# 198 METHODS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

### 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 declarations
- 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 colours
- 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. Humourous skits and pranks
- 36. Performances of plays and music
- 37. Singing

#### **PROCESSIONS**

- 38. Marches
- 39. Parades
- 40. Religious processions
- 41. Pilgrimages
- 42. Motorcades

#### **HONOURING 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 honours
- 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 activi-
- 61. Boycott of social affairs
- 62 Student strike
- 63. Social disobedience
- 64. Withdrawal from social institutions

### WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOCIAL SYSTEM

- 65. Stav-at-home
- 66. Total personal noncooperation
- 67. "Flight" of workers
- 68. Sanctuary
- 69. Collective disappearance
- 70. Protest emigration (hijrat)

## THE METHODS OF ECONOMIC NONCOOPERATION: ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

#### **ACTION BY CONSUMERS**

HANDOUT

- 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. Workers' 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 NONCOOOPERATION: 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 labour

102. Prisoners' strike

103. Craft strike

104. Professional strike

#### **ORDINARY INDUSTRIAL STRIKES**

105. Establishment strike

106. Industry strike

107. Sympathy 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. Generalised 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 alle-

121. Refusal of public support

122. Literature and speeches advocating resistance

### CITIZENS' NONCOOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT

123. Boycott of legislative bodies

124. Boycott of elections

tions

125. Boycott of government employment and positions

126. Boycott of government departments, agencies, and other bodies

127. Withdrawal from governmental educational institutions

128. Boycott of government-supported institutions

129. Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents

130. Removal of own signs and placemarks

131. Refusal to accept appointed officials 132. Refusal to dissolve existing institu-

#### CITIZENS' ALTERNATIVES TO OBEDI-ENCE

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 identities141. Civil disobedience of "illegitimate"

### 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 representation

152. Delay and cancellation of diplomatic events

153. Withholding of diplomatic recognition

154. Severance of diplomatic relations

155. Withdrawal from international organisations

156. Refusal of membership in international bodies

157. Expulsion from international organisations

## 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 theatre

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:

Gene Sharp, The Methods of Nonviolent Action, Boston 1973. Available form War Resister's League, www.warresisters.org.