



## Addressing the Resistance

As you plan for your Day of Silence you may face resistance in your school or opposition from your community. Here are some tips that will help you organise a peaceful and effective Day of Silence. Getting permission is an important part of organising an in school activity. But what do you do when the administration at your school says No?

### You already sent a letter, right?

Did it include:

- A description of the Day of Silence?
- Info about supportive clubs and/or staff?
- Date of your Day of Silence events and what it involves!
- Where they can find out more information?
- A note of thanks for their support and understanding?
- There's a sample letter requesting permission available on our Resources page!

### Request a Meeting

If you sent a letter and the administration still said no, ask to schedule a meeting with the principal, deputy principal or other appropriate staff members. Invite any supportive staff members or student leaders you know of and other members of your organising team to join your meeting. Be calm and respectful during your conversation; don't accuse or yell. Instead, ask them to explain their concerns about the Day of Silence. Listen carefully to what they say. Take notes—if you don't have an answer, it's okay to tell them you'll follow up later.

**If you haven't already, let your principal know they can get in touch with us to voice their concerns or ask questions and give them a copy of our Legal FAQ Guide.**

### Find An Alternative Way To Participate

Remember, staying silent is not the only way to participate in the Day of Silence – or you could have a silent lunch. Check out our Tips for the Last Minute Organiser resource for more ideas!

### Facing Opposition

Some people may want to actively detract from the message of your Day of Silence activities. Here are a couple of tips for you if you find yourself facing this type of opposition:

**STAY COOL:** It's difficult to be challenged, and some that oppose the Day of Silence may say hurtful things. Relax. Breathe. Remember that you're participating in DOS to make a difference, not to start fights.

**REPORT IT:** If there are people who are bullying or harassing you as part of their opposition, you should report it—to school officials, online authorities, your parents—immediately. In school, make sure to notify a supportive staff member, and ask for their assistance as you follow up on it.

**CONTACT US:** If you experience extreme amounts of opposition, face bullying and harassment, or feel your rights have been violated, please contact us at [info@dayofsilence.org](mailto:info@dayofsilence.org) and let us know right away! We can put you in touch with the appropriate legal support.

Inside  UT

<http://www.dayofsilence.org.nz>

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