

De-escalation Guides, Training, and Resources to Address Political Violence

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The Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI) is a non-partisan research initiative that tracks and mitigates political violence in the United States.





We produce action oriented, responsive research where it can fill existing gaps or empower local leaders.



We enable cross sector collaboration, so individuals and organizations will be better prepared to mitigate risk and respond to crisis when it does arise.



We help drive the policy and community response, helping leaders at all levels advance a whole of society response, both to short-term mitigation and long-term root causes.

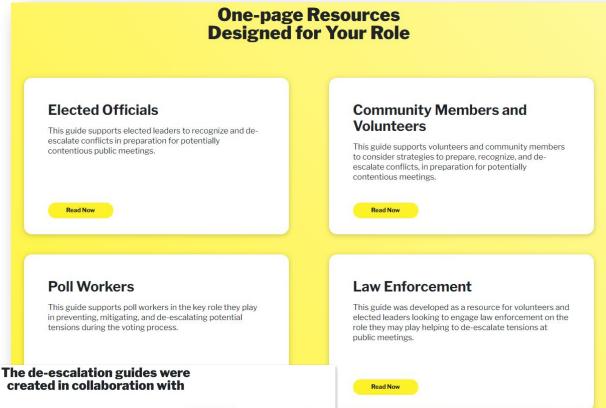
Why de-escalation or related approaches to address political or electoral violence?



- One part of a strategic approach
 - Keep people safe
 - Undermine anti-democratic strategies that rely on violence to succeed
- Translates beyond the electoral context
- Builds on existing expertise, sectors, and relationships
- Protecting civic space can create collaboration towards a shared goal

Building a toolkit, Part 1: Basic Rules of Thumb

















Guidance for Local Officials



Guidelines for De-Escalation and Communication Around Contentious Meetings for Local Elected Officials



Overview

Key Principles

- 1. Planning ahead makes your job easier in the moment
- Emphasize positive, shared values and expectations
- Be prepared to enforce the rules consistently and fairly, follow up after

De-Escalation Toolkit

- Draw on CLARA to stay calm in the moment (Center, Listen, Acknowledge/Affirm, Respond, Add)
- 2. Appeal to shared values and/or trusted voices in the room
- 3. Rehumanize, Defuse, and Create Space

Safety and Security Toolkit

- Monitor any specific threats before, during, and after the meeting
- Consider ways to keep groups physically separate within the meeting space
- Clearly post community agreements, including process for public comment
- Familiarize yourself with state laws on open carry and self-described militias
- 5. Debrief after the event, including specifically on the security situation

Key Principles



Building a toolkit, Part 2: Building on Existing Training and Expertise



Directory of Trainings Designed for Your State

The state-by-state directory provides information on organizations regularly providing de-escalation bystander intervention, and conflict resolution trainings, in addition to organizations providing virtual or nation-wide trainings.



DE-ESCALATION & ACTIVE BYSTANDER TRAINING DIRECTORY: CALIFORNIA



What is conflict de-escalation and bystander training?

These trainings vary in their methods, but all have the aim of empowering individuals, including bystanders, to prevent the escalation of conflict.

More information on how to use this resource is below.

TRAININGS IN CALIFORNIA



DE-ESCALATION & ACTIVE BYSTANDER TRAINING DIRECTORY: MICHIGAN



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TRAININGS IN MICHIGAN





Other Resources: BDI Analysis and Research to Build Situational Awareness



- Requests for <u>information or briefings</u>, including:
 - Public data on actors/behaviors, include past unlawful paramilitary activity
 - Emerging issues driving offline mobilization and counter-mobilization
 - Monitoring of planned or expected activity of concern (in partnership with online and offline data partners)
- Public reports on emerging issues (BDI <u>issue briefs</u>)
- Interactive maps covering political violence events and demonstration and counter-mobilization activity, among other data
- Materials on de-escalation (as you saw today!)



Questions

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The de-escalation guides were created in collaboration with











