

**AWARENESS
AND ANTI-
PATRIARCHAL
PRACTICE IN
THE CONTEXT
OF ACTION.**



WHY THIS FLYER?



We understand our struggle against the animal industry as part of the struggles of the political left and therefore especially also as feminist.

This means that we always want to work against patriarchy in our actions. Patriarchy is a social concept that prescribes a binary gender system. In it, social resources, power, and values fall to cis males as a group at the expense of women, lesbians, intersex, non-binary, trans, agender, and all other non-cis endo males (FLINTA*).

This flyer was created by the Anti-Patriarchal Group of Together Against the Animal Industry to...

- promote an understanding of how masculinities and their demands constrain and harm all genders - including cis men;
- increase empathy for the experiences of discrimination of affected individuals instead of just create a cognitive understanding of structures of oppression;
- learn to distribute emotional and reproductive labor more equitably and share this knowledge and practice;
- reduce dominant speech behaviors. Dominant speech behavior describes the behavior of individuals and especially privileged individuals (e.g., cis male, white, straight, non-disabled) who dominate a group conversation/plenary with the frequency, length, and nature of their contributions, thus getting in the way of broad participation by as many people as possible. Mostly, this topic deals with male dominance.



Further info and glossary: gemeinsam-gegen-die-tierindustrie.org/antipatriarchale-arbeit/

Our perception can be influenced by many factors; e.g., learned gender role stereotypes, personal experiences, or current mood/circumstances. For example, one person may become angry by the same situation, that triggers fear in another person. Being aware of this can strengthen your understanding of each other and promote mindful/considerate interactions.

! Attention !

Medication, alcohol and other drugs also affect our perception.

We can experience and react very differently before, during and after actions: While one person is happy on the way to the blockade, another person might be worried or afraid, for example. Two participants of the same demonstration evaluate it differently afterwards, because both were at different places or were affected differently by discrimination.

Dealing with the physical and psychological consequences of political work is not a private matter, but a task for the entire affinity group and the contexts of the action.

In the following we want to give you some suggestions for a possible discussion in your affinity group before, during and after an action.

Feel free to drop by the awareness tent at any time - we are happy if this can be a place for you to relax.

BEFORE THE ACTION



Form affinity groups and buddy pairs

- Pay attention to how others want to be addressed (name, pronoun,...).
- Each person should be able to rely on having a companion if their boundaries are crossed and they want to leave the situation

Reflect on your own positions

- Do you find it easier to speak your mind because of your socialization?
- Do you talk more and are you listened to more than other people?
- Be aware that scene codes might exclude people. Make sure everyone understands what you are saying.
- Don't explain things to people unless you've been asked.

Do a plenary

- Get to know each other, talk through situations, develop a sense of each other.
- Share your needs and limits, express your fears and insecurities. Talk about your own experiences and previous ways of dealing with stress - how do you typically react, what/who can help you.
- Take fears and insecurities that are being expressed seriously and be responsive.
- Consider what might happen before, during and after an action and how you will deal with it. Stay realistic and optimistic. Also consider how you will make decisions during the action.
- Make clear agreements: For example, establish criteria for stopping an action. Think about who will take on which role (e.g. check-ins, delegates) and who will provide support.

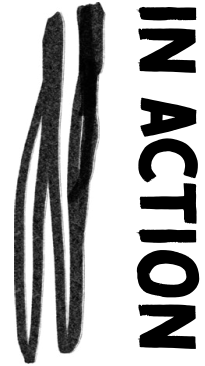
Do regular How-am-I-doing-rounds with your buddies and affinity groups.

- Share how you're doing, what's stressing you out, and what you want/need.
- Take expressed needs seriously and respond to them.
- Every person who participates in action - in whatever way - , is important, do not put your needs behind (the supposed interest of the group)

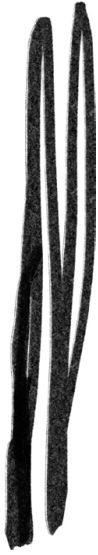
Decision making

- Try to keep track of what is happening so that you are prepared for spontaneous changes (e.g. gap in barrier). Remember your agreements before the action.
- When making group decisions, make sure that everyone really can follow / understand / agree with the process and also really has the opportunity to act on the decision.
- If people have not spoken, it does not necessarily mean that they fully agree with what is being said. Better ask again.
- When all this is fulfilled, we speak of consensus.

Don't hierarchize forms of action. It is just as important for people to cook or provide emotional support as it is to sit in a blockade. This reproductive work is just as much a part of actions.



WHEN IT BURNS



- Don't put the success of an operation above everything else. If a hectic situation arises, still allow enough time for everyone's needs to be met - even if that may mean the cops get ahead of you.
- It's okay to leave the place of action at any time if you don't feel comfortable. Your buddy should accompany you.
- Be aware that the same situation can be perceived very differently by people and can pose different risks, depending on past experiences and existing discrimination, among other things. For example, people who are affected by racism are often more exposed to repression.
- You are not alone: Contact the Awareness Team or the Investigation Committee if you need help.



AFTER THE ACTION



- It is often challenging to address dominant behavior. Therefore, ask people in your reference group how they experienced your behavior in the group or do feedback rounds.
- If your behavior is criticized by others, do not question the criticism.
- If people talk about experiences of discrimination, this should be taken seriously. Listen to those affected and try to find out together what course of action is needed. Example: If a trans person reports abuse by the police, do not minimize the pain by saying that nothing else is to be expected from the cops. The pain of the person is real and needs space and empathy. Also other situations, such as racial profiling or sexual violence, have to be taken very seriously.
- **Get in touch with the Awareness Team or the Investigative Committee if you need help. You can also contact us after the camp via email (awareness@gemeinsam-gegen-die-tierindustrie.org, flinta-awareness@gemeinsam-gegen-die-tierindustrie.org).**

If necessary, get help from psychological professionals (e.g. 24/7: telephone counseling: 0800 1110111 or 0800 1110222; medical on-call service of the associations of statutory health insurance physicians: 116 117).

