

# Know Your Risks:

Public Demonstrations

**Visit your state's ACLU website to learn about local laws that may restrict how you participate in public demonstrations.**

# A Few Basics

**To prepare for your time at a public demonstration, keep these things in mind:**

- Be sure your phone is fully charged, turn off any biometric security features, and keep an analog copy of your emergency contact's phone number.
- Dress comfortably and pack what you'll need in the best-and-worst-case scenarios (e.g., water, snacks, basic first aid, protective gear, sunscreen, legal aid contacts, cash)
- Be polite, calm, make sure your hands are visible, and assume that any interaction you have with counter-protestors and/or law enforcement may be recorded, put online, and go viral.



*These recommendations were adapted from resources available at [nlg.org](https://nlg.org).*

# Things to consider...

Many of the rules and regulations that advocates know about public demonstrations in the past are being limited by state law and knowingly violated.

- 23 states have enacted “critical infrastructure” bills to limit where public demonstrations can be held.
- 4 states have enacted “halo” laws that require individuals to remain a certain distance from first responders (typically 25 feet).
- Demonstrators have been arrested, and jailed, for taking pictures and/or recording video during demonstrations.



*These recommendations were adapted from resources available at [nlg.org](https://nlg.org).*

**Law enforcement is allowed to lie to you to gather information or a confession.**

# How do I invoke my rights during interactions with law enforcement?



"Am I free to go?"

If they say "yes," you should leave.

No

"Am I being detained?"

If they say anything other than "yes," you should leave.

Yes

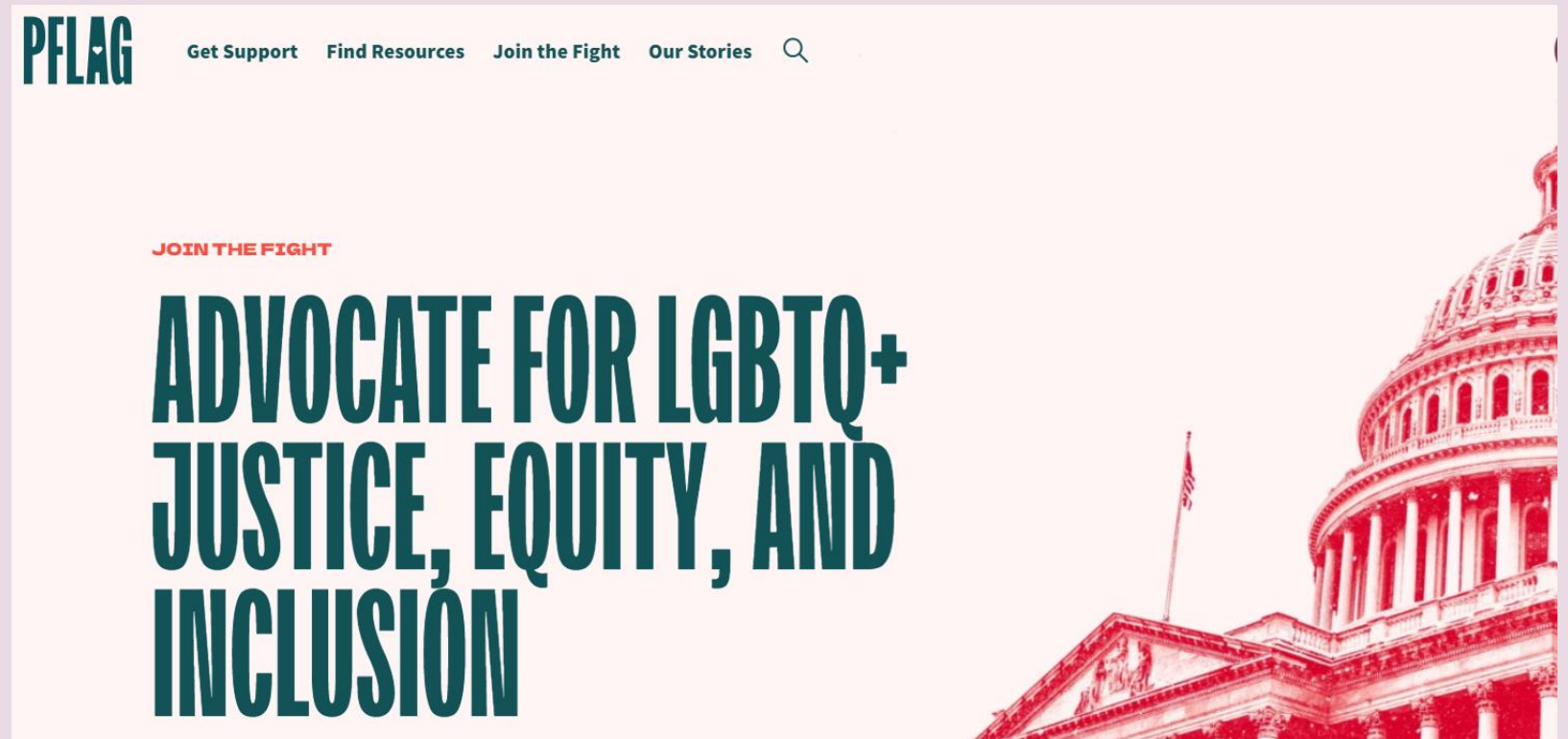
"I'm going to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer."

DO NOT consent to a search.

Know Your Rights: Public Demonstrations

[pflag.org/jointhefight](https://pflag.org/jointhefight)

Find advocacy tools for  
your PFLAG Chapter,  
resources to help you  
protect LGBTQ+ kids  
and families, and more!





# THANKS YOU

Katie Blair (she/her)

Vice President, Advocacy

[advocacy@pflag.org](mailto:advocacy@pflag.org)