



JOIN US IN BERLIN!

This document contains the information that will be shared at the RiseUp info meeting. Dates for the events can be found [here](#).

CONTACT

Email: august2021@riseup.net
 Website: <https://augustriseup.de/>
 Dates: <https://augustriseup.de/termine/>
 Contact for own actions: riseup_aktionen@protonmail.com

IMPORTANT LINKS

Telegram: <https://tinyurl.com/augustriseup>
 Provisional legal manual: <https://extinctionrebellion.de/aktionen/legal/aktionsvorbereitung/>
 Packing list: <https://augustriseup.de/packliste/>
 Telegram channel for helpers: <https://t.me/joinchat/yf1M7-ZqHIUzMmU6>
 Action briefing script: <https://augustriseup.de/mitmachen/> (linked in the text)

Other important documents will be added to the Telegram channel, website and this document over the course of the weeks.

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What is the RiseUp?

Zoomed out action design

"Special times call for special actions. The climate and ecological crisis is an unprecedented emergency. The system is headed for the irreversible destruction of our livelihoods - it will kill us. The term of our current government is almost over. It has missed its chance to respond to this emergency.

We are desperate and revolting against the impending destruction of our society. For this we will disrupt everyday life at the AugustRiseUp and block a central square in Berlin. We are sorry for the disruption, but our desperation is so great that we are ready to block streets with our bodies. Peacefully, non-violently and determined to make a difference. Because time is up. It's now or never. What are you going to do?"

So - what exactly is the August RiseUp?

- On August 16, a square in the middle of Berlin will be occupied for days. Kitchens, tents and peaceful barricades will be set up and actions of civil disobedience will take place around it. In addition, there will be legally registered vigils as points of contact.
- Please be patient! The exact location will be announced shortly before so that the police cannot prevent the occupation. It will be central in Berlin, be curious!
- The public discourse shall be shaped by the occupation in order to pull the emergency brake in the blatant climate catastrophe we are in right now.
- In all actions we act non-violently and resolutely, ID refusal is possible.
- The motto: "The government is failing - Climate Revolution NOW. Rise Up!"

Message

The core demand: We want a holistic change for social and climate justice - For this we need a representatively drawn citizens assembly that sets the framework for the social transformation process.

Goals: Media attention to the climate crisis and the failure of the ruling parties & mobilize people for peaceful resistance against the climate collapse.

Strategic considerations

We need something new, surprising, innovative to generate a lot of attention. For this we want to try a big, long occupation.

It creates a dilemma situation for the state: either they let us linger and build something cool to put pressure on the government, or the police evicts, and we use this to get momentum through possible repression.

Since legal restraints are always meant to make us ineffective in our activist actions, it is essential that this occupation is not registered. Registered protest can be more easily ignored and, as the past shows, unfortunately it usually is.

Civil disobedience is justified and necessary considering the current emergency and our government's inaction. In the past, civil disobedience has been instrumental in achieving, for example, voting rights for women, civil rights for BIPoC, and the 8-hour workday.

Civil disobedience protests have several characteristics, some of which we would like to adopt at RiseUp, including:

- Non-violence (our definition: what does most of the society perceive as violence?)

- Willingness to make sacrifices (→ we are willing to accept repression in the form of deprivation of liberty in holding facility or payments)
- many participants (→ if every person who wants to come takes one more person with him, we are already twice as many!)

Personal preparation

The August RiseUp will have an impact on everyone who participates. Participants have a responsibility to prepare well and remain non-violent in word and deed throughout the action.

A good preparation can be to actively address why you want to participate in the action. Feel free to write a private and personal statement, e.g. in the form of a letter, which you can publish on your social media channels or simply keep for yourself and perhaps take with you to remind you of your motivation in difficult situations.

Before participating in civil disobedience actions, we especially recommend an NVDA (Non Violent Direct Action) training, where among other things, dealing with police, legal basics, de-escalation methods and communication structures in the occupation are explained and practiced. More trainings will be offered soon on the website and via the Telegram channel.

The weekend before the RiseUp there will also be action trainings in Berlin, so if you want to travel before, that's also a possibility.

For the occupation

Organization

The RiseUp is organized by people from different climate movements.

The call is now supported by more than 50 groups, many Parents, Students, Fridays and other for Future groups, Am Boden Bleiben, Animal Rebellion Germany, Der Jugendrat der Generationenstiftung, Extinction Rebellion Germany, Lützerath lebt, Ende Gelände... More supporting groups are continuously added to the website.

Extinction Rebellion plays a bigger role, because they already have experiences and structures for civil disobedience in Berlin and do not put their capacities into an "own action".

The planning is going on through quite a few small groups working on different topics like kitchen, legal vigils, art, social media and more and they are very happy to have more support. (Contact: august2021@riseup.net)

In the RiseUp helpers telegram channel, small tasks that can be done in a short time are posted regularly. Whether online, in Berlin or another city, creative or logistical – you'll sure find something you enjoy.

Program, arrival and overnight stay

On August 14 and 15 there will be a small kick-off festival, with music and other program, among other action trainings.

The occupation will start on 16.08, place and time will be announced in time via the Telegram channel. On the occupation people will set up tents, but many will also spend the night outdoors there. Kitchens and toilets will also be set up there.

Once the occupation is safe and not acutely threatened with eviction, there will be music and games, as well as theater performances and more.

Those who don't want to sleep on the occupation can legally stay overnight with private persons via the bed exchange. During the RiseUp, there will also be a climate camp in Berlin, which is sure to welcome visitors and has space for camping.

For a climate-neutral journey there will be bike tours from several places, look on <https://augustriseup.de/anreise/> whether your city is listed.

Otherwise book your train now to get a low price or check in your cities if other groups are planning joint travels. Come to the festival on 14.08 in Berlin, who is already there can also help with the preparations.

As far as your departure goes, you must decide for yourself how long you want to stay. Big actions will definitely take place at least for one week, then it depends on how determined we are, how much strength is left and how well the occupation can be kept.

For example, on Saturday 21.08 a big Rebellion of One is supposed to take place in Berlin, an action where people supposedly sit alone on the street to block traffic, with nothing but their body and a sign with a quote expressing their fear because of the climate crisis.

It's also worth arriving at the end of the week!

Affinity Groups (AG)

Each person who is on the street at RiseUp should not be alone but be part of an affinity group that looks out for each other.

Affinity groups can be from about 4 to 10 people, who should get to know each other a little beforehand to see if they want to go into action together.

You will learn more about affinity groups in the NVDA training.

For all people traveling to Berlin without affinity group, there will be early affinity group finding meetings the weekend before the 16th as well as in the occupation itself if you join later.

Check with the XR local groups or other organizations in your area to see if there are already people there who want to come to Berlin and form an AG with you, or even if there are affinity group finding meetings there.

It is practical if in each affinity group people can fill different roles for actions, because you usually move together and then get along well in many situations and on actions.

In the actions, for example, we need people who distribute flyers, keep an eye on de-escalation, fill the social media channels, give interviews, are in contact with the police and more. If you feel like it, pick one or two roles that are interesting for you and attend one of the trainings to be able to further support actions at the RiseUp.

Actions around the occupation

Around the occupation there will be numerous small group actions and maybe also bigger legal and unannounced actions. If you want to participate in such actions, there will be information about it on the occupation. On the website there is already a rough schedule for the first week.

If you plan your own actions, then you can do it yourself and simply carry it out, as long as you act non-violently and according to the RiseUp consensus and demands.

If your action needs many people to be successful or you need certain material or logistics, it is more important to connect beforehand. Then you can write to riseup_aktionen@protonmail.com.

Food, hygiene and security

At the occupation itself, kitchens will be set up to feed the people on site, but there will also be food distributions at the vigils.

A corona hygiene concept is in the works, you can be sure that we take Corona virus seriously.

Costs

Money should not play a role in whether you can come to Berlin or not. Whether follow-up costs due to legal consequences, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and food: We are in solidarity and share what we have, no one is left alone, the most important thing is that you are there! Whoever can give, gives, whoever can give more, gives more, so that we can all rebel together.

Donations and payments are currently going through Extinction Rebellion:

<https://xrshort.eu/spenden-2021>

Legal risks and consequences

A detailed legal aid brochure will be distributed soon. Please be sure to read it beforehand so you know what to expect when you RiseUp. Until then, you can also read the most important points in XR's Legal Handbook:

<https://extinctionrebellion.de/aktionen/legal/aktionsvorbereitung/>.

Most civil disobedience actions are charged with various misdemeanors (short in German: OWi). A misdemeanor is the violation of a law that is punishable by a fine, as happens with parking the wrong way, for example. OWis cannot be increased by committing more than one offense and are not recorded on the criminal record.

The participation in an unannounced gathering is not punishable, only if the gathering is dissolved, one commits a misdemeanor, if one does not leave the gathering then. Furthermore, for example, the non-observance of requirements at a gathering can be accused, which is also a misdemeanor.

A possible criminal charge is mainly coercion, although most of the proceedings in Germany for coercion have been discontinued so far. The accusation of coercion can usually be avoided by making sure that no cars have to stand in the second row for a longer period of time during the planning of the action, but that the traffic can flow away.

People who chain or glue themselves onto something can also be charged with resistance to authority. Most of the lock-on charges in Berlin so far have been dropped in exchange for a payment.

During the RiseUp, there will be a phone number called the GesaFon. There you should call when you come to the prisoner collection center (Gesa) or see other people being taken away by the police.

It might make sense for you to join the Red Help. The Red Help supports people from the left spectrum with charges and fines. See if there is a local chapter in your city that you can discuss whether joining makes sense for you. The Legal Team of XR recommends this.

A Legal Team will also be available in Berlin to answer questions and provide support afterwards, once you receive mail from the police.

Gesa (Prisoner Collection Center):

The Gesa, prisoner collection center, is used to enforce police measures. This can be, for example, the enforcement of an expulsion.

Victimization as a characteristic of Civil Disobedience can be made apparent through Gesa stays. However, you may also end up in the Gesa involuntarily.

In the action training there is more info about the Gesa stay, also there will be "Gesa forges" soon, where you will be prepared thoroughly for the Gesa experience. Roughly, though, once in the Gesa you call in directly, dialing the phone number you wrote down on your body beforehand, to notify the GesaFon. This ensures that other people know where you are, Gesa Support will be waiting for you outside the cell when you are released, and your affinity group can ask where you are and how you are doing.

If the person is in Gesa for more than 24h hours, the GesaFon can instruct a lawyer to visit the Gesa to release the person. Also, it is very important to call if ID denial is being pursued.

In Berlin, the police are allowed to keep you in the Gesa until midnight of the following day, longer deprivation of liberty requires a court order.

Legal participation:

If you are not sure yet if you want to go into civil disobedience or maybe have family and friends who don't want to take that step yet, you can still come to Berlin and support the occupation in a legal way: There are legal vigils where you can legally stay throughout and other background tasks where you don't run any legal risk.

ID Refusal

The consensus of action is that people can also refuse to give their ID to the police. This means that the police can take more action because they will try to find out who the person is.

ID refusal can be useful for people who are afraid of increased repression because of their identity or who plan to participate in very blatant actions in the past or future where ID refusal makes sense.

There are also people who do not want to state their identity because they believe what they are doing is right and therefore do not support cooperation with the state.

ID refusal or disclosure has both advantages and disadvantages, consider for yourself which way you feel more comfortable with.

In both cases you should be well informed about the legal consequences and the necessary preparation beforehand and get in contact with the legal team if necessary.

Participate

There are different ways how you can support the RiseUp

- RiseUp: Be a part of it and come to the occupation in Berlin on August 16th!

- Spread the word: Invite friends and family to come along with you. (Sharepics and more outreach material can be found here: <https://augustriseup.de/mobilisierung/>)
- Organize: The various RiseUp groups welcome support, there are regular Onboarding meetings where the groups are introduced.
- You can also plan things for RiseUp on your own: plays, performances, actions, think of something and find people on site who will implement your ideas with you.
- On site, as mentioned before, people are needed for very different things: cooking, transportation, flyering and much more: everyone will find a place here.
- In the Telegram channel for helping hands you will find numerous tasks for you before, during and after the RiseUp: <https://t.me/joinchat/LYoy2--c4oc00Thi>.

If you have any further questions, feel free to come to one of the briefing events or write us at: august2021@riseup.net

**SEE YOU ON THE
STREETS!**