can you help out?” make specific asks of people to bring them into your team. Ask, “Can you create a flyer/can you drop flyers off at the student center/can you contact professors/etc.?”
2. Decide where to hold the event: Remember that the purpose of a peaceful protest or vigil is to get your message directly to decision makers, while also raising awareness publicly. This is your chance to call attention to the human impact of the Muslim Ban, so where is the best place to do that. Go to the office of a Member of Congress and assemble out in front, symbolic space in your community or on your campus that is visible, where you’re sure that as many people as possible will see you and hear your message.
3. Get on message: We want to say loud and clear that we stand against policies that discriminate, and we say #NoBanNoWall. Download our sample signs at [www.amnestyusa.org/protests](http://www.amnestyusa.org/protests), or make your own banner with the same message. Check out our statements at [www.amnestyusa.org/news](http://www.amnestyusa.org/news) for the latest on President Trump’s executive order regarding extreme and unwarranted restrictions on immigrants. Make sure that you are heard by your Members of Congress by following up with phone calls.
4. Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate: Find out who has already been leading in your community and reach out. Get the support of other organizations and community groups, including racial justice groups, faith-based organizations, social justice groups, and other youth-led groups. Ask them to help with organizing, including the look and feel of your peaceful protest or vigil, and ask them to help recruit people to come. If it makes sense, ask them to speak at your action to share their stories of how the Muslim Ban affects them personally,
5. Recruit: Create a Facebook page, and upload your event at the top of the page at [www.amnestyusa.org/protests](http://www.amnestyusa.org/protests). You have followers on each of your social media accounts, you know the usual places to post fliers, so start spreading the word. But don’t forget the first rule of mobilizing: ask people! Most people show up to actions through word of mouth. Call each of your friends or ask them in person to show up, and when they say yes, ask them to bring 3-5 friends. Before you know it, you’ll have dozens of people ready to go.
6. Include a call to action: Whether you light candles, write messages on a large board, chalk or lay down flowers, it is always impactful for people to feel physically involved in the action. Go further: ask everyone who comes to your vigil to call their Senators and Representative immediately afterward, and ask people who can help organize the next vigil.
7. Follow up: In order to sustain this action, you’ll need help, so use this a chance to recruit and develop leadership in others. Get everyone’s name, email address and phone number. Call each of them after the action to thank them for coming and ask them to come to your next meeting, be part of planning your next action, or bring their friends to your next action.

Tell us how it went! Share photos and videos from your vigil using the hashtag #NoBanNoWall, and send the highlights to trumpwatch@aiusa.org.

**Checklist for Organizing Protests**

\_\_Download and print materials

\_\_Create signs and flyers

\_\_Create list of places to flyer

\_\_Distribute flyers

\_\_Phone calls to other organizations

\_\_Phone calls to professors

\_\_Identify gathering place

\_\_Outreach to potential speakers

\_\_Order food and water if needed

\_\_Write email templates

\_\_Photoshop materials

\_\_Create Facebook Event page

\_\_Develop the action program and choreograph the action

\_\_Rent/reserve sound equipment

\_\_Find a photographer

\_\_Apply for permits if needed

\_\_Follow up phone calls the night before the action

\_\_Create sign in sheets to collect email and phone numbers

\_\_Sign people in

\_\_Draft follow up email

\_\_Send follow up email immediately after action

\_\_Post photos on social media with #NoBanNoWall

\_\_Upload your event info to [www.amnestyusa.org/protests](http://www.amnestyusa.org/protests)

\_\_Send photos and highlights to trumpwatch@aiusa.org

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