



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GOING TO A DEMONSTRATION

You have the right to express your opinion at a demonstration, but to prevent your rights from violation and protect you from any harm or negative consequences, it's important to keep a few things in mind.

We've collected 15 things you should know about demonstrations as a student.



I. WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS?

1. You have the right to go to a demonstration even under the age of 18!

- If you are under 18, you are considered to be a child, so you have special rights. Demonstration is a form of expressing your opinion and you definitely have the right to participate. **Even if you are a primary or secondary school student**, you have the right to go to a demonstration that is not only for students, however, it is important to know that you are more vulnerable, therefore, it is **especially important to be informed**.

2. No one can oblige you to take part in a demonstration!

- Your participation is **voluntary**, so no one can oblige you to demonstrate or prevent you from going to a demonstration and you do not need a written permission from your parents.
- There may be resistance in your school or family, but it's important to know that **you are free to decide whether you want to express your views in public**.
- However, **you should also respect if others have a different opinion** on the subject, so be careful not to force anyone to show up with you at a demonstration.

3. No one can harm you for participating to a demonstration!

- Unless you do something unlawful, **participating to a demonstration may not have any negative consequences**. No one can hurt, mock or prosecute you simply for expressing your opinion.
- If you feel that your school performance is being unduly influenced by attending a demonstration, **you can initiate proceedings at your school** with the students council, at the Institution Maintenance Centre or the Office of the Commissioner for Education Rights.

4. Demonstration in itself is not politics!

- If you stand up for your opinion or an issue that is important for you at a demonstration, **it does not mean in itself that you get involved in politics**, even if demonstrations often have a political undertone.
- You must be aware that **children cannot be used for political purposes**. You cannot be the subject of a political campaign, neither your photo, nor any of your statements or opinion can be used for campaign purposes.



9. Are you free to speak at a demonstration?

- **Anyone, whether a child or an adult, is free to speak** at a demonstration. However, by giving a speech, you commit to appealing in public so **the press can broadcast materials about you.**
- **Parental consent is required** for public appearances, so you must have your parents' or guardians' written permission when you speak.
- In all public appearances, **it is important to be prepared** so that you avoid being harmed in any way. In order to be safe without compromising your rights, you may want to read what you need to be aware of when working with adults (in this case, demonstration organisers) and how to prepare for a public appearance.

III. THINGS TO PAY ATTENTION TO AT A DEMONSTRATION

10. Demonstration is a peaceful, common form of expressing opinion:

- **Take care of yourself and your companions** and follow the social rules for peaceful behaviour.
- **A demonstration does not entitle anyone to violence!**

- You can express your opinion, but **make sure you do not hurt others.** Do not judge or bully others because they have different opinions. You will not gain any advantage for your case if you do so.

11. Can the police check you because you attend a demonstration?

- **Anyone can be checked by the police at public places if they have a compelling reason for it.** The justification may be keeping public order and security, crime prevention or law enforcement. **The fact that you are demonstrating in itself does not justify being checked.**
- You are not automatically informed about the reason for a police check, but **the reason must be told upon request.** If the police refuse to do so beforehand on the grounds that it would jeopardise the effectiveness of the measure, you must still be informed about the purpose, right after the police check at the latest.
- If you have your **ID card** (or a driving license) and your **address card, take both with you,** because if you are checked by the police you may need them.





HINTALOVON

Gyermekjogi Alapítvány

Learn more!

WWW.HINTALOVON.HU/EN

Published by
Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation

2019

Edited by
Orsolya Lányi

According to Act No. 76 of 2017 the Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation is a foreign-funded NGO.