

Forms of Nonviolent Action

Gene Sharp researched and catalogued 198 methods of nonviolent action which he first published in 1973 in *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*. These methods are broken into three broad classifications: Protest and Persuasion, Non-cooperation, and Nonviolent Intervention. These are further grouped into sections. The full list is available at <http://www.aeinstein.org>.

1. Protest and Persuasion

- Demonstrations – Many people express what they want by walking together in the street, for example, the demonstrations against war on Iraq on the 15th of February 2003. The biggest anti-war demonstration ever, it occurred in more than 600 cities around the world. In London alone, two million people demonstrated.
- Protest lists – Signing your name to a list to express dissent with a certain policy, for instance a protest against Swedish weapon exports to United States and Great Britain during the Iraq war.

2. Non-Cooperation

- Boycott – To refuse to buy merchandise or a service to show dissatisfaction with the seller or government, for example, the boycott of South African products during the apartheid regime. Individuals and organisations first started to boycott South African merchandise; after a while, entire countries boycotted South Africa.
- Strike – To refuse to work. For example during the first Intifada, the Palestinian resistance that started in 1987, most Palestinians refused to work for Israelis. Israel lost a lot of money without access to cheap Palestinian labour, and the economy stagnated.
- Political non-cooperation – The refusal to do military service or to perform an extradition. War Resisters International is one of the organisations that supports those who want to refuse to do military service.
- Refusal to cooperate – For example during the Second World War, Norwegian teachers refused to follow the Nazi curriculum for schools. They were sent to concentration camps because of their disobedience, but most of them were released when the Nazis understood that they wouldn't give in.

3. Intervention

- Blockades – To place your body in the way of something. For example, Israelis and international volunteers block Israeli bulldozers that are about to demolish Palestinian homes.
- Preventive Presence – To protect endangered persons in conflict areas, for example, peace observers in Mexico, Israel-Palestine, or Colombia.
- Plowshares Actions – To openly disarm weapons and to be willing to take your sentence, for example, the disarming of Trident nuclear submarines in Scotland.