

# Democracy on the Streets

2024

# Agreement and Concept



# Action consensus

At Democracy on the Streets (DOTS), no form of ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities), ageism (discrimination because of age), antisemitism, queerphobia, racism, sexism, transphobia or any other form of discrimination or violence will be tolerated.

During the tour and all activities, we will act with prudence. We do not endanger ourselves or other people. The safety of the participating activists and everyone else involved is our top priority. Only the organizers will handle contact with the police, please follow their instructions!

As a general rule, nobody will be pressurised into taking action and everyone will only go as far as they wish. Democracy on the Streets is a registered demonstration and the level of action is within the legal range. We believe that civil disobedience is important, but we see our role as being as low-threshold and inclusive as possible.

We stand in solidarity with actions of civil disobedience, but as DOTS we will not organise or participate in such actions. Participants should be able to decide for themselves and without pressure whether they want to take part in civil disobedience actions outside DOTS. Care must be taken to ensure that this is not associated with DOTS (e.g. by displaying symbols, passing on narratives, etc.).

DOTS sees itself as a demonstration not associated with any political party and we do not support any political parties. Therefore, we do not display any political party symbols and do not want to convey any political party messages.



# Awareness concept

During Democracy on the Streets (DOTS) we want to ensure that the tour runs smoothly and create a positive group atmosphere and a place where everyone can feel comfortable and accepted.

## General information

During the tour we will act prudently; we will not endanger ourselves or others. The safety of the participants and everyone else involved is our top priority.

It goes without saying that we will treat each other, our hosts and other people we meet with respect.

To ensure that the tour runs smoothly and pleasantly for everyone, please keep quiet at night and be ready to leave on time in the morning.

There will be people assisting the organizers during the entire tour. Please follow their instructions and hand signals at all times as by the organizers!

## Anti-discrimination

Democracy on the Streets is no place for racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, ageism (discrimination because of age), ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities), classism (discrimination because of (attributed) social class differences) and any other form of discrimination and violence. Anyone who does not abide by this can be excluded from DOTS immediately.

We call on the participants to be aware of their own privileges and accept constructive criticism.

They should also critically reflect on our use of language. This includes, for example, the use of simple language - and therefore to avoid abbreviations, technical terms and foreign words. The use of discriminatory language is also not tolerated.

In situations where discrimination and/or physical or verbal violence occurs, people who are not affected have a responsibility to act.

All participants have a responsibility to deal with forms of discrimination and to name and criticize them if they recognize it. This responsibility should also be taken in the form of solidarity with the people affected.



## **Awareness team**

An awareness team of at least two people per tour, including at least one FLINTA\*(woman, lesbian, intersex, non-binary, transgender, agender) person, will be available to listen to you at all times. Active awareness people are clearly recognizable and will be introduced to you each morning. You can approach the awareness team directly or send them a message.

The awareness team is available for problems, concerns and questions of any kind, whether in a private, group-related or organizational context. We act with the aim of creating a positive atmosphere within the group.

The awareness team is not only there for people who approach it, but also approaches people. Care is taken not to harass or patronize anyone. Particularly in cases of discrimination, sexual harassment, coercion, bodily harm, aggressive behavior and assault, the right of interpretation lies with the victim.

The awareness team is also subject to a duty of confidentiality. Other awareness team members and, in serious cases, people who are called for help are exempt from this obligation.

We are all non-professionals and may need the support and advice of other people. It will be communicated with the people involved which information will be passed on to which DOTS participants. Other organizations (e.g. the police, psychiatric emergency services, etc.) may be informed at the discretion of the awareness persons and the neutral observers called in to help.

As a general rule, the protection of those affected always comes first and the awareness team should not be afraid to enforce consequences and also exclude people from the tour.



## **Consideration**

We try to set up a retreat space as close as possible to each sleeping area and to mark this as an awareness area. In addition, a plenary session can be called for FLINTA\* people only as soon as a person sees a need for it. If possible, a plenum on critical masculinity should take place at the same time.

We take into consideration the needs of people who feel disturbed by loud noises, conversations or music. This applies in particular at night on the campsite. Everyone should feel as safe and comfortable as possible on the entire tour. Alcohol consumption is not permitted in the tent area, nor is smoking or the consumption of other drugs. (See safety concept)

Respect the boundaries of others and be kind to each other.

In principle, interpersonal interactions can be nice. However, these must be based on mutual consent. However, once consent has been signaled, it cannot be automatically assumed in subsequent situations.

We try to respect the triggers of others as much as possible. There can be a public list of triggers that should be avoided. This list can be added to by anyone and is accessible to all. Trigger warnings should also be issued where possible.

The consumption of drugs should be kept in moderation. Please make absolutely sure that consumption is okay for the people around you or consume away from the group if necessary. The organizers and the awareness team must be sober. In addition, everyone should be aware that we will be accompanied by the police throughout the journey.

## **Dealing with conflicts**

In the event of conflicts, a direct dialogue should be sought with the person concerned whenever possible. It is important to consider how the person is feeling and what support they need.

The awareness team also mediates in conflicts. However, it does not have the sole task and/or authority to decide on conflicts. If a conflict cannot be resolved in cooperation with the awareness team, the plenum of all participants can be involved with the agreement of those involved.



## **Consequences of rule violations**

People who repeatedly break the rules or jeopardise the safety of others may be expelled from the tour.

Anyone who breaks a rule will either be warned by the awareness team or excluded from the tour. Exclusion from the tour is also possible without prior warning directly after a rule violation, but at the latest after three rule violations.

Physical violence and assaults, including in the form of sexual harassment, will definitely lead to exclusion from the tour. Such behavior may also result in the tour organizers and/or the person concerned to report to the police.

Exclusions from DOTS will be carried out by the responsible meeting organizers. The plenum will then be informed that the person has been excluded in order to counteract rumors.

An exclusion also applies to all other and future DOTS events. Rule violations are recorded in a book during the tour, which is kept by the awareness team. Only this team has access to the book.



# Tour consensus

With this document we want to find a consensus on how we want to live together as a community during DOTS. We do not want to prescribe a fixed set of rules, but rather set out how we interact and behave together during the tour. This tour consensus is intended as a supplement to the awareness concept and the safety concept. By participating in DOTS, everyone agrees to the consensus and agrees to abide by it.

We rely on the personal responsibility of the participants so that we can experience a great tour together. Please always follow the instructions of the organizers.

## **Principles**

As part of the climate justice movement, it goes without saying that we treat materials and the environment with care. This also includes avoiding waste.

It goes without saying that we treat each other, our hosts and other people we meet with respect.

At Democracy On The Streets (DOTS), no form of ableism (discrimination against people with disabilities), ageism (discrimination because of age) anti-Semitism, queerphobia, racism, sexism, transphobia or any other form of discrimination or violence will be tolerated. Anyone who does not abide by this can be excluded from DOTS immediately. (See awareness concept)

During the tour, we will act prudently; we will not endanger ourselves or our fellow human beings. The safety of the participants and all others involved is our top priority. (See safety concept)

Democracy On The Streets is a registered demonstration and the level of action is within the legal range. (See action consensus)

DOTS sees itself as a demonstration not associated with any political party and we do not support any political parties. Therefore, we do not display any political party symbols and do not want to convey any political party messages.

## **Departure**

We want to start the tours together and on time. This is particularly important as we do not want to arrive too late at the next sleeping place. The tours have a fixed start time, which is determined by the organizers of the tour and with the registration of the demonstration. This will be announced well in advance and should be the same every day.

## **Wake-up call**

So that we can depart on time, in the interest of the group, everyone should be woken at least one hour before departure. The exact time of the wake-up call will be announced the day before.



## **Breakfast**

As the items from breakfast also have to be loaded, breakfast is finished at least half an hour before departure. We are responsible for ensuring that breakfast starts on time. When breakfast starts depends on the decisions of the tour.

We will not cook at lunchtime or during the day and will therefore pack something for the day in the morning.

## **Pace and breaks**

We want to make the tour as inclusive as possible. We are therefore aiming for an average speed of 12-16 km/h. Please let the awareness people or organizers know if it is too fast for you and the speed will be adjusted immediately.

In addition to the long lunch break, we will try to plan breaks in advance. If possible, these will take place in a quiet and shady place where there is also a toilet. Please understand that this is not always possible and that distances may vary.

If necessary, we can always take a spontaneous break. Depending on the reason why a spontaneous break is necessary, it will take place immediately or at a suitable opportunity. Please communicate this with the awareness persons or organizers. The decision about the break will be made by the organizers and the awareness team in consultation with the police.

## **Community tasks**

During the tour, there are various community tasks. These are, for example, washing up, cooking, moderation, assisting the organizers, awareness persons, shopping, tidying up, ...

We would like to emphasize that these tasks have to be done so that a tour like DOTS can take place at all. In the past, unfortunately, the tasks have very often been left to a few people. We believe in a climate in which everyone feels responsible for the functioning of the tour and want to continue to focus on personal responsibility, but also ask that all participants take part in the tasks.

The tasks that need to be assigned will be announced and allocated in the plenary session the day before at the latest. To make sure that the plenary session does not take too long, we ask that people also sign up for the corresponding task list during the day.





## **Planning folder**

Each tour has a planning folder which is publicly accessible. It contains all the details of the tour and activities as well as the tasks, contact persons and important telephone numbers. The folder should also be publicly accessible at all times during the breaks and at the sleeping areas. You can find out exactly where it is located at the respective location. During the tour, it will be available from the meeting organiser. This folder will also be made available digitally and posted in the tour group (Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp if necessary).

There is also another planning and contact folder that is only accessible to organisers. This folder contains the details of the participants as they were entered during registration. It also contains the contact information for the sleeping places as well as contact information for the planned activities and the press. We are aware that the division of these two folders creates a hierarchy. Please understand that this is personal data, which is also covered by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## **Repairs**

We try to have people on every tour who know how to repair bikes and can help you in the event of a breakdown. However, we cannot guarantee this, but as a community we certainly have the collective knowledge to fix most problems. Where possible, repair workshops will also be organised.

If a problem arises with your bike on the tour, we will look at how it can be solved on the spot. As a general rule, nobody should be left alone or without help. However, it may not always be possible to wait for a bike to be repaired for the entire tour. In such a case, please speak to the organizers or the awareness team.

## **Press**

During the tour there will be press spokespersons who will represent DOTS in the media. Everyone is free to speak to the press. However, always emphasize that this is your personal opinion and not a statement from DOTS.



# Safety concept

At DOTS we will cycle, camp and organise activities together as a large group. Safety is very important and therefore we should all pay particular attention to the following points and to each other.

## **Fire protection**

Even in May, grass and woodland may be dry and burn like tinder, and most of the tents are also made of highly flammable material. Therefore, fires of any kind (including lighters, cigarettes, gas cookers, etc.) are strictly prohibited in the tents and surrounding areas.

We also ensure that the cooking area is set up in such a way that the risk of fire is minimized. A fire extinguisher will also always be available next to the cooking area. Additional fire extinguishing agents will be distributed around the camp.

## **First aid**

Unfortunately, we cannot rule out the possibility of accidents and injuries during the tour. For this reason, each tour always carries sufficient first aid equipment and the respective tour will announce where this is located. All organizers and awareness people always know where this is located.

Furthermore, we try to have trained first aid people on every tour, but unfortunately we cannot guarantee this.

## **Camp safety**

We try to organize the sleeping areas on private and enclosed properties, but this is not always possible. To ensure that everyone can sleep peacefully, a night watch of at least two people is always organized at publicly accessible locations. The relevant shifts will be assigned at the latest in the plenary session the evening before. A night watch can also be decided for all other sleeping areas. The request of one person is sufficient for this.

## **Driving safety.**

As a demonstration, we will be traveling for some parts on the road with a police escort. As a rule, we are usually allowed to use all lanes in our direction of travel; the opposite lane is not closed.

The rules of the road traffic regulations also apply to us. In particular, we must not ride into oncoming traffic and keep a sufficient (!) distance from other people. Please always look out for each other and do not endanger others. Remind each other of this while riding.

Although overtaking a demonstration is generally not permitted, this can happen during the tour. This can lead to conflicts and dangerous situations with motorists. In such cases, please do not insist on your rights, but be even more considerate. In such cases, please also inform the organizers so that the police can take legal action against the person if necessary. Your own safety and that of your fellow activists always comes first.

Out of consideration for each other, we also refrain from chanting demos and playing music when going through tunnels.

Please always follow the instructions and hand signals of the organizers.

## **Safer-Spaces**

As we will be in different sleeping areas, some of which we only know roughly, it is not possible to plan safer spaces in advance. However, a separate room for awareness will definitely be set up at each sleeping place. Further safer spaces will be set up on request, please contact the Awareness Team. A safer space will be set up in any case if at least one person requests it.

A safer space will be explicitly labelled as such. Please only enter this area if you belong to the relevant group. If requested, the awareness persons may also enter the space if they do not belong to the group. The same applies to first aid persons to treat injuries etc.

