

**If you witness
a police stop.**

What to do?

~~Racial Profiling~~

**If you witness
a person being
stopped
and searched:**

Become an ally!

Becoming an ally means showing that you're attentive, that you acknowledge the needs of others, and that you are willing to assist them. **You have a right to observe, as well as to ask critical questions about the police proceedings.** You should be aware that you are also taking personal risks when you verbally intervene in a police operation. You may be prosecuted for refusing to comply with police instructions. Be mindful that **your actions may have negative consequences for the person being stopped and searched.**

We suggest three ways of providing support during a police operation:

Be a witness

1 Stop and observe the police. Consider whether you have time to observe what is happening and whether you are willing to risk a possible arrest. Do you need support from other pedestrians? How can you best intervene in this situation?

Take notes during the identity check. Write down **place, time, and police actions**. If possible, **record** the event from a distance with your mobile phone. Write down police officers' names, and the names and contact details of witnesses.

2 Speak to other bystanders and ask them to observe the police. After the event, ask them if they are willing to exchange email addresses or telephone numbers. Ask them to write a witness statement about the event.

3 After the event, speak to the person who was stopped by the police. *Introduce yourself: "I just saw what happened. Are you ok? Is there anything I can do for you?"* Offer to testify as a witness if the person wants

to take legal action against the officers' behaviour. Give the implicated person your contact details if they want them – but respect their response if they refuse. Direct the affected person to advocacy and legal aid groups.

4 Report verbal and physical assaults by the police (such as insults, threats or physical harm) to legal aid groups (see center pages).

Attempt to provide assistance

1 Indicate to the person being stopped and to the police officers that you are observing:

“I am standing here to observe the situation.” Ask the person being stopped if it is okay to be present:
“Are you okay? Do you need support?”

2 Be aware that the police might order you to leave. Make it clear that you have a right to observe, but do not disturb the police proceedings.

3 If you are told to leave, **ask** the police officers **why**.

Intervene

- 1** Ask the police officers **why** they are stopping this person and **inform them and people nearby that you disagree with the officers' actions.**
- 2** If the police officers order you to leave, **ask for the reason.**
- 3** **If possible,** try to disrupt or distract them, for instance by offering them to check your identity.

Where to find support?

SWITZERLAND

Alliance against Racial Profiling

www.stop-racial-profiling.ch

Augenaufl: non-governmental, independent human rights organization – Basel, Bern and Zurich, www.augenaufl.ch

More information and support after experiences of racial discrimination are offered by the **24 members of the counselling network for victims of racism** throughout Switzerland: www.network-racism.ch

GERMANY

Campaign for victims of racist police violence Berlin, Bremen and Kiel
<http://kop-berlin.de>

Polizei-Gewalt.com: nation-wide documentation center for police violence (in Germany)
www.polizei-gewalt.com

Copwatch: phone hotline, information and documentation center for victims of racist police violence in Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg and Leipzig
telephone copwatch ffm: +49-69-34 87 73 15
<http://copwatchffm.org>

AUSTRIA

Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (ZARA), An organization against racial discrimination promoting a society free of racism, www.zara.or.at

Further information

humanrights.ch Extensive collection of legal information, debates, cases, media reports and studies on the subject of racial profiling in Switzerland.

Report for the rights and mobility of black African migrant persons in Switzerland and in Europe. Report by the Jean Dutoit Collective on discrimination, impairment of rights, abuse and persecution of Black African migrant men in Switzerland (2018).

What is Ethnic Profiling? Fact sheet by the Open Society Justice Initiative, 2020

Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing (Fassin 2013).

Racial Profiling: Research, Racism, and Resistance. (Glover 2009).

The Problem of Ethnic Profiling in Europe. Open Society Justice Initiative, 2011.

IN GERMAN

Racial Profiling: Erfahrung, Wirkung, Widerstand. An interview-based study by the Collaborative Research Group Racial Profiling with people affected by racist police stops (2019).

Racial Profiling. Struktureller Rassismus und antirassistischer Widerstand. (Structural Racism and Anti-Racist Resistance). Collection of scientific, artistic, and activist contributions on racial profiling and the possibilities of intersectional, anti-racist resistance (Wa Baile et al., 2019).

Alltäglicher Ausnahmezustand. Institutioneller Rassismus in deutschen Strafverfolgungsbehörden. Contributions from activist and academic perspectives on racism within the police and criminal justice institutions, published by the Kampagne für die Opfer von Polizeigewalt (2016).

Copwatch Frankfurt. Information and documentation center for victims of racist police violence, <https://copwatchffm.org/>

GERMAN/FRENCH/ITALIAN

Anti-Schwarzen-Rassismus in der Schweiz – Eine Bestandsaufnahme. Exploratory study on racism against black people, commissioned by Fachstelle für Rassismusbekämpfung (2017).

Rassismuvorfälle aus der Beratungspraxis. Annual reports of the Advisory Network for Victims of Racism on incidents of racism in Switzerland.

Text

Collaborative Research Group Racial Profiling Switzerland
Alliance against Racial Profiling
www.stop-racial-profiling.ch

Graphic

Zoff Collective



Outrage Collectif

