

HEY! WHITE PEOPLE!

THINKING ABOUT CALLING THE POLICE?

PAUSE & THINK

Many 911 calls are made by white people reporting people of color for **unharmful behaviors**.

These calls perpetuate inequity and can have **deadly consequences**.

NATIONALLY in 2022

39%

of police killings
began with stops or
calls about behavior
characterized as
non-violent

23%

of those killed by police
were Black people
despite Black people
making up only 13% of the
population

Source: MappingPoliceViolence.org

LOCALLY from 2018-2020

91%

**of calls to the Oakland
Police Department**
were for behaviors
deemed
**low-level
nuisances**

or crimes, like traffic
and property crimes,
noise complaints, and
mental health needs

Source: Oakland Police Department Calls for Service Analysis by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform

An invitation from:

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SHOWING UP FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE

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olice can cause tremendous harm, particularly to Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color.

Police inflict various forms of violence on people of color. Cops kill Black people at 2-3 times the rate that they kill white people. Police presence poses a threat to many.

A

sk yourself if you or anyone else is in actual danger.

If it's a matter of property or doesn't endanger people, there are other ways to respond without involving cops.

U

ncomfortable is not the same as in harm's way.

Take a breath. White people are taught that our discomfort proves there's a threat when there may not be one. If someone is acting in a way that is uncomfortable for you, consider leaving them alone. Not calling 911 is often the safest and most caring response.

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uppose the person was white. Would you be having the same reaction or considering the same response?

Notice your discomfort and how it might reflect your biases and fears-- not the reality.

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ngage your community support networks instead of calling the police.

Creating caring networks and contact lists of neighbors, etc. who are committed to not calling the cops and together imagining and implementing more constructive responses is an important way we can support each other without involving the police.

Activist groups like the **Anti Police-Terror Project** are creating alternatives like **Mental Health First (MH1)**, a free hotline that responds to mental health crises with no police intervention, available every Friday and Saturday night, 8pm-8am, by calling (510) 999-9MH1.