

Staying Safe While Showing Up: A Personal Security Planner



INTRODUCTION

We live in a time of heightened surveillance, criminalization, and militarized responses to advocacy and protest. Safety is no longer something we can take for granted—especially for Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people who are too often targeted simply for showing up, speaking truth and demanding justice.

Whether we're organizing in our communities, traveling to support loved ones, attending public events, or navigating healthcare systems, we face layered risks. Meeting those realities requires us to be proactive—not fearful—and grounded in preparation.

Reproductive Justice (RJ) is not just about the right to have or not have children. It's also about the right to live and move freely, with the safety, resources, and support we need to thrive. That includes the right to protest injustice; to travel without fear; and to trust that if we go missing or are at risk, our communities know how to respond.

This section of the workbook is designed to help you build a Personal Security Plan that reflects your life, your values, and your community. It's not about withdrawing or isolating yourself—it's about building networks of collective care. Within these pages, you'll find tools for setting up check-in protocols; identifying support roles; preparing for travel or protest; and knowing what to do in case of emergency, detainment, or disappearance.

Because we believe this:

**We keep us safe.
And preparation is
a form of love.**



General Guidelines:

Centering Safety & Wellness

This section outlines foundational safety practices for those engaging in Reproductive Justice work, especially Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people, who may face increased risk in both digital and physical spaces.

These tips are meant to help you move with intention, reduce vulnerability, and build a responsive safety network rooted in collective care.

1. Know Your Rights

Before you show up in public spaces—especially for political, protest, or educational activities—it’s crucial to understand your legal rights.

Best Practices:

- Research local laws. Your rights during protest or detainment can vary by state. Look for resources from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Lawyers Guild, or local bail fund collectives.
- Save key phone numbers. Write down (not just in your phone) the number of a local legal support hotline or bail fund.
- Carry minimal ID. Bring only what you need and remove unnecessary cards that could be used to target you (e.g., immigration documents, old warrants).
- Say less. If stopped by law enforcement, you can ask, “Am I free to go?” If not, invoke your right to remain silent and request a lawyer.
- If detained, don’t sign anything without a lawyer.

Steps to Prepare:

- Watch this ["Know Your Rights" training video](#) from the [National Lawyers Guild](#).
- Download or print out [Know Your Rights “red cards”](#) from the [Immigration Legal Resource Center](#).
- Ask a trusted local RJ organization if they provide legal observers or jail support.



2. Travel with Intention

Moving through public space as a Black person, especially when engaging in justice work, can come with increased surveillance and targeting.

Planning ahead helps reduce risk.

Best Practices:

- Never travel alone to unfamiliar protest sites. If you must, notify your support network.
- Set a check-in buddy. Let someone know your destination, when you plan to arrive, and when they should expect your next message.
- Use public transportation or verified ride apps cautiously. Screenshot license plates, share ride info with a friend, and trust your instincts.
- Don't overshare on social media. Posting locations in real time can compromise your safety or the safety of your group.
- Have a basic "go bag" ready. Include water, snacks, cash, ID, health supplies, a charger, and a written emergency contact.

Steps to Prepare:

- Create a travel notification template you can quickly text to a friend.
- Save key local emergency contacts to your phone.
- Pack a protest safety kit or overnight bag if traveling far from home.



3. Protect Your Digital Security

Online surveillance is real. Your organizing work, personal identity, and contacts can all be vulnerable. Taking a few digital precautions can protect you and your community.

Best Practices:

- Use encrypted apps like Signal for all organizing conversations.
- Turn on 2FA (two-factor authentication) for your email, social media, and cloud storage accounts.
- Avoid cloud backups of private content. Disable auto-backup on apps that may hold sensitive information (e.g., WhatsApp, Notes apps).
- Use passcodes. Don't rely on Face ID/fingerprint access, especially during protests or encounters with law enforcement.
- Be cautious with links. Phishing attempts often target activists—double-check URLs and avoid downloading unfamiliar files.

Steps to Prepare:

- Download Signal and create a trusted group for check-ins.

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4. Communicate Your Risk

Don't assume others know your plans or your risk level. A short message to your people can mean the difference between a check-in and a crisis.

Best Practices:

- Notify someone when you're going into a high-risk situation (e.g., protest, police station, solo travel, late-night meeting).
- Agree in advance on what actions your network should take if they don't hear from you.
- Include context. If you're meeting someone new or going to an unfamiliar space, share the address, name, and time you plan to leave.
- Create shared expectations. Let people know whether you want gentle check-ins, firm follow-up, or emergency action if you go silent.

Steps to Prepare:

- Pick 1-2 people as your designated safety contacts.
- Draft a "when you don't hear from me" plan and share it with your support thread.
- Use your daily check-in worksheet (included later in this section).



5. Document Your Preferences in Advance

If something happens and you're unreachable, your support system needs clear instructions. Don't leave them guessing. Write it down.

Best Practices:

- List your emergency contacts. Include phone, Signal handle, and their role (e.g., legal, friend, activist, etc.).
- Clarify who should do what. Who calls your lawyer? Who posts to social media? Who checks on you in-person?
- Set thresholds. How long should someone wait before escalating from text to phone call to in-person check?
- Indicate legal support. Include the name of your preferred lawyer or local legal collective, if known.
- Store securely. Keep your documented plan somewhere accessible by your safety team (e.g., shared folder, locked envelope, etc.).

Steps to Prepare:

- Use the Support Network Info Sheet that is found later in this workbook.
- Set up a shared Signal group for real-time coordination.
- Review and update this info every 6 months—or sooner if your situation changes.

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Build Your Personal Security Plan

You deserve to be safe—and that safety is stronger when it's planned, shared, and supported. This section walks you through building a Personal Security Plan that reflects your real life, your needs, and your people. Whether you're traveling, organizing, protesting, or just navigating a hostile system, this plan is a tool of protection rooted in Reproductive Justice and collective care.

Each part of this worksheet will help you prepare for the “what ifs” in advance—so your support system knows exactly what to do if you're detained, unreachable, or in need of backup. You don't need to do it all at once. Start with what feels most urgent and revisit this plan regularly.

Remember:

**Preparation is not paranoia. It's power.
It's love. It's how we keep us safe.**





Daily Check-in Protocol

A consistent check-in system is one of the simplest and most powerful tools for personal and collective safety. It lets your people know you're okay—and alerts them quickly when you're not. In a world where Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people are disproportionately targeted, silenced, or surveilled, having a daily check-in protocol can save lives.

Use this section to design a check-in routine that works for your life and your people. It doesn't have to be complex—it just needs to be clear, consistent, and rooted in care.

1. Morning & Evening Check-ins

Set specific times for daily check-ins with your designated person or group.



Morning Check-in:

- Example: "I'll check in with the group between 8:00-9:00 AM to say I'm up and moving."



Evening Check-in:

- Example: "I'll send a quick message before 10:00 PM to confirm I made it home safely."

2. Secure Messaging Thread

Choose a small, trusted group chat for check-ins—ideally on a secure app like Signal.

Members should include:

- One person who lives nearby or can do a wellness check if needed
- One person who can activate legal or public support
- Optional: a backup person for each role, in case someone is unavailable

Name the thread something clear like "Check-in Crew" or "Safety Circle."

Agree on:

- When it's okay to skip a check-in
- What counts as a "missed" check-in
- What steps to take if you don't respond

Tip: Rotate check-in buddies monthly to avoid burnout and build shared accountability.

3. Triggers for Additional Check-ins

Decide in advance when extra check-ins should be required. Examples include:

- Traveling (especially solo or to unfamiliar places)
- Attending a protest, rally, or public action
- Going to court, jail support, or police stations
- Meeting someone new (dating, rideshare, mutual aid drop-offs)
- Visiting medical or mental health providers alone
- After receiving threats, harassment, or surveillance

Note: You can also set a code word or emoji to signal if you're in distress but unable to speak freely.

Daily Check-in Protocol Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

1. Daily Check-In Times



Morning Check-In Time: _____

Evening Check-In Time: _____

I prefer to check in via:

- ☐ Signal
- ☐ Text Message
- ☐ Call
- ☐ Other: _____

Note: Use the same time zone across all check-in times unless otherwise stated.



2. My Check-In Buddies



Primary Check-In Buddy

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred App/Platform: _____

Notes: *(i.e., this person can call my lawyer)* _____

Backup Check-In Buddy

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred App/Platform: _____

Notes: _____



Daily Check-in Protocol Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

3. Triggers for Additional Check-Ins



List events, activities, or situations where you'll need to add an extra check-in:

- ☐ Traveling to another city or state
- ☐ Attending a protest, rally, or community action
- ☐ Meeting someone new
- ☐ Going into a high-risk situation
- ☐ Feeling emotionally or physically vulnerable
- ☐ Other: _____

Customize your check-in plan based on risk level and who's involved.



4. Escalation Thresholds



Missed check-ins don't always mean something's wrong—but your team should know what's normal for you and when to respond.

Escalation Plan

- ☐ If I miss ___ check-ins in a row, notify my backup buddy
- ☐ If I go silent for more than ___ hours, begin escalation plan
- ☐ If my phone is off/disconnected for ___ hours, alert my safety pod

Additional Notes:



Support Roles & Escalation Plan

When something goes wrong, confusion and panic can waste valuable time. This section helps you and your trusted support network clarify exactly who does what—and when.

Use this guide to build a clear, standing plan for how your people will respond if you miss a check-in, go silent, or are detained.

1. Primary Contact

This is your first line of communication. This person will:

- Track your scheduled check-ins (morning, evening, and any added based on risk level)
- Attempt contact via secure message and phone if a check-in is missed
- Reach out to others on your list if they cannot reach you
- Respect your communication preferences (e.g. text-only, no calls unless urgent)

Write it down:

Name:

Phone:

Secure App Handle:

Time Zone Awareness:

2. Secondary & Tertiary Contacts

These are your backup contacts if your primary person cannot reach you or is unavailable. Their roles may include:

- Confirming your whereabouts with others (e.g. friends, family, roommates)
- Monitoring your location-sharing apps (if enabled)
- Coordinating with local orgs, legal aid, or mutual aid teams if escalation is needed

Write it down:

Secondary Contact:

Name:

Phone:

Secure App Handle:

Time Zone Awareness:

Tertiary Contact:

Name:

Phone:

Secure App Handle:

Time Zone Awareness:

3. When to Escalate

Missed check-ins are not always an emergency—but your people should know what to look for.

Escalation triggers might include:

- You've missed two or more scheduled check-ins
- Your phone has been offline or unreachable for a specific period (e.g. 12+ hours)
- You're known to be in a high-risk setting (e.g. protest, border crossing, hostile state)

Escalation threshold:

"We escalate if there's no word after: [X hours] or after [X number] missed check-ins."

4. Door Knock or Wellness Check

Your team should also agree in advance when it's time to check on you in-person or call local authorities (if safe to do so).

- Who is close enough to safely check your home or workplace?
- If calling for a wellness check, what info will they need (address, preferred name, safety risks)?

Write it down:

Who can knock or go in-person?

If the police must be contacted, who will call and what script will they use?



Support Roles & Escalation Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

Purpose of this Worksheet:

If something goes wrong—missed check-ins, sudden silence, or confirmed risk—your people need to know exactly who does what. This worksheet helps define your core **safety support team**, escalation triggers, and action steps.

1. My Support Team



Primary Support Contact

Name:

Phone:

Preferred Contact Method (e.g., Signal, Call, Text):

Notes:

Backup Support Contact

Name:

Phone:

Preferred Contact Method (e.g., Signal, Call, Text):

Notes:

Tertiary Contact (Optional)

Name:

Phone:

Preferred Contact Method (e.g., Signal, Call, Text):

Notes:



Support Roles & Escalation Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

2. Escalation Triggers



List what circumstances or time gaps should activate your safety team to take further steps.

- ☐ If I miss ___ check-ins, escalate to my backup contact.
- ☐ If I am unreachable for more than ___ hours, begin direct contact efforts.
- ☐ If my phone is off/unresponsive for ___ hours, start a wellness check.
- ☐ Other escalation triggers:



3. Door Knock / Wellness Check Protocol



Who should physically check on you (if local), or send someone they trust to do so?

Door Knock Contact:

Name:

Phone:

Distance From Me:

Has access to my home/building? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Knows emergency protocols for me? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Alternate (if Door Knock Contact is unavailable):

Instructions for what to do if I don't answer the door:



Support Roles & Escalation Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

4. Standing Agreements



Decide and document:

How long is too long before action is taken? What's the plan?

- ☐ My support team should wait no more than ____ hours before escalating.
- ☐ I agree that if I miss ____ check-ins without explanation, they can alert:
- ☐ Legal Support ☐ Community Organizers ☐ Local RJ Group

Additional Notes or Custom Agreements:



Travel & Protest Safety

Whether you're headed across town or across state lines, traveling—especially to protests or political actions—requires intention and preparation. These guidelines help you stay grounded, supported, and safe while exercising your rights and showing up for community.

1. Guidelines for Traveling Alone or With a Group

- Always share your travel plans. Let at least one trusted person know your itinerary, destination, and expected check-in times.
- Establish travel buddies. If attending an event with others, stay in pairs or small groups when possible and agree on a meeting point in case you get separated.
- Map out exits and local landmarks. If attending a protest or large gathering, identify exits, public restrooms, and quiet places in case you need to step away.
- Avoid over-disclosing plans on public platforms. Share exact locations and movements with your support pod, not broadly online.

2. Packing List Essentials

Prepare a small go-bag with:

- ☐ Valid photo ID
- ☐ Cash in small denominations
- ☐ Phone charger or portable battery
- ☐ Emergency contact list
(written down, not just in your phone)
- ☐ Necessary medications
(enough for at least 24-48 hours)
- ☐ Water and small snacks
- ☐ Face mask and hand sanitizer

Protest support kit, which may include:

- ☐ Bandana soaked in vinegar stored in a ziplock bag
(for tear gas)
- ☐ Goggles or glasses
(non-glass if possible)
- ☐ Earplugs
(for loud areas or stress reduction)
- ☐ First-aid supplies
(bandages, antiseptic wipes)
- ☐ Notepad and pen
(to record badge numbers, incidents, etc.)

3. Set a Local Contact for Destination Travel

Identify a trusted local contact before arriving—someone who lives in the area and can support you if something goes wrong.

Share:

- Where you're staying
- What events you're attending
- How to reach you

Ask your local contact about:

- The local legal aid number
- Current political climate or heightened risks
- Safe zones or places to regroup

4. Safety Tips for Rideshare and Public Transportation

Use rideshare with caution:

- Confirm the car and driver match the app before entering
- Share your trip status with your safety pod
- Sit in the back seat and keep doors unlocked until you feel safe

On public transit:

- Stay aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts
- Avoid empty train cars or stops with poor lighting
- Know where station attendants or emergency call buttons are located

Pro Tip

If at any time your travel feels unsafe, pause and re-center. RJ is about collective care—not pushing through discomfort alone.

Travel & Protest Safety Checklist

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

Purpose of this Checklist:

Whether attending a protest, conference, teach-in, or traveling for personal reasons, this checklist helps you pack with intention, stay connected, and prioritize your safety before, during, and after the journey.

1. Before You Go



- ☐ Share your travel plans with check-in buddy
- ☐ Confirm your lodging & exit routes (if staying overnight)
- ☐ Identify at least one trusted contact in the destination location
- ☐ Set daily check-in times for travel days
- ☐ Research local laws or protest risks in the area (if applicable)
- ☐ Confirm availability of legal support/bail fund (write in below)
- ☐ Save emergency contacts in phone (and on paper)

Local contact (name + phone):

Legal org or bail support (name + contact):



Travel & Protest Safety Checklist

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

2. What to Pack



- ☐ Government-issued ID
- ☐ List of emergency contacts (printed & digital)
- ☐ Any medications you need (minimum 2-day supply)
- ☐ Water & snacks
- ☐ Fully charged phone + portable charger
- ☐ Cash (small bills, if possible)
- ☐ PPE: masks, sanitizer, earplugs (if in crowd/noisy)
- ☐ Rain Poncho
- ☐ Small first-aid kit
- ☐ Notebook & pen
- ☐ Backup plan in case phone is lost (e.g., written instructions, landmarks)
- ☐ Weather-appropriate gear (layers, poncho, etc.)
- ☐ Signs or protest materials (if applicable)



Travel & Protest Safety Checklist

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

3. Safety on the Ground



- ☐ Stay with a buddy or group—agree on a regroup spot
- ☐ Avoid carrying anything you don't want to be searched
- ☐ Use encrypted apps (Signal preferred for check-ins)
- ☐ Keep phone passcode protected (avoid Face/Touch ID at protest sites)
- ☐ Turn off location-sharing unless needed for coordination
- ☐ Know where exits are at all times (venue or street protest)
- ☐ Don't post live locations in real time
- ☐ Check in as agreed—let folks know when you're home safe



4. Add Your Own

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



In Case of Detainment or Arrest

If you are detained or arrested while organizing, protesting, or simply navigating public life, your support network should know exactly what to do—who to contact, what to say, and how to activate legal help on your behalf. The faster your people respond, the more protection you have.

This section helps you prepare a clear legal response plan so your community can move quickly if you're taken into custody.

1. Legal Contact Info

Before any action or travel, identify legal support in the area you're operating in. Many regions have legal aid collectives, jail support hotlines, or partnerships with public defenders.

Suggested Contacts to Include:

- A local movement legal support group or bail fund
- A national legal organization like the National Lawyers Guild or If/When/How
- A known attorney who has worked with RJ or protest organizers in your state

Tip: If you're not sure where to start, ask local RJ organizations if they have a trusted legal contact or protest support number.

Write it down:

- Primary Legal Contact Name & Phone
- Backup Legal Support or Hotline
- Bail Fund (Name & Link/Phone)

2. Who Should Be Notified Immediately

Choose 2-3 people who will act quickly if you are detained. These folks should:

- Know your full legal name and date of birth (DOB)
- Be willing to speak with legal aid, media (if appropriate), or your employer/family
- Have access to any needed health information (e.g., allergies, medications, emergency contacts)

Write it down:

- First person to notify:
- Second contact (in case first is unreachable):
- Preferred contact for public and/or social media updates (if needed):

3. Steps to Initiate Legal Response

Your network should take the following steps if they suspect or confirm you've been detained:

1. Try to confirm your location.
 - Check jail locator tools, contact the protest site, or call local precincts.
2. Call the legal contact or jail support hotline.
 - Provide your full name, DOB, and last known location/time.
3. Activate the plan.
 - Assign roles (legal follow-up, social media monitoring, wellness check for your dependents or home).
4. Monitor updates via secure communication.
 - Keep all updates in an encrypted Signal group or other private thread.



Detainment or Arrest Response Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

Purpose of this Checklist:

If you're ever detained or arrested while traveling, organizing, or attending a protest, your support team needs fast access to clear, pre-written information. This worksheet helps you prepare in advance so others can advocate for you effectively and safely.

1. Legal Support Contacts



Primary Legal Contact

Name:

Phone:

Affiliation/Org:

Notes:

Backup Legal Contact or Jail Support Hotline

Name:

Phone:

Affiliation/Org:

Notes:

Bail Fund (if pre-arranged):

Organization Name:

Website/Link:

Phone:

Notes:



Detainment or Arrest Response Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

2. People to Notify Immediately



First Contact (close friend/family):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Knows my legal & safety plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Second Contact (movement organizer or backup):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Role: _____

Emergency Medical Contact (if needed):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Notes (e.g., allergies, medical conditions):



3. Legal Response Steps for My Team



☐ Call the Primary Legal Contact and provide:

- My full name
- Date of birth
- Last known location & time

☐ Begin locating me through:

- Jail locator tools (county/city)
- Phone carrier (if off)
- Check with protest organizers or nearby hospitals

☐ Alert backup contact(s) and begin coordinated response

☐ Begin documentation (date, time, actions taken)

☐ Share updates ONLY through secure Signal group



Detainment or Arrest Response Plan Worksheet

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

4. Standing Message Template



Instructions: Fill this out now so your messaging contact knows what to post publicly in case you are detained or unreachable. Keep language calm and factual.

Preferred tone:

- ☐ Informational only
- ☐ Urgent + Call to Action
- ☐ Media-ready (e.g., OK to tag orgs/press)

Draft Message:

"We are supporting [Your Full Name], who was detained today while showing up for Reproductive Justice. They are not alone and have legal support in place. Please refrain from speculation or sharing unverified details. Updates will be provided by [Name/Org].

#RJisTheWay #WeKeepUsSafe

Customize Here:

Name: _____

Hashtag(s): _____

Link or Contact for Updates: _____



4. Standing Message for Public or Support Network Use

Prepare a short, pre-approved message your people can post or send if you are detained. This reduces panic and ensures your voice is still represented.

Sample Standing Message:

"We are currently supporting [Your Full Name], who was detained today while showing up for Reproductive Justice. They have legal support and a community behind them. Please hold off on sharing details unless cleared by the team. We will provide updates as we can. #RJisTheWay #WeKeepUsSafe

You can edit this message to suit your tone or preferred platform. Keep a copy in your Signal thread, cloud doc, or written format for quick access.

Write out your message below:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Standing Message Template Builder

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

Purpose of this Checklist:

When you go silent, are detained, or go missing, your people need to communicate quickly, calmly, and in alignment with your wishes. This worksheet helps you pre-write a **public-facing message** that can be used across social media, text threads, or press updates—without causing panic or confusion.

1. Preferred Style & Platforms



What tone should your messaging coordinator use?

- ☐ Calm and factual
- ☐ Urgent, with call to action
- ☐ Media-friendly/public-facing

Okay to post on social media?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Tag public figures or orgs for visibility?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Platform Preferences (check all that apply):

- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Signal
- ☐ Threads
- ☐ Bluesky
- ☐ Email blast
- ☐ Group text
- ☐ Other: _____



Standing Message Template Builder

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

2. Key Info for Your Message



Your full name:

Pronouns (optional):

Last known location/time:

Legal contact name & number (if public):

Who will provide updates?



3. Draft Your Standing Message



Use the sample below or write your own version. This will be shared publicly or with community members if you go missing, are detained, or become unreachable.

Sample Template (customize below):

"We are seeking information about [Your Name], last seen at [location/time]. They are part of our Reproductive Justice community and have legal support in place. Please avoid speculation—updates will come from [Name/Org]. #RJisTheWay #WeKeepUsSafe"

4. Custom Version



Version 1 (default message):

Version 2 (urgent/escalation message):

Give this page to your Messaging Coordinator AND keep a copy with your check-in buddy.



If You Go Missing or Are Unreachable

If you go silent, miss multiple check-ins, or disappear unexpectedly, your community should already know what to do. A missing person moment is not the time to figure things out—it's the time to follow an established plan.

This section helps your people take fast, coordinated action rooted in care, not panic.

1. Who Should Coordinate Messaging

Choose one person to manage all communication across social media, text threads, and public updates. This person should be calm under pressure and have a clear understanding of what you want shared—and what should be kept private.

They will:

- Write and post public messages (social media, group emails, texts to your org)
- Coordinate with legal support or media contacts if needed
- Avoid misinformation or panic-sharing

Write it down:

- Messaging Coordinator Name:
- Preferred platforms (e.g. IG, Facebook, group chat):

2. Secure Thread for Real-Time Updates

Create a small, private Signal thread titled something like "[Your Name] Safety Team." This group should include:

- Your daily check-in contact(s)
- Your messaging coordinator
- A legal support contact or organizational rep (if applicable)

This is where decisions get made, updates are shared, and steps are documented.

Do not rely solely on social media posts or group DMs—use an encrypted thread for all sensitive updates.

3. Steps to Launch a Community Response

- If you are unreachable and confirmed to be missing, your support team can:
 1. Attempt direct contact (text, call, location ping if shared)
 2. Call your emergency contacts or visit your last known location
 3. Check hospitals, jails, or transit routes using locator tools or mutual aid networks
 4. Decide if/when to go public
- Use a clear, calm message: “We are trying to locate [Name] last seen at [location/time]. If you have information, contact [Name] at [Phone/Email].”
- 5. Launch a support hub (if needed):
 - Central place to coordinate search, legal, donations, or care for dependents/pets/etc.

4. Reminder: It's Not Overreaction—It's Protection

Too often, the disappearances of Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people are dismissed, delayed, or ignored. A fast, loud, and coordinated response is not an overreaction—it's a life-affirming act of care and accountability.

You deserve to be looked for. You deserve to be protected. You deserve to be found.
Let your people know that in advance.



Missing Person or Unreachable Response Plan

From the Personal Security Planner section of the [RJ Community Workbook](#)

Purpose of this Checklist:

Sometimes things escalate—missed check-ins, silent phones, or other signs that something is wrong. This worksheet gives your people a clear action plan to **confirm your status, coordinate support**, and activate a broader response **without delay or panic**.

1. Escalation Threshold



Trigger this plan if I am unreachable for more than:

___ hours / ___ missed check-ins

Confirmed by these two people:

1:

2:



2. Confirmation Steps



- ☐ Check Signal group and last seen timestamps
- ☐ Attempt direct contact (call, text, app)
- ☐ Ask trusted contacts if they've heard from me
- ☐ Check my social media activity or location tags
- ☐ Review any recent travel or protest plans
- ☐ Confirm with legal contact whether I've been detained
- ☐ Check local hospitals or jail locator tools (county website)

Last known location/time:

Clues or notes to follow up on:



Missing Person or Unreachable Response Plan

From the Personal Security Planner section of the RJ Community Workbook

3. Who Will Coordinate the Response?



Point Person (Main Coordinator)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email or Signal Handle: _____

Backup Coordinator (if main is unavailable):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email or Signal Handle: _____

Key Responsibilities:

- ☐ Contact support team
- ☐ Share Standing Message (From the 'Standing Message Template Builder')
- ☐ Provide updates in Signal or chosen platform
- ☐ Keep a timeline log of all steps taken



4. Launching a Public or Community Response



- ☐ Share Standing Message (via Instagram, Signal, etc.)
- ☐ Activate legal support or jail support networks
- ☐ Alert community orgs (RJ, bail funds, legal groups)
- ☐ Set up a live update doc or hub (Linktree, Google Doc, etc.)
- ☐ Monitor public responses and follow up on leads
- ☐ Document everything (screenshots, calls, timeline)

Public Response Link (if needed): _____



Reminder:

Your proactive care could be what brings someone home safely. Trust your gut, lean on your community, and escalate when something doesn't feel right.

Staying Safe While Showing Up: A Personal Security Planner

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black
Women's
Reproductive Justice
Agenda

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