

Of course they are. But when they are in uniform and at protests, they are protecting the interests of the state & those in power. And usually they are the only people around with guns.

"Police are people too!"

That may be true! But was everyone present treated that way? The police have a history of killing Black people with impunity and practicing Stop & Frisk against communities of color. Are you at this protest for yourself only, or to express solidarity?

"They were friendly towards me."

When police are at a protest in uniform, on duty, carrying weapons, and permitted to use force against unarmed people, **treating them as though they aren't playing a role in the struggles over issues of power and justice that we are fighting for is just plain weird.**

We aren't saying go punch them in the face (please don't - you'd likely get a felony and spend years in prison). We're just asking you to **consider what some of the unintended consequences might be** of going out of your way to express public gratitude to cops. Especially if you are at a protest challenging any of the following:

- Police violence/brutality
- Anti-immigrant policies
- Gender-based violence
- Donald Trump or any of his policies
- Racism
- When else might it be inappropriate?

See how weird that looks???

Yikes! When & where have we heard that before? Remember, the Fraternal Order of Police endorsed Trump for president. We should be questioning the role of law enforcement, not accepting it as is.

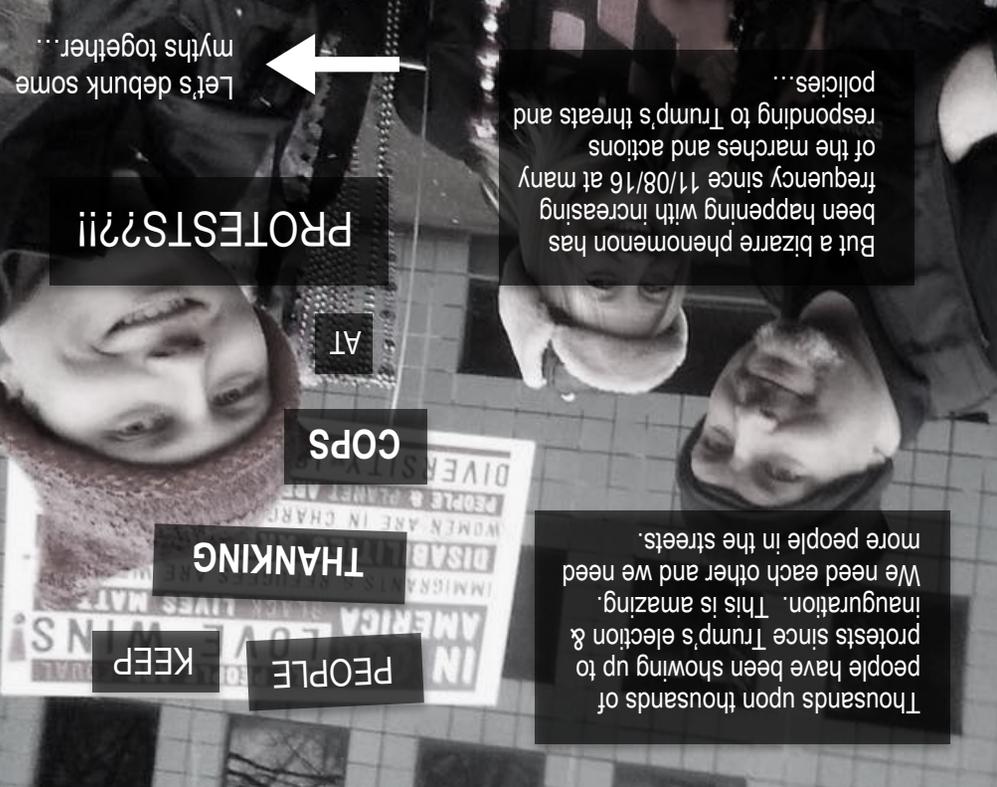
"They are just doing their jobs"

Who is us? Police primarily protect property & people with wealth & property. They are permitted to use force & frequently do against communities of color. Who does that create safety for?

"Officers are keeping us safe"

OTHER WAYS TO SHOW GRATITUDE AT PROTESTS:

- Thank a young person for being there!
- Find out who organized the protest and how to support their work!
- Thank a legal observer for being there!
- Consider attending a training to become a legal observer for future protests!
- Speak to someone standing near you and ask why they're at the protest. You might learn something and/or make a new friend!
- Post online about who organized the protest and what you learned from attending.
- Donate to the org that called for the protest, and/or to another organization that a speaker who inspired you is involved with.



But a bizarre phenomenon has been happening with increasing frequency since 11/08/16 at many of the marches and actions responding to Trump's threats and policies...

Thousands upon thousands of people have been showing up to protests since Trump's election & inauguration. This is amazing. We need each other and we need more people in the streets.

MORE RESOURCES:

- afsc.org/chicago
- wechargegenocide.org
- peoplesresponseteamchicago.org
- 'Police Abolition' on the marshallproject.org
- https://issuu.com/ftpzines/docs/gbnf_zine_all
- aworldwithoutpolice.org

This mini zine was made by Debbie Southorn, with input from lots of friends and rad people. The drawing in the middle was by Monica Trinidad, and the photos were by Love & Struggle Photos. Thanks AFSC Chicago for printing the first round of these...

We are all we need.

Some thoughts on why NOT to thank cops at protests...

INSTRUCTIONS VIA:

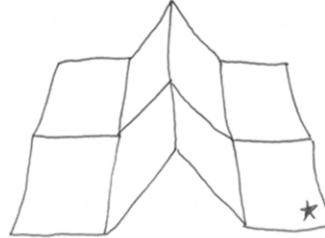
<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/about/ZineFoldingInstructions.pdf>

a short guide to folding an eight-page mini zine

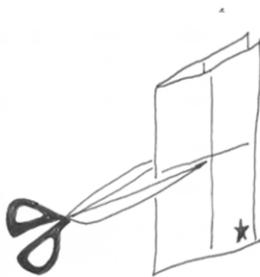
- 1** Fold a standard piece of white copy paper (8.5 x 11 inches) into eight even parts like so:



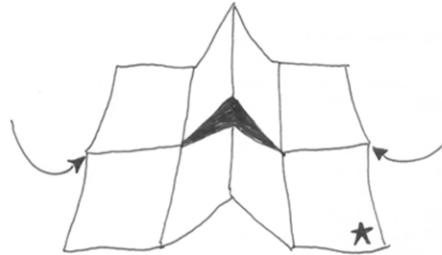
- 2** Now crease those folds so the paper rests like this naturally:



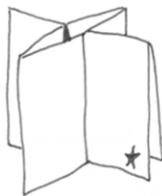
- 3** Now fold the paper in half as below and cut it halfway through so it looks like "4"...



- 4** Place the paper down like so. Now put your index fingers where the arrows are, lifting up while folding the sheet lengthwise over your index fingers...



- 5** During lengthwise folding in step "4" the middle of the sheet should buckle so that it can fold into this form naturally:



- 6** And now you have your eight-page zine! Notice the "starred" page is the front page of the zine. Voila!



Keep a 5mm blank margin around the whole sheet (Marked off in gray on the template on the next pages). Anything written within that area is not copied by most photocopiers.

The numbers on the zine template on the next page tell you the final order of the pages and the orientation of images on the pages once you fold the zine up: "1" is the first cover page and "8" is the last back cover page!
