

LEGAL INFORMATION

Important - keep this card with you at all times

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED ask what you are being arrested for; you have a right to know.

Shout out your name. Make a note of the numbers of the arresting officers.

You are obliged to give the police your name and address. If you are under 17 years of age, you are entitled to extra rights, so tell the police. **Everybody has the right:**

1. To remain silent - we advise you not to make any statements.

2. To a solicitor of your choice **3. To make a phone call**

Sympathetic legal support and solicitors are available on:

[Redacted] (Until Midnight Saturday)

[Redacted] (After Midnight Saturday)

IF YOU WITNESS AN ARREST: **1 Write down the name** of the arrested person

2. Write down the numbers of the arresting officers

3. Give this info and your name and phone number to a Legal Volunteer.

Please come forward as a witness.

The telephone numbers of this card are for the legal office run by the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign. The office will be open all weekend. We will also provide information for friends and relatives of anyone arrested - please call [Redacted]

In the event of arrests, come to the special meeting in Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq on Monday March 25th, 6pm. All defendants, witnesses and supporters should attend.

ON THE DEMONSTRATION

Look after each other.

Make sure that you are always with people who know your name and look out for you.

LEGAL VOLUNTEERS are on this march; they are not stewards; they are wearing day-glo pink bibs or sashes. Their role is to assist anyone arrested by gathering information. Some are equipped with videos or cameras; *they are not from the press*; pictures will only be used to help anyone arrested. Please co-operate with the Legal Volunteers.

Your assistance may help save a protestor from imprisonment.

THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN (TSDC)

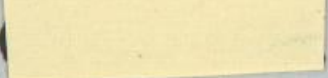
Legal support and self defence are the responsibilities of all who call protests. Our operation today aims to scrutinise and therefore inhibit the police. The TSDC was set up by defendants and supporters following the brutal police attacks and 650 arrests on last year's two anti-Poll Tax demonstrations in London. Trials continue. We organise unconditional support for all defendants and prisoners (20 now, some doing *three years*). Your support is essential.

We need: 1. Your group's affiliations and donation;
2. Your support for any local defendant; 3) Your involvement.

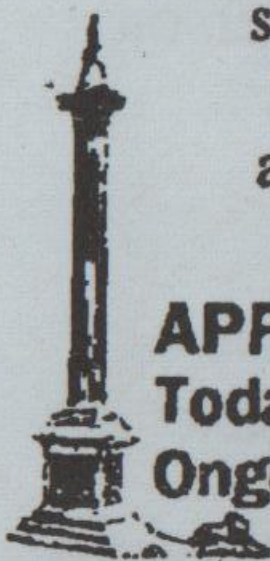
APPEAL:

Today's legal costs £4,500

Ongoing defence £50,000

TSDC: Rm 205, 38 Mt. Pleasant, WC1 –  The
Campaign meets Weds, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. WC1

Defend the right to demonstrate. Drop the charges & free the prisoners. Pay no Poll Tax.



Legal Information

Keep this card with you at all times

If you are **ARRESTED** ask what you are being arrested for; you have a right to be told. Shout out your name. Make a note of the numbers of the arresting officers.

You are obliged to give the police your name and address. **DO NOT** give them any other information. You have the right to remain silent - exercise it. You have the right to see a solicitor of your choice **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL**. Sympathetic solicitors and doctors available on:

01 


If you **WITNESS** an arrest write down the name of the person being arrested and the numbers of the arresting officers. Give this information, along with your own name and number to one of the Legal Liaison Volunteers (see over).

In the event of arrests come to the meeting in Lambeth Town Hall on Sunday 21st October at 11 am. **ALL DEFENDANTS, FRIENDS, RELATIVES, AND WITNESSES SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

We intend this to be a peaceful demonstration. This can only be ensured by being well prepared and looking after each other. Make sure you are always with a group of people who know your name and look out for you.

Legal Liaison Volunteers, organised by the TSDC are on this march; they are not stewards; they are clearly identified. Their role is to assist anyone being arrested by gathering as much information about arrests as possible. Some of these volunteers are equipped with video and other camera equipment; they are not the press and the pictures will be used to help defend anyone arrested. Please co-operate with these LLVs by providing any information asked for. Your assistance may help save a protester from unjust imprisonment.

The telephone numbers on this card are for the legal coordination office of the TSDC which will be in operation all weekend. We will also provide information for friends and relatives of anyone arrested. for such information please call



Pay No Poll Tax Defend The Right To Demonstrate
Drop The Charges Against Those Arrested
ENJOY THE MARCH

Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign

LEGAL INFORMATION

important - keep this card with you at all times

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED ask what you are being arrested for; you have a right to know.

Shout out your name. Make a note of the numbers of the arresting officers.

You are obliged to give the police your name and address. You have the right:

1. To remain silent - we advise you *not to make any statements*.

2. To a solicitor of your choice 3. To make a phone call

Sympathetic legal support and solicitors are available on:

071 [REDACTED]

IF YOU WITNESS AN ARREST: 1. Write down the name of the arrested person

2. Write down the numbers of the arresting officers

3. Give this info and your own name and phone number to a Legal Volunteer.

Please come forward as a witness.

The telephone numbers of this card are for the legal office run by the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign. The Office will be open **all weekend**. We will also provide information for friends and relatives of anyone arrested - please call:

In the event of arrests, come to the special meeting in Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Monday March 25th, 6pm onwards. All defendants, witnesses and supporters should attend.

ON THE DEMONSTRATION

Look after each other.

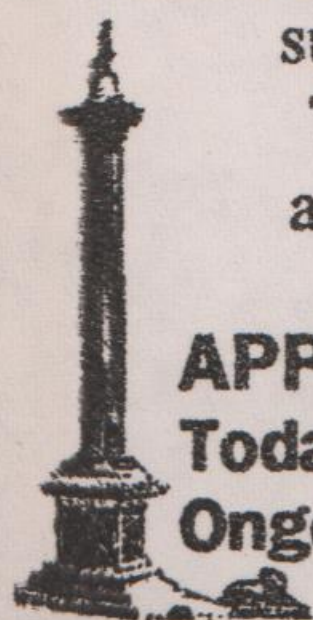
Make sure that you are always with people who know your name and look out for you.

LEGAL VOLUNTEERS are on this march; they are not stewards; they are clearly identified. Their role is to assist anyone arrested by gathering information. Some are equipped with videos or cameras; *they are not from the press*; pictures will only be used to help anyone arrested. Please co-operate with the Legal Volunteers.

Your assistance may help save a protestor from imprisonment.

THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN (TSDC)

Legal support and self defence are the responsibilities of all who call protests. Our operation today aims to scrutinise and therefore inhibit the police. The TSDC was set up by defendants and supporters following the brutal police attacks and 650 arrests on last year's two anti-Poll Tax demonstrations in London. Trials continue. We organise unconditional support for all defendants and prisoners (20 now, some doing *three years*). Your support is essential.



APPEAL:

Todays legal costs **£4,500**

Ongoing defence **£50,000**

We need: 1. Your group's affiliations and donation; 2. Your support for any local defendant; 3) Your involvement.

TSDC: Rm 205, 38 Mt. Pleasant, WC1 - [REDACTED] The Campaign meets Weds, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. WC1

Defend the right to demonstrate. Drop the charges & free the prisoners. Pay no Poll Tax

Legal Briefing

National Anti-Poll Tax Demonstration Saturday 23rd March 1991

Read this information before you leave the coach in London - you may need it. Write the legal support numbers onto the back of your hand NOW - ask the coach stewards for a felt pen if you need one:

Legal Support Numbers:

Until midnight Saturday: Nottingham (0600) [redacted]

After midnight Saturday: Nottingham (0600) [redacted]

About This Demonstration

Today's demonstration is not expected to be quite as big as the one on March 31st last year, when over 200 000 people took to the streets. But there will probably be at least 100 000 marchers today, and even though the poll tax is now officially doomed this march is still important. The campaign against the poll tax will continue until the tax is gone, all poll tax prisoners are released, and we have won an amnesty for all those who have refused to pay. This might take some time, and so its important that today's demonstration goes well.

Why A Legal Briefing?

The last two national anti-poll tax demonstrations - March 31st and October 20th last year - were both attacked by the police. Unfortunately, there can be no guarantee that the same thing will not happen today. The Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign (TSDC), and locally the Nottingham Defence Fund, have studied what happened during and after the last two demonstrations, to learn how we can best defend ourselves if this happens again. That's why its important that you read and try to remember this information.

Many people who were arrested during or after the March 31st demonstration were convicted and sent to prison simply because defence witnesses, and video or photographic evidence, couldn't be tracked down and so there was no way to challenge the police evidence. But where independent witnesses were found, it usually led to the police evidence being discredited.

On the October 20th demonstration, TSDC attempted to put the

lessons of March 31st into practice.

50 Legal Liaison Volunteers (LLV's) watched and wrote down information about almost every arrest. 4 camera crews videotaped arrests and other police activity. The LLV's kept in touch with each other and with the march organisers by using mobile phones and CB radios. Hundreds of defendants, friends and witnesses phoned the TSDC bust lines, and their legal office found sympathetic solicitors for all the defendants who contacted them. As a result, many people had the charges against them dropped when the TSDC showed that the police had told lies, and some defendants who went to court were acquitted and now plan to sue the police. This proves the value of well thought-out legal support and observation. TSDC nationally, together with the NDF locally, plan to repeat this operation on a vastly larger scale today.

Remember, we aren't going to London today to fight with the police. A massive but peaceful protest will be enough to show our determination to fight the poll tax until it is completely crushed. The government used the events of March 31st last year to try and discredit the anti-poll tax movement. They tried to make us all look like vicious thugs who aren't to be trusted - that's why the police were ordered to attack the demonstration in the first place. We don't think that the same thing is likely to happen today, but if there is any trouble we can do a much better job of defending ourselves if we are prepared.

/CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

This briefing was produced by Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign, in association with South Notts Against the Poll Tax and the Nottingham Defence Fund

Coach Information

Coaches will drop off on the Victoria Embankment, where the march will assemble at about mid-day. They will pick up again on Park Lane, and will leave London promptly at 5.45 PM. There will be hundreds of coaches on Park Lane - give yourself plenty of time to find the right one. Our coaches are being provided by Nottingham City Transport and will be numbered (e.g.: Lenton & Radford, Coach 2). On the way down the coach stewards will tell you which one you are on. Please get on the same coach coming back because it helps to avoid confusion and delays, especially if there have been arrests.

Coaches will be locked during the day, so property may be left on board. Once we return to Nottingham, make sure that you take everything with you. Lost property should be reported to the coach stewards, who will also collect anything that appears to have been left behind. When you leave the coach in Nottingham, please take your rubbish with you - it makes for a better working relationship with the coach companies.

If you aren't coming back to Nottingham with us, make sure you tell the stewards before you leave the coach!

The March

The march will go from Victoria Embankment to Hyde Park, passing through Trafalgar Square (see the map on the back page). In Hyde Park there will be a rally. If you don't know your way around London, take this map with you when you leave the coach.

Legal Support

TSDC has organised 250 general Legal Liason Volunteers (LLV's) to monitor police activity. In addition, each coach should also have two LLV's of its own, to look after people from their own groups. LLV's can be easily identified - they will be wearing pink sashes. Many LLV's will be taking photographs and videos of the march. *These are purely for use by possible defendants.* They will be handed to the TSDC straight after the march, and will not fall into the hands of the police. **IMPORTANT:** After March 31st, many people were convicted using evidence from police photographs. If there is any trouble and you are photographing/filming it, people *might* suspect that you are a plainclothes officer, or that your film will be given to the police. Bear this in mind before you start using your camera.

The LLV's will take notes of any arrests, and pass all their information to TSDC as soon as the march is over.

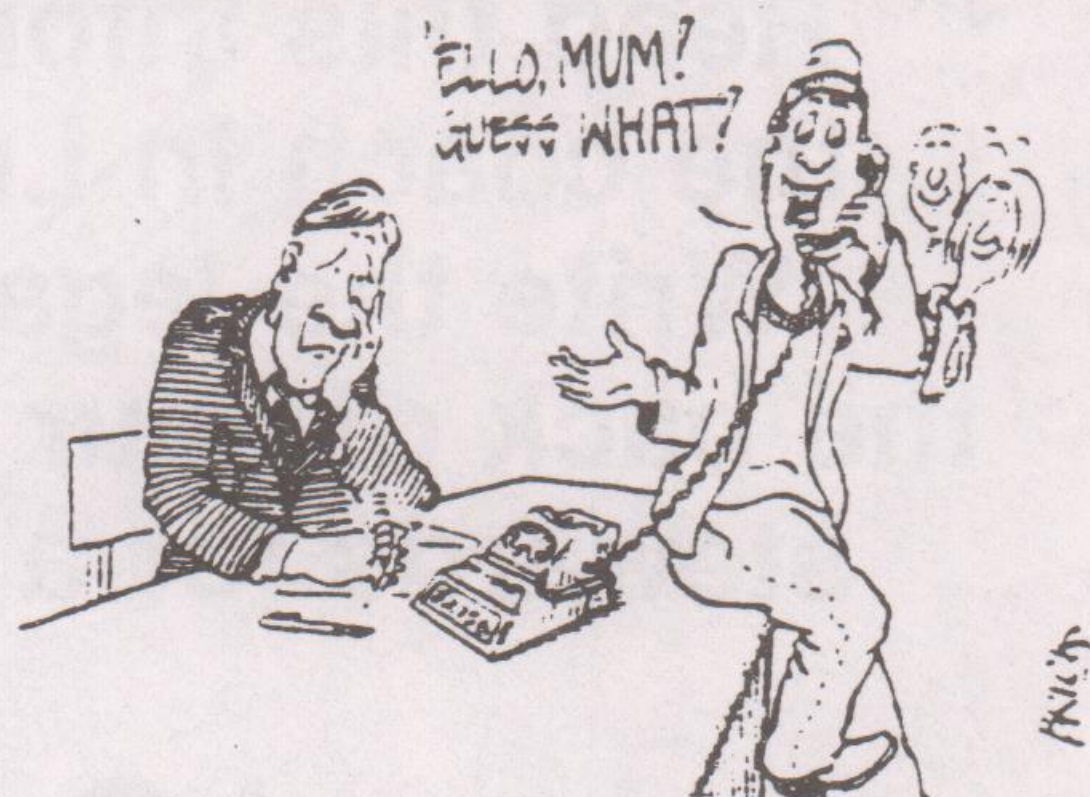
What You Can Do

If you see any arrests, write down notes about what you see. Its especially important to write down the exact time and the place, the numbers of any police officers involved, and details of any misconduct by the police. As soon as you can, give this information to one of the LLV's along with your name and a contact address or phone number. Keep a copy of it yourself, though, as the person arrested may want to call you as a witness if there's a court case.

Try not to risk being arrested yourself for anything unnecessary - carrying illegal drugs, for example. If trouble breaks out, watch out for children and other people less able to defend themselves, and help them to get out of the way.

If You Are Arrested

TSDC have made sure that sympathetic doctors and solicitors will be at every inner London police station throughout the day. If you need medical attention, make sure the police know that there is a doctor available



If you are arrested, you have various rights while you are in custody. These are:

To have someone informed of your arrest: You will be told that you have the right to one phone call. It is normal for the police to make the call on your behalf. **USE THE LEGAL SUPPORT NUMBER** written on your hand.

The Legal Support Team will have copies of the Legal Back-Up Sheets you filled in before the coaches left Nottingham. They will inform your friends/relatives that you have been arrested, pass on information concerning your arrest to the TSDC in London, and question the police to try and make sure that they are following their own procedures correctly.

To consult a solicitor: If you need legal advice ask to see the TSDC solicitor at the station, OR ask for one to be provided for you by using the Legal Support Number. If the police refuse to co-operate with this, ask to see a duty solicitor. **You have the right to talk to a solicitor in private.**

To see a copy of the "Codes of Practice": This is a handbook describing police procedures. It may be worth asking to see it, to check for yourself that the police are not acting illegally.

You need to give a name and address when arrested, and a date of birth when you are charged. You are not required to give **ANY** other information. We strongly advise you to say as little to the police as possible, since it is easy for them to distort your statement into something you didn't mean

Questioning: You should be cautioned before you are questioned (the "anything you say will be taken down and may be used in evidence" line). Remember, the less you say, the less they can twist if your case comes up in court.

Being Charged: If you are charged, the charge will be read to you and they might caution and question you again. When you are charged you have to give them a date-of-birth. Otherwise, **SAY NOTHING**. If they ask you how you will plead, say "not guilty": this leaves your options open, and isn't legally binding so you can change your mind later if you wish.

Property: If you are locked up in a cell, most of your property

will be taken from you. You are usually allowed to keep such things as glasses, sanitary protection, paper and pencil, any medicines and a book or newspaper. Everything they take off you will be listed, and you will be asked to sign for it. Make sure that everything is written down and nothing has been added. **If the list is not correct, refuse to sign it.**

Fingerprints: The police can fingerprint any suspect, using "reasonable force" if necessary. If you are not charged, the charge is later dropped or you are found not guilty, you have the right to have all copies of the prints destroyed, and to witness this happening.

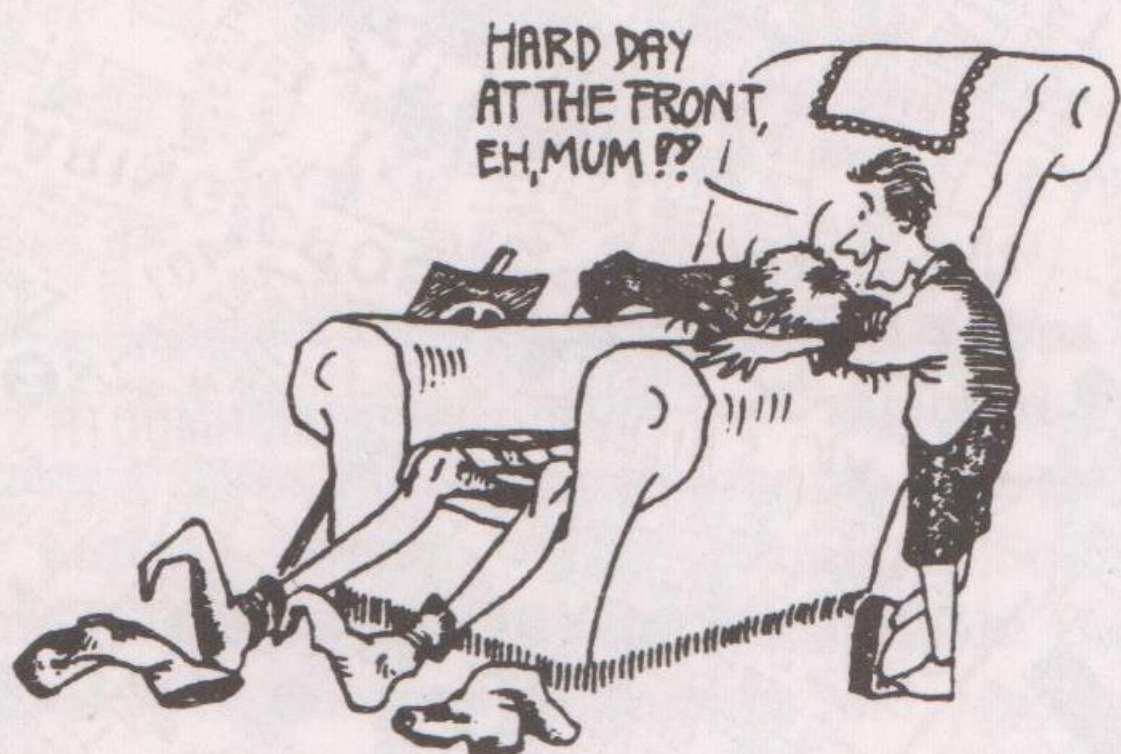
Photographs: According to their Code of Practice the police can photograph anyone after they've been charged, if their photo isn't on record already or if they were arrested at the same time as other people. They have no "rights" to do this, but be careful about physically resisting them. Your right to have photographs destroyed is the same as for fingerprints.

Searches: You will almost certainly be given some kind of search with your clothes on, when they take your things away before you are locked into a cell. In addition, an officer of the same sex as yourself is empowered to make both *strip searches* and *intimate body searches*. "Reasonable force" can be used to carry out these searches.

In General: Don't panic! It all sounds terrible, but the worst thing for most people arrested is the boredom of being locked up. Sometimes, the police try to trick people into admitting to things by telling them lies - "all your mates have gone home, you're the only one left. If you just own up, you'll get out quicker". **Don't fall for it:** this often means they haven't got enough evidence to make a charge stick. Be especially wary of giving anything away during "friendly chats".

Remember that you aren't alone. While you are in custody, the legal support team will be working on your behalf - monitoring what the police are doing with you and gathering information about the circumstances of your arrest. The experiences of the last two demonstrations have taught us a lot about how best to help people who are arrested.

When You Get Out



There will probably be people there to meet you. In any case, you should phone the Legal Support Number again to let them know that you have been released. TSDC have arranged places for people to stay overnight in London if it is late, and may be able to help you with your coach fare home if you don't have any money.

When you get back to Nottingham, contact the Nottingham Defence Fund on 780557 as soon as possible. They will provide legal advice and support, including help with fines and the costs of travel to and from court.

NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE FUND

NDF was set up after arrests at the Council House in Nottingham in early 1990, and since then it has supported 21 people on charges from poll-tax demonstrations of all kinds, mostly from the March 31st national demonstration and one (still ongoing) from the Brixton Prison picket. The legal back-up at the March 31st demonstration was poor, and we didn't hear about some of the Nottingham people arrested for many weeks. TSDC was set up early in May 1990 to help defendants, and we have worked closely with them since then.

Our defendants have faced fabricated charges, state conspiracy and attacks and injuries from the police. They have had mixed experience of solicitors as well, highlighting the value of an independent body like ours that makes neither financial nor political capital out of defendants.

We support all defendants on criminal charges relating to the poll tax unconditionally, whatever the offence or the circumstances.

We have had outstanding support for our work and our defendants from most local groups and many individuals, and we are very grateful for this. However, the Notts Anti-Poll Tax Federation has not donated one penny to our funds, and its officers have consistently attempted to undermine our status as an independent group set up by and for defendants. They also backed up the view of All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation Secretary Steve Nally, who said on television the day after the Trafalgar Square riot that he would be prepared to "name names" of those responsible. Many people nationally were arrested in the months following March 31st, and it has never been ascertained how the police tracked some of them down. The longest sentence so far received is 4 years.

The only local defendants that the Notts APT Federation have supported so far are two members of "Militant Tendency", one of whom is Notts Federation Secretary Gary Freeman. No other local defendants have been allowed to speak at Federation events, even though the Federation is affiliated to the TSDC and claims to support its work.

The NDF has offered legal support to all Notts coaches going to today's demonstration. The Federation have rejected this offer and, as this briefing goes to press, Federation coaches have no legal support at the Nottingham end, jeopardising the safety and peace of mind of people travelling on them.

Please give NDF Legal Support Numbers to anyone you know that hasn't been given them on their coach. If they are arrested later you will make their situation, and our work, much easier.

NDF is run by defendants and other people who support our aims of unconditional support. If you would like to know more, or have us speak at your meeting, get in touch. Donations are still needed, and will be especially important if there are arrests today. Make cheques payable to "NDF" and send them to: Box DF, 72 Radford Rd, Hyson Green, Nott'm.

PUBLIC MEETING

If there are arrests today, to discuss our response; if not, to discuss together future anti-poll tax activity in the Nottingham area

*International Community Centre,
61 Mansfield Road*

Monday 25th March at 7.30pm

Organised by Notts Anti-Poll Tax Federation

