

# NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS LOCAL ACTION ORGANIZING SKILL SHARE APRIL 2024



  
**NATIONAL  
COALITION** FOR THE  
**HOMELESS**



# HOUSING NOW! MARCH, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1989

NEW YORK POST, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1989



**ON THE HOME FRONT:** *Thousands of housing advocates protest yesterday in Washington to urge an end to homelessness.*

## Acknowledgements:

This organizing skill-share was developed by Lynn Lewis, organizing consultant and former board member of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Many of the tools in this collection are adapted from the Picture the Homeless Oral History Project archive - and many of those were adapted from the NYC Organizing Support Center and the Midwest Academy. These tools are to be adapted and used in ways that fit the conditions that you and your group face locally and are shared in the spirit of mutual aid, dignity, and justice. WE LEARN, ADAPT, SHARE, AND ORGANIZE TOGETHER!

# Johnson v Grants Pass Organizing Skill-Share

This tool-kit is being shared with folks across the country as we organize to send a powerful message to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Housing Not Handcuffs!

Some of you have lots of experience doing events and actions and others are just getting started. We are all needed to build this movement.

If there are things here that you find helpful, please use them - and give us feedback. If you have things to share, please do!

In solidarity,

*all of us at*

The National Coalition for the Homeless



NCH staff, members, and activists

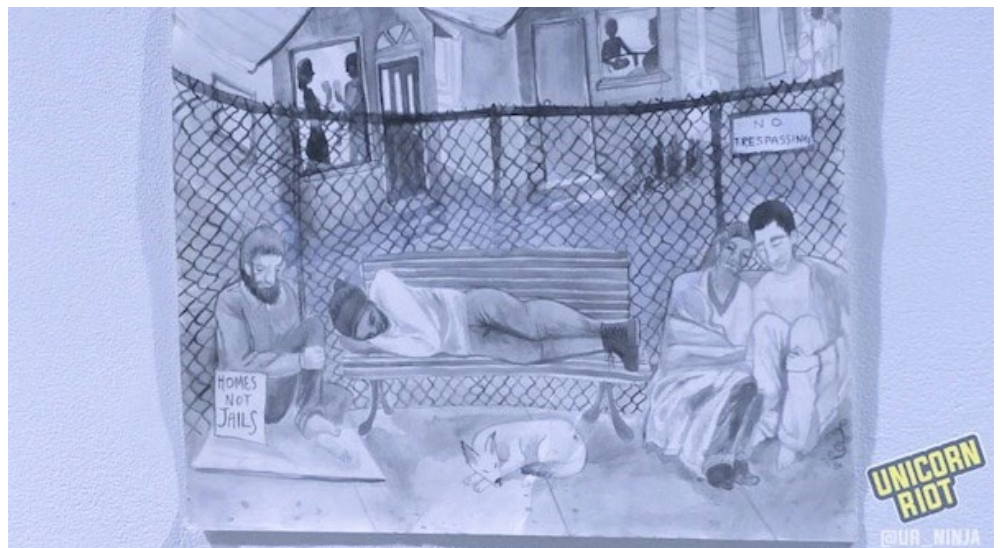
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## National Resources:

- <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/how-you-can-help>

Unicorn Riot,  
March 14, 2018





## SAMPLE ACTION SCENARIOS – FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we will gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court – and all across the country to say ***HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS!***

The US Supreme Court is deciding Johnson v Grants Pass, which will have a huge impact on local policing of public space. We know that laws are passed and enforced locally. Your City Council, Mayor, and police are the ones implementing anti-homeless policies (such as sweeps) now. So, local actions are really important, in addition to actions in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

We didn't just get here. Some of you already have been organizing for years and have active campaigns at the local, state, or federal levels. Or this might be your first action!

## ACTIONS ARE ABOUT DISRUPTING BUSINESS AS USUAL, TO EDUCATE AND TO INSPIRE CHANGE

### Some examples are:

- Educating our community about their rights with the police by holding a teach-in at a soup kitchen
- Educating the community about a problem *and a solution to the problem* by holding a sleep-out in front of a vacant house or building
- Getting your community involved and fired up by flyering outside of a city council meeting – and then going inside and chanting, flyering or observing for next time
- Supporting leadership within your community by making sure folks are supported to speak in public at press conferences or anywhere you decide would be effective
- Having solidarity with houseless community members being targeted by the police through encampment blockades
- Build relationships with elected officials by thanking the ones that do support your efforts



# KEY CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU PLAN AN ACTION

- A small group of people can have a BIG impact
- Actions are a crucial way to build leadership and bonds of solidarity in your group
- As you plan, there are a lot of roles in an action so everyone can contribute
- The location of your action sends a powerful message
- Visual props are important
- Keep the energy high with chanting, singing, picketing, handing out flyers
- Knowing your rights with the police is important to action planning and keeping folks safe
- Getting mainstream media coverage
- Generate social media content by taking lots of photos, getting quotes from folks

*Terri Wright, of Direct Action for Rights and Equality, helps lead a protest up Gaspee Street in Providence on the way to the statehouse. Kris Craig/The Providence Journal. October 4, 2022*



# ACTION CHECKLIST

## BEFORE THE ACTION:

\_\_\_\_ IDENTIFY *what* you want to change with your group – using Who, What, When, Where, How and Why is a great way to get started.

\_\_\_\_ LINK the *Housing Not Handcuffs* message with local work that you are doing.

\_\_\_\_ DO a power analysis to identify the person who has the power to make the changes you want them to make. Who do they listen to? Are any of them your allies? Think “outside the box” – are there unions, faith communities, racial justice organizations, student groups, etc. that have shared interests with you? Who are your opponents on this issue and how much influence do they have over your target?

\_\_\_\_ IDENTIFY allies that you want to participate and decide if it’s a coalition action, or *your group’s action*. If it’s your action, invited allies need to take your leadership and agree to your messaging and help with turnout.

\_\_\_\_ BRAINSTORM the goals of *this action*.

\_\_\_\_ BE CLEAR about how this action fits into your overall strategy. Each action builds upon the other and amplifies your voice and your message.

\_\_\_\_ CREATE an action plan that will be unfamiliar to the target – action is about disrupting business as usual and making your target uncomfortable. You want them to pay attention.

\_\_\_\_ DEVELOP clear and simple demands. Know your bottom line – what are you unwilling to negotiate away? Remember who are you accountable to - will this bottom line be acceptable to them?

\_\_\_\_ DURING the action, make sure one person has a list of all the roles and who is doing what. People might need support, especially if they’re doing something they never did before. That’s how we learn!

\_\_\_\_ MAKE SURE everyone in your group knows the demands, goals, and SOLUTIONS around this issue.

\_\_\_\_ ROLE PLAY where everyone has to “speak” about the demands, goals, and solutions of the action. Everyone won’t be a spokesperson with the mic, but everyone may have the opportunity to speak with someone there, including other folks without housing. We’re not just trying to get folks to hold signs!

\_\_\_\_ PRACTICE sessions are helpful for each role, so folks can get feedback.

\_\_\_\_ PLAN FUN elements like skits, and opening and closing with a song or poem

\_\_\_\_ CREATE symbols & props to demonstrate your power (posters with housekeys, postcards, coffins, body bags, petitions, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ MAKE TEAMS – tactical, props, speakers, chant leaders – practice and get to know your team

# SECURITY ISSUES

\_\_\_\_ DECIDE ahead of time what you will do if a bunch of cops show up with barricades, or the pros and cons of getting a sound permit. Make sure folks know *why* you landed on the decision that you did – especially the police negotiator and the marshals.

\_\_\_\_ SCOUT the area and map it out. Look for:

- \_\_\_\_ elevators and stairs or even hills that might be hard for some folks to walk
- \_\_\_\_ let folks know what to expect
- \_\_\_\_ bathrooms
- \_\_\_\_ nearest transit stops or parking
- \_\_\_\_ how long it takes to get there from wherever your folks are coming from
- \_\_\_\_ how wide the sidewalk is, and what the flow of foot traffic is like
- \_\_\_\_ what is nearby that can impact your action – is there a school, house of worship, government building that might impact where you can stand, how much noise you can make?
- \_\_\_\_ create a back-up plan for rain - maybe rain ponchos or a nearby indoor location?

# TURNOUT!

\_\_\_\_ DEVELOP and carry out a turnout plan for the action:

- \_\_\_\_ phone banking
- \_\_\_\_ in person outreach to shelters and soup kitchens and other places in your community
- \_\_\_\_ mailing
- \_\_\_\_ listserv announcement
- \_\_\_\_ social media/blog posting
- \_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

# Check the night before to make sure you have:

- \_\_\_\_ lots of flyers (translated if possible!)
- \_\_\_\_ lots of chant sheets
- \_\_\_\_ the banner
- \_\_\_\_ noisemakers
- \_\_\_\_ press packets
- \_\_\_\_ press list to start making calls on-site
- \_\_\_\_ props (is it a die-in? Empty garbage bags for body bags, blankets...
- \_\_\_\_ signs that say what your action is about, use big, bold letters!
- \_\_\_\_ duct tape (just because it comes in handy!)
- \_\_\_\_ markers
- \_\_\_\_ sidewalk chalk
- \_\_\_\_ megaphone
- \_\_\_\_ bus or subway fare or some way for people to come to the action
- \_\_\_\_ bottled water or boxes of coffee and water



# PRESS/MEDIA RESOURCES SECTION

If your action includes getting the mainstream media there, see the section of this skill-share on getting the press to your action.

## ROLES DURING THE ACTION:

- \_\_\_ handing out flyers during the event, with a smile!
- \_\_\_ asking people to sign postcards or petitions if that's a component of your action
- \_\_\_ set-up and clean-up
- \_\_\_ handing out chant sheets during the action
- \_\_\_ chant leaders
- \_\_\_ folks to take photos
- \_\_\_ folks to take video and even conduct short video interviews
- \_\_\_ folks to "deliver a message" if your action involves handing something in like a bunch of postcards, or testimonies
- \_\_\_ MC if it's a press event or where you have multiple folks speaking
- \_\_\_ press spokespeople
- \_\_\_ press "catchers" to identify press and link them up with spokespeople
- \_\_\_ someone to take notes during the action
- \_\_\_ police negotiator
- \_\_\_ security/tactical (wearing hats or armbands or another visible sign)
- \_\_\_ legal observers (if action might involve police confrontation)
- \_\_\_ lawyers (if the action is illegal or edgy or you feel you need it)
- \_\_\_ someone to hand out a flyer with the date, and location for the debrief

## AFTER THE ACTION:

- \_\_\_ Celebrate!
- \_\_\_ Get some food – actions take energy and food builds community
- \_\_\_ Get quotes from your folks about what the action meant to them
- \_\_\_ Issue an after-action press release/listserv announcement
- \_\_\_ Write a confirmation letter to the target
- \_\_\_ Hold a debrief with participants within a few days. In the debrief, go around, and ask everyone to identify:
  1. What worked?
  2. What were some challenges?
  3. What didn't work? (try not to make it personal!)
  4. Next steps, whose responsible and timeframe
- \_\_\_ Write social media posts about the action for all social media platforms, why you did it and what happened, what your goal was and include photos or video
- \_\_\_ Collect press clippings
- \_\_\_ Collect all photos in one place like a shared google drive

## WHY DEBRIEF?

After an action or event we're tired, it was great, but we might also be glad it's over.  
BUT there's one more thing to do – debrief.

We can learn from everything we do. The April 22 actions around Johnson v Grants Pass MUST BE the first of many actions to send a powerful message to our Mayor's and City Councils and the U.S. Supreme Court that people all over this country do not agree with making homelessness a crime.

Your debrief should happen within days if not a week of your action, if at all possible.

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ESCALATING ACTIONS?

Everything we do is an action, but to have impact we need to be strategic and escalate pressure on the decision-maker and increase our visibility to educate the public and build our base of members and supporters. Remember, actions are about educating and also building power within our communities so that those who are making decisions that impact our lives have to listen to us – because we're too powerful to ignore.

Building power takes time, and it takes actions that increase pressure and create scenarios that those decision makers decide they need to listen to us - because they don't know what we might do next!

Examples of escalating actions:

- ✓ doing a survey project to identify issues and solutions and find people who want to get involved
- ✓ a briefing for potential allies about your issue and solutions you've identified
- ✓ a press conference in front of a strategic location
- ✓ a moving picket in front of City Hall asking for a meeting
- ✓ meeting with elected officials to brief them on the issue and on solutions and state our demands
- ✓ delivering postcards or petitions to the Mayor and/or City Council member homes if they don't meet with you – or too much time passes after the do meet with you and they do nothing
- ✓ a sidewalk sleep-out in front of a vacant building that could be used for housing
- ✓ an encampment blockade

But we need to debrief to identify the best next steps based on local conditions.

## DEBRIEF AGENDA

1. What worked?
2. What were some challenges?
3. What didn't work?
4. Next steps?

- \_\_\_\_ Were the props visible?
- \_\_\_\_ Could you read the signs?
- \_\_\_\_ Was the name of the group visible?
- \_\_\_\_ Were the speakers clear?

# Basic Considerations for a Debrief

It's best to go around and ask everyone to answer question 1 before moving on to #2 – that way everyone is asked to speak, and their voice and analysis valued.

Highlight that every role in an action is valuable!

Ask folks to not make personal criticisms but to focus on what happened or didn't happen. People do make mistakes, but we don't want to embarrass or humiliate folks. Your group might already have a culture of self-criticism and accountability which is great but that takes practice and it's still always better to focus on the issue, and not make it personal. If you do need to address someone personally, think about your words and body language.

Take notes!

Review photos and/or video footage of the action in your debrief.

Next steps should be:

What, When, Where, Who, How and Why, so that folks care accountable, and you have a plan to move forward with powerful and increasingly escalating actions.



Housing Our Neighbors  
Baltimore, MD

## TACTICAL and SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

We have the right to protest. That doesn't mean that those rights can't be violated also! When we are most effective is (sometimes) when our groups are targeted for harassment. At the same time, being part of a group can bring safety! Either way, planning and preparation is key to having a safe and effective event/action. The next section has tips on how to keep folks safe during an action.

### Generally:

- ✓ You do have the legal right to protest in public space
- ✓ As long as you aren't blocking pedestrian traffic you can legally march on the sidewalk, hand out flyers, and talk to people
- ✓ You can legally sing, chant, and make noise!

### Legally, you need a permit in some cases:

- ✓ You have "amplified sound" like a megaphone or speakers and a microphone
- ✓ In some places the size of the crowd might trigger needing a permit.

The ACLU has information on your right to protest. You can find a state ACLU chapter in your area and reach out to them for support.

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights>

The National Lawyers Guild has extensive information and a downloadable booklet on the right to protest:

<https://www.nlg.org/know-your-rights/>



*Housing Our Neighbors Baltimore, Maryland*



# SECURITY AND SAFETY: THE TACTICAL TEAM

The purpose of the Tactical Team is to ensure that we are able to advance the goals of an action or campaign, and that our people who participate in actions are safe.

## Tactical Team Roles:

**Marshalls:** Marshalls are crowd control that work *for us*, and not against us. Successful actions are well disciplined. Even if we decide to invade a government office and have a die-in, have a march, be loud and boisterous on a sidewalk or hold a sit in, or sleep out, ***we plan and we stick to our plan.*** Marshalls are set up in points around the perimeter of the action to make sure that our folks are safe.

**Legal Observers:** Monitor the police, participants, and onlookers in an organized political event. The most important role is to gather evidence that will help get charges cleared in case people are arrested or issued tickets – like badge numbers, names of officers or numbers on police cars.

**Police Negotiator:** Is the only person designed to talk to the police. Their goal is to get the action as close to the target as possible while keeping folks safe. The police negotiator takes their marching orders from the group BEFORE the action. So, the police negotiator knows where the action begins, where it is headed, and what the goals are so that they can negotiate with the police on our behalf.

**Legal Support:** Even in actions where we do not plan on getting arrested there is some level of risk. Have these honest discussions with your group. It can be important to have the following information:

1. a list of everyone's legal name and date of birth and emergency contact person
2. leave any illegal anything somewhere else – no weed, box cutters, even a legal pen knife can jeopardize the action
3. highlight the names of anyone who has a record, because if they get arrested, the judge may make it harder on them and the lawyer will need to know
4. do take a state issued photo ID with you!
5. If you have a warrant, leave the action, or take a big step back if it looks like the police may arrest people. They will usually announce in a bullhorn for people to leave the area before they arrest – but not always. If you have a warrant, you will be put through the system and you will make it harder for everyone else!

**The ACLU in your area, or the National Lawyers Guild might be able to provide an attorney to be present during your action. Look at their website and call them or request one.**

## BEFORE THE ACTION:

**Marshalls:** Marshalls scope out the area, and draw pictures or take photos to use during a prep meeting with the tactical team and/or the whole group. The more marshalls go to the spot ahead of time the better, if it doesn't have to be kept secret. Ask these questions:

1. How do we get there?
2. Where are the access points to the target? (doors, elevators, security guards, ID check points)
3. What are the escape routes? Is only one exit?
4. If people need to leave, is there a meeting point? (If we leave the action, meet back at the office or around the corner at McDonalds)
5. Where are the bathrooms? (What is an action without a bathroom??)
6. What is it like during the time of the action? (If the action is at night then scope it out at night)

### Prep meeting!!

Have at least 1 prep meeting with the whole tactical team. Show everyone the map and assign positions. It is best that there are 2 people at each position for a 4 hour shift. Folks might get tired, have to leave, change their minds, go to the bathroom, etc.

**Police Negotiator:** The police negotiator needs to know what legal right we have to physically be in the space where the demonstration is. If it is a sidewalk, what laws govern us demonstrating there? If it is a vacant lot, who owns it? They should have copies of those legal documents, or at least someone at the action have them for support.

**Legal Observer:** Know ahead of time where you should place yourself during the action. Where will the police negotiator be? Where will the cops come from? Be familiar with the physical layout.

## DURING THE ACTION:

**The Tactical Team is visible – with armbands, vests or something.**

**Marshalls:** Marshalls keep order and make sure we don't break any laws unless we are doing civil disobedience. That includes telling folks to stay behind a certain point, to be quiet when it is necessary, tell folks when it is OK to enter a space, etc. Marshalls will keep their eye on anyone who is not taking direction and is empowered to ask someone to leave the action if they refuse to take direction. Marshalls may leave their post and gather together to talk something over, or when the police negotiator calls them together to discuss something.

**Police Negotiator:** The police negotiator stands away from the crowd and keeps the police in negotiation so that they can't shut our action down. The police negotiator tries to get us, or keep us as physically close to the target as possible.

**Legal Observer:** Tries to stay close enough to the police negotiator to listen to what the police say and take notes, but also keeps an eye on all action participants.

# PRESS AND MEDIA RESOURCES

Just like every step, there is work to be done, and roles to fill *before, during and after an action*.

## BEFORE THE ACTION OR PRESS CONFERENCE

\_\_\_\_ IDENTIFY our goals for the event.

\_\_\_\_ DECIDE who will be speaking. It is important that people who are unhoused and people who are at risk of homelessness speak - they are the experts!

\_\_\_\_ DECIDE if people are speaking *for your group or if they are expressing their own opinions*. Just because folks are unhoused doesn't mean they all have the same analysis of the problem or the solution!

\_\_\_\_ LIST the most important points you want folks to know once you agree on the goals. SPEAKERS should address different points, and not all say the same things.

\_\_\_\_ PRACTICE with all speakers—multiple times if necessary. You're not telling people what to say but you are supporting them to say what they, and your group, really want people to know.

\_\_\_\_ NAME SOLUTIONS! Don't just describe how bad it is to not have a home. We want to lift up solutions!

\_\_\_\_ STICK to your MESSAGE. Keep in mind that you don't have to answer every reporter's question. You are having this event to get YOUR message heard.

\_\_\_\_ ROLE PLAY a mock interview.

\_\_\_\_ IDENTIFY allies and confirm what they'll say AND that they will help with press turnout.

\_\_\_\_ DECIDE on a location that communicates the message you want to deliver. It could be in front of City Hall, a vacant building or lot where housing could be created, in front of a police precinct or the courthouse.

\_\_\_\_ VISIT the location ahead of time to plan set-up including what background will be behind your speakers.

\_\_\_\_ CREATE props that communicate your message. Signs for example should have big, bold letters and be visible from across the street.

\_\_\_\_ IDENTIFY an MC that will keep the flow going.

\_\_\_\_ COMMUNICATE how much time each speaker has, tell them that the MC will be holding them to it

\_\_\_\_ HOLD a dress rehearsal for the spokespeople.

# ENGAGING THE MEDIA

\_\_\_\_MAKE a list of journalists that cover the issues in a way that shows they are fair.

\_\_\_\_FIND their contact information and email and call them before the action to have a conversation and build relationships.

\_\_\_\_CALL and ASK them to commit to attending

\_\_\_\_CREATE a Press Advisory. (This is a kind of mini-press release - a short, ½ page about your event with a brief description and your group's contact person's name. Email it to journalists the day before the event.

\_\_\_\_WRITE a Press Release (see example)

\_\_\_\_INCLUDE quotes from unhoused folks who can speak to the problem and the solution for the press release

\_\_\_\_MAKE press packets to give to journalists during the action, including:

1. press release, including quotes from people directly harmed
2. 1 pager outlining the problem and the solution
3. tell them about your group
4. any relevant press clippings
5. any relevant reports or information, if you have them

\_\_\_\_CREATE a phone rap for folks to do press calls, see SAMPLE PHONE RAP. Ask if their assignment editor has assigned someone to attend!

\_\_\_\_RECRUIT members of your group to do press calls *early* on the morning of the action to catch the assignment editors – start around 6AM.

\_\_\_\_TRAIN press callers to use the phone rap and write down confirmations, and rejections, on a log sheet.

\_\_\_\_SEND a press advisory the day before but understand that this might trigger the police getting there before you do and interfering with your action - THIS IS A TACTICAL CHOICE.

\_\_\_\_SEND a press release via email the morning of the action. NOTE, you may not want to advertise where the action is if there are concerns about the police. You can give them a meeting spot and lead them there.

\_\_\_\_MAKE press calls

\_\_\_\_ENSURE that you have everything when you leave the office/your house. Especially:

- \_\_\_\_your banner
- \_\_\_\_press packets
- \_\_\_\_press list for last-minute on-the-spot calls
- \_\_\_\_camera
- \_\_\_\_bottled water or snacks



## DURING THE ACTION/PRESS CONFERENCE

- \_\_\_ KICK OFF with a chant to get folks energized
- \_\_\_ CHANT between speakers to keep the energy up
- \_\_\_ REMIND everyone how long they have to talk
- \_\_\_ HAVE a strong MC, prepared to cut people off if they go on too long
- \_\_\_ MAKE SURE every journalist signs in and gets a press packet and thank them for coming
- \_\_\_ STAY on-message no matter what
- \_\_\_ MAKE SURE the signs and banners are held and are visible
- \_\_\_ SMILE

## AFTER THE ACTION...

- \_\_\_ THANK the journalists, find out when their story is going to aired/be printed
- \_\_\_ ISSUE an after-action press release/listserv announcement with a photo of the action
- \_\_\_ SEND the after-action press release out to all journalists, even if they didn't come
- \_\_\_ HOLD a debrief for participants
- \_\_\_ WRITE social media posts about the action - with photos and video if you have them
- \_\_\_ COLLECT hard copies of all press clippings (hyperlinks tend to disappear)
- \_\_\_ REVIEW the action in your groups meetings, including video footage so your group knows how badass you are!



*Jean Rice, Picture the Homeless,  
Communities United for Police Reform  
Press Conference February 29, 2012*

# SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 22, 2024

**Contact: Name:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **Cell:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Office:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Email:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## [Your Organization's Name] Says Housing Not Handcuffs!

**Your Town, Your State:** On April 22nd, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the most important case about homelessness in 40 years. Johnson v Grants Pass is a landmark case concerning homelessness criminalization and the rights of people experiencing homelessness.

This case will determine whether cities have the right to penalize people for things like sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no safe shelter options.

[INSERT SOMETHING ABOUT THE HOUSING AND SHELTER SITUATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY - CAN PEOPLE AFFORD HOUSING? ARE THERE SHELTER BEDS? ARE THE POLICE ALREADY ARRESTING FOLKS WITHOUT HOUSING?]

[INSERT QUOTE HERE FROM YOUR GROUP]:

Grants Pass Oregon, like cities and small towns across the country, is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing. Arresting folks without housing or giving them tickets that they can't afford to pay is not a solution. The real solution to homelessness is housing.

[INSERT QUOTE HERE FROM YOUR GROUP]:

[INSERT QUOTE HERE FROM AN ALLY]:

[INSERT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR TOWN, HIGH RENTS, LOW WAGES, LACK OF SHELTER, ETC.]:

Please visit [Johnson v Grants Pass](#) for more information on this case.

Please stay in touch with [INSERT NAME OF YOUR GROUP AND CONTACT INFO] for ongoing, local events

[your social media handles]

## PRESS TURN-OUT CALLS:

Send out a press advisory the day before your event, and a press release early in the morning of your action – around 6 am. THEN you need to call each media outlet/journalist to follow up and to make sure that they - or someone working with them - are going to send people to cover the story.

If you're calling a media outlet, ask for the Assignment Editor, and see if they're able to send someone. If you're calling a journalist directly as if they're coming and if it's on their assignment editor's radar.

Keep the conversation quick and to the point: *did they get the release? Are they sending someone?* Most Assignment Editors receive tons of press releases and tons of calls, so don't get your feelings hurt if they are mean or short with you. Just move on to the next one!

### SAMPLE RAP

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling to see if you received the press advisory we sent out, about a press conference today at 11AM on the steps of the \_\_\_\_\_

We are having this event in solidarity with folks without housing all over the country calling upon the US Supreme Court to affirm that we have human and civil rights. Housing is the solution to homelessness, not tickets or arrests!

Did you receive the advisory? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

*(if they DID receive it):* Do you think you'll be able to send somebody to cover the demonstration?

*(if they did NOT receive it):* Can I verify your name and email, and send you the press release right now? Which way works best for you? To whose attention should I send it?

*(if they CAN'T send someone to cover it, but they sound interested):* We'll have photos and video, and you can conduct interviews with the event organizers afterwards—just call XXX at XXX-XXX-XXXX

## April 22, 2024 - Johnson v Grants Pass Chant Sheet – in formation!

House Keys Not Handcuffs!



Hands off the Homeless!



What Do We Want?  
Housing!  
When Do We Want It?  
NOW!



There simply is no other Place  
Don't kick us out of Public Space



Public Parks are for The People  
We Are Only Sleeping  
It's not Illegal!



They Put Us In Jail  
But Not an Apartment:  
We're Tired of the Harassment  
It's Time to Stop It!



Homelessness is on the rise  
[Your town or Mayor] better recognize!



Empty buildings are a waste  
What we need  
is an affordable place!





Empty buildings don't make sense  
What we need is affordable rent!



We are part of the human race  
[insert name of target]  
Meet with us face to face!



They Say Gentrify!  
We Say Unify!

Whose Streets?  
Our Streets!  
Whose Streets?  
[insert name of someone]  
[Joy's] Streets!  
[Insert name to honor someone]



*Camp Nenookaasi, a Beacon of Hope to the Unhoused,  
Faces Eviction. Unicorn Riot, Minneapolis, MN. December 14, 2023*

# Social Media Resources

From Johnson v Grants Pass

[Social Media Took-kit examples](#)

## INSTAGRAM

**Post#1** In April, the Supreme Court will hear the most important case about homelessness in 40 years. Johnson v Grants Pass is a landmark case concerning homelessness criminalization and the rights of people experiencing homelessness. This case will determine whether cities have the right to penalize people for things like sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no safe shelter options. Check out the link in our bio to learn more about Johnson v. Grants Pass.

**Post#2** Grants Pass, OR, like most cities across America, is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing. That shortfall will not be solved by putting more people in jail or issuing more tickets. The real solution to homelessness is providing everyone with access to safe, quality, and affordable housing. Together, we can create a future where everyone has access to opportunities and resources. Check out the link in our bio to learn more about Johnson v. Grants Pass.

**Post#3** Johnson v. Grants Pass: A landmark case challenging the legality of penalizing people for being homeless. No one should be punished for not having a place to sleep. Let's advocate for housing, not handcuffs. Click the link in our bio for what you need to know about #JohnsonVGrantsPass.

**Post#4** This summer, the Supreme Court will rule on Johnson v. Grants Pass, a case that will have far-reaching effects on how cities address homelessness. It's time to prioritize affordable housing and services over arrests and tickets and work towards solutions that ensure everyone has a safe place to call home. Check out the link in our bio to learn more about Johnson v. Grants Pass.

**Post#5** Can cities penalize homeless people for sleeping outdoors with a pillow and blanket when no shelter exists? In April, the Supreme Court rules on homelessness criminalization in the landmark Johnson v. Grants Pass case. This is a pivotal moment for human rights. Check out the link in our bio to learn more about Johnson v. Grants Pass.

## LinkedIn/Facebook

**Post#1** Let's talk about Johnson v. Grants Pass, a pivotal case heading to the Supreme Court. On April 22nd, the Supreme Court will hear the most significant legal battle concerning homelessness in decades. This case will determine whether cities can punish people for things like sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no safe shelter options. Learn more at <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/> #JohnsonVGrantsPass

**Post#2** Grants Pass, OR, is just one of many cities across America facing a severe housing shortage, with thousands of housing units below the necessary threshold. That shortfall will not be solved by putting more people in jail or issuing more tickets. The real solution to homelessness is providing everyone with access to safe, quality, and affordable housing. Together, we can create a future where everyone has access to opportunities and resources. Stay informed at <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>

**Post#3** The Supreme Court has agreed to hear Johnson v. Grants Pass, a case that will deeply impact people experiencing homelessness all across the U.S. Let's use this opportunity to advocate for compassionate solutions that address the root causes of homelessness, such as affordable housing and support services, rather than punish people for having no home. Visit <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/> to get the info you need on this important case that will define whether America will be compassionate or cruel.

**Post#4** If SCOTUS rules in favor of Grants Pass, it will authorize cities and states to punish people forced to sleep outdoors with arrest and steep fines, even when they have no other safe option. This ruling would make homelessness worse and punish people for existing in public spaces. Research shows that criminalizing homelessness is ineffective, wastes taxpayer money, keeps people homeless for longer, and distracts from real solutions like housing and supportive services. SCOTUS ruling in favor of Grants Pass would indicate a preference for pretending that we can make homelessness invisible, instead of prioritizing safe, dignified housing for all.

**Post#5** As the Supreme Court prepares to hear Johnson v. Grants Pass, it's crucial to emphasize that homelessness is not a crime. Instead of punitive measures, let's focus on collaborative efforts to provide housing and support for those in need. Together, we can make a difference and create lasting change.

#HomelessCrueltyCase For questions and inquiries about the case, visit [johnsonvgrantspass.com](https://johnsonvgrantspass.com).

**Post#6** Housing ends homelessness. Too many are forced to find shelter in public places with only a blanket and pillow. This isn't a choice—it's a harsh reality stemming from a nationwide shortage of safe, affordable housing. The upcoming #SCOTUS case, Johnson v. Grants Pass, poses a crucial question: Do we address #homelessness with punishment or support? Visit [johnsonvgrantspass.com](https://johnsonvgrantspass.com) to learn more.

## X (twitter)/Threads

**Post#1** City leaders across the country want to arrest or ticket people for having no home to sleep at night. A #SCOTUS case will decide whether we are going to be a country that punishes people for experiencing homelessness. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/jvgp224>

**Post#2** 🚨 URGENT: #SCOTUS will hear Johnson v. Grants Pass, a case that could reshape how cities address homelessness. It's cruel to punish people for sleeping outside, especially when there's no safe shelter. Let's prioritize housing, not arrests or fines!  
#EndHomelessnessLearnmore at <https://bit.ly/jvgp224>

**Post#3** Are we a country that will support our unhoused neighbors with the resources they need to survive or punish them? Johnson v. Grants pass will decide whether the U.S. will be compassionate or cruel. Visit<https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>formore info.

**Post#4** If #SCOTUS rules in favor of Grants Pass, it would authorize cities & states to penalize people forced to sleep outdoors, despite no other safe option. This ruling would exacerbate homelessness and punish people for existing in public spaces.

**Post#5** In Johnson v. Grants Pass, SCOTUS will decide if cities can ticket or arrest people for sleeping outside with no other options. Criminalizing homelessness is not the answer. It's time for better solutions like affordable housing & supportive services.

**Post#6** Housing ends homelessness. The upcoming landmark #SCOTUS case, Johnson v. Grants Pass, poses a crucial question: Do we address #homelessness with punishment or support? Visit <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>to learn more.

**Post#7** Can cities punish people for sleeping outdoors with a pillow and blanket when no shelter exists? The #SCOTUS case Johnson v. Grants pass will rule on homelessness criminalization: <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>

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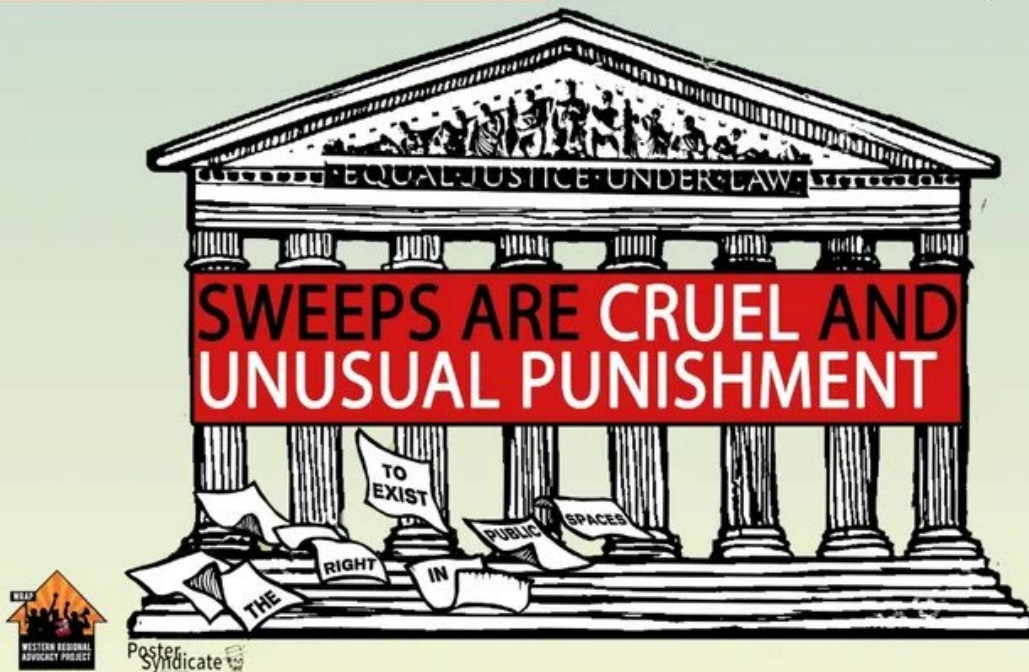


# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

RALLY FOR *JOHNSON v. GRANTS PASS*

INFO & RSVP: [JohnsonVGrantsPass.com](http://JohnsonVGrantsPass.com)

APRIL 22, 10 AM -12 PM  
U.S. SUPREME COURT,  
1 FIRST STREET, D.C.



TARGETED, BANISHED, DISPLACED, & SWEEPED  
THE EVOLUTION OF OPPRESSION