

## STOP THE COUP 2025

### Statement of Principles of Non-Violence

*Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.*

*-- Frederick Douglass, African-American abolitionist*

Struggle and conflict are essential for confronting and overcoming injustice. We honor and emulate the successes of international and home-grown movements for democracy by adhering to nonviolence in our strategies and tactics. State power is maintained through oppression with the tacit compliance of the majority of the governed; our withdrawal of compliance diminishes governmental control and emboldens others to consider their compliance. In rejecting the violence of the state, we refuse to use the same tools that uphold repressive social systems.

In working toward a functioning democracy, we reject as fundamentally *anti-democratic* all forms of state-sanctioned violence, bigotry, and systemic discrimination, especially discrimination directed at people because of their perceived disability, immigration status, race, religion, financial/employment status, gender identity/expression, sex, and sexuality.

We condemn the oppressive policies that define the current government regime and the anticipated administration's policies. We strive to intentionally honor the complex, intersectional challenges we face. (*after Rise and Resist*)

Nonviolent struggle is not "easy" or "safe;" nonviolence doesn't appeal to the "morality" or "compassion" of oppressors. *Nonviolence is a tactic in the service of the democratic values we hold.* Its methods are steadfast **refusal** to accept state violence, and the **pressure** of collective action. The core strengths of nonviolence are largely unavailable to those who wield violence in service of the state: in our willingness to take personal risks together -- openly and collectively -- without threatening violence to other people; and in encouraging everyone to actively participate regardless of ability, status, or age: we are a movement of people committed to building the democracy we want to bring about. (*after ACT UP*)

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*More references:*

Chenoweth, Erica: [The success of nonviolent civil resistance: Erica Chenoweth at TEDxBoulder, 2013](#); [Nonviolent resistance proves potent weapon](#), from 2019

Chenoweth, Erica, co-author with Maria Stephan, of *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*, Columbia University Press, December 2012. In their detailed study of 225 cases of violent methods versus 108 cases of unarmed methods to remove a dictatorship or foreign military occupation, the authors reported that nonviolent campaigns were twice as successful, even in the face of brutal regime repression. Further, where nonviolent resistance is impossible, violent resistance does not perform any better.

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*Stop The Coup 2025 is a public education and mobilization campaign to stop Project 2025.*

[www.stopthecoup2025.org](http://www.stopthecoup2025.org)