

Checklist for affinity groups



- ✓ Choose a **name for your affinity group** (unusual word, preferably with many vowels, which can be called well and is not misleading).
- ✓ Exchange your **full names, addresses and birth dates** for custody/injury cases.
- ✓ Talk about your **personal goals and motivations**:
 - Why do you want to take part in the action? What do you hope to get out of it?
- ✓ Talk about your **experiences and your fears**:
 - How are you doing physically and mentally with the planned activities?
 - Is there anything that is particularly easy or difficult for you?
 - What scares you in the action or in case of possible repression?
- ✓ Talk in advance about how you want to go into the action under **special Covid-19 conditions** and what that means for you:
 - How do you feel about Covid-19 and a possible risk of infection in the action? Do you feel comfortable with the idea of going into action?
 - What are possible no-go's for your affinity group due to Covid-19 (certain means of transport, pressure situations etc.)?
 - Don't go into action if you feel ill or have symptoms of Covid-19. How will you as an affinity group deal with people being absent at short notice before the action because of Covid-19?
 - How do you deal responsibly with a possible risk after the action? How can you support yourselves? How and when do you want to test yourselves?
- ✓ Think about your **behaviour in certain situations**:
 - What do you want to do together in the action, how far do you want to go?
 - How do you behave towards the police? With what attitude do you meet them?
 - What do you do if the police use dogs, horses or water cannons?
 - How do you behave in eviction situations?
 - Are there any circumstances when you want to leave the blockade?
 - Could there be situations where you would share or dissolve your affinity group?
 - How will you deal with possible repression during the action?
- ✓ Talk about your **needs**:
 - What do you wish from each other?
 - Where are your personal limits for the action?
 - How should your affinity group deal with your expectations and limits?
 - What can your affinity group members do for you if you are not doing well?
 - Do affinity group members regularly need certain medications? Show/explain to the members of your affinity group, where to find your medication in your luggage.
- ✓ Determine which two (or even three) persons will stay together in each case and in each situation (**buddies/tandems**). If buddies appear to have the same gender (male or female), the chance is greater that you can stay together in custody.
- ✓ Agree how you want to **make decisions**:
 - Agree on hand signals (consent, veto, direction indicators, "Come together for discussion" etc.)
 - Practice fast consensus-oriented decision making already in everyday life or the day before the action (Should we get a beer or go to sleep? Etc.)
- ✓ Think about who in your group will take over **which tasks**:
 - Who represents you in the delegates' meeting / spokespersons' council? (Also shared work between several people possible – then you can rotate)
 - Will you take a mobile phone into action? If yes, who will have a mobile phone with them?



- Does everyone have the number of everyone else in the affinity group?
- With whom outside of the affinity group do you want to communicate?
- Who knows the terrain?
- Who has a first aid kit and eye rinsing bottles with them?
- ✓ Think about how you can **make the blockade a pleasant action**. Do you want to take games, instruments with you or get creative in some other way?
- ✓ Agree on **meeting points before, during and after the action** if you lose your affinity group.
 - Where in the finger do you want to go? Front, middle, back?
 - Where in a blockade would you like to sit?
- ✓ Write the phone number of the Legal Team on your body. (Paper is easily lost or can be taken from you by the police.)
 - Always call the Legal Team if you witness an arrest!
 - Call the Legal Team as soon as you're out of custody!
 - On the phone, you should use an imaginary name instead of your real name (if you want to refuse personal data). Exchange this imaginary name with the other people in your affinity group.
- ✓ Prepare for **being taken into custody** (possibly):
 - Do you want to hand out or refuse personal data?
 - How do you want to deal with possible identification treatment? (Make fingerprints unrecognizable, paint your face)
 - Is it important to you that someone - or also someone quite certain – picks you up from the detention centre ("Paz")?
 - Who needs to be home when? Who needs to be notified if you come home later than planned? How can these people be reached?
 - What has to be arranged then? (Cancel appointments, childcare, apartment "clean up" etc.)
 - Discuss where your identity cards are or store them collected at one place (if a person wants to get out of the detention centre, verbal personal information is not always accepted or often leads to additional delays before the release). There will be no central storage organized!
 - Do you wish to have public relations work done in case you have more days in custody or remand?
- ✓ Prepare your **trusted people at home**:
 - If there is a lot to settle: give them a to-do list in case you come home late.
 - Give them a number where they can call and ask for you and explain the circumstances to them.
 - If you refuse to hand out your personal data, emphasize that your name should not be mentioned on the phone, but your fantasy name.
 - Memorize the trusted person's phone number.
- ✓ Arrange a **place and time for an After-Action-Meeting**, where you'll clear up:
 - How did you feel in the affinity group and in the action?
 - What worked well, what worked badly?
 - Was there repression or could repression still follow?
 - Agree to contact you and support each other if repression follows weeks or months after the action. Discuss it in the affinity group and ask at the Legal Team of your trust. Stay in touch, even if you don't expect any repression, so that you can **support each other emotionally** as well and it doesn't go unnoticed when affinity group members feel bad after the action.