There are risks associated with attending a protest, and taking steps to mitigate them can go a long way in ensuring you—and the data you value—are kept safe.

This guide outlines steps you can take before, during, and after a protest that will help keep yourself and your data more secure.

**PROTECT YOUR DATA:**
- Use a strong password and remove fingerprint & Face ID. An officer could try to physically force you to unlock your device.
- Take photos/videos without unlocking your phone and try to search if later with a warrant, and you may be booked into custody.
- If you speak, don’t lie and ask for a lawyer.
- You can refuse to provide your password or unlock your device.
- You should tell the police, ‘I choose to remain silent,’ and ask for a lawyer.
- You should make full use of your device, including clothing and belongings.
- Protect your data in your possession, and consider using Signal for safer communications.
- Wear non-descript clothing and cover identifying features. Avoid being identified through face and tattoo recognition technologies.
- Install Signal for safer communications.
- Enable full-disk encryption on your device.
- Back up your data. Your device may be damaged, lost, stolen, or confiscated.
- Take photos/videos without unlocking your device.
- Force you to unlock your device.
- If police stop or arrest you:
  - You can refuse to provide your password or unlock your device.
  - You should tell the police, ‘I choose to remain silent,’ and ask for a lawyer.
  - If you speak, don’t lie.
  - Be aware police might seize your phone and try to search it later with a warrant, and you may be booked into custody.

**PROTECT YOUR LOCATION:**
- Enable airplane mode and turn off location services.
- Download area maps and plan meeting spots ahead of time.
- Consider biking or walking. Prevents license plate readers from reading your vehicle’s exact time, date, and location.
- Remember: every protest is different, so these tips are general suggestions for better data security and do not constitute legal advice or counseling. If you have specific legal concerns, seek the advice of a licensed attorney.

**POST RESPONSIBLY:**
- Black out (or blur) the faces and identifying marks of protestors. Police search images for any identifying features, including clothing and belongings, not just the face.
- Scrub metadata on photos. For example, transfer just the face of a person (or blur) the faces and identifying marks.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**
To read EFF’s full protest guide, scan the code or visit https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/attending-protest