

# NONVIOLENT ACTION: 198 METHODS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

by Dr. Gene Sharp

## 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, and 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

18. 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. Fraternization
34. Vigils

### Drama and Music

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

### Processions

38. 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
- 53. Silence
- 53. Renouncing honors
- 54. Turning one's back

#### **THE METHODS OF SOCIAL NONCOOPERATION**

##### **Ostracism of Persons**

- 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
- 66. Total personal noncooperation

- 67. "Flight" of workers
- 68. Sanctuary
- 69. Collective disappearance
- 70. Protest emigration (hijrat)

#### **THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: (I) 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
- 83. Lockout
- 84. Refusal of industrial assistance
- 85. 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: (2) THE STRIKE**

#### **Symbolic Strikes**

- 97. Protest strike
- 98. 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**

- 108. Detailed 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**

- 118. 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 educational institutions
- 128. Boycott of government-supported organizations
- 129. Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents
- 130. Removal of own signs and place-marks

- 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 disobedience
- 137. Refusal of 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: *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Vol. 2: *The Methods of Nonviolent Action* (Boston: Porter Sargent Publishers, 1973). The book outlines each method and gives information about its historical use.