What is conflict de-escalation and bystander training?
These trainings vary in their methods, but all have the aim of empowering individuals, including bystanders, to prevent the escalation of conflict.

More information on how to use this resource is below.

**TRAININGS IN TENNESSEE**

**Climate Disobedience Center (CDC)**
The Climate Disobedience Center is a collective of climate justice organizers that runs Nonviolent Direct Action (NVDA), de-escalation, and know-your-rights trainings for community groups. The collective works to support people on the frontlines of social and environmental justice struggles, often by training activists in community safety skills. The CDC can offer trainings in de-escalation, nonviolent direct action, legal observing, know-your-rights, abolitionist police liaising, jail support, and other safety skills. CDC’s de-escalation trainers emphasize the importance of consent and solidarity with those most targeted by injustice. Training participants discuss tools for tracking the energy in a group and intervening in a conflict as well as practice personal emotional regulation before rehearsing role-plays of real life scenarios. Recently, the CDC has been working to provide these trainings to groups protecting queer pride and drag events, engaging land defense, preventing election violence, and confronting white supremacist counter-protestors.

- **Statewide**
- **Virtual offerings**

**Contact**
info@climatedisobedience.org
for customized trainings
Community Mediation Center in Knoxville
The Community Mediation Center (CMC) is a nonprofit organization that provides mediation services to help people resolve and manage conflict amicably, inexpensively, and rapidly. CMC is committed to serving low-income individuals who could not otherwise afford to mediate. The center offers a variety of conflict resolution trainings including ones on de-escalation and difficult conversations. In response to gun violence in their community, CMC engaged in violence interruption work, creating a community peace tool kit to help de-escalate situations and make people feel respected and heard.

Contact cmcjuvct@gmail.com or Jen Comiskey (jen.comiskey@2mediate.org) for customized trainings

Virtual offerings

Mayhaw Safety Collective
The Mayhaw Safety Collective is a group that focuses on taking a nontraditional approach to security. They offer highly tailored modules in de-escalation, risk assessment, home and physical safety assessment, active shooter training, direct action planning, and communication planning. The collective group specifically focuses on providing these types of trainings to rural areas where training is less accessible. Their de-escalation trainings focus both on understanding one’s own body and how to cultivate a space that results in less violence as well as how to de-escalate an agitated person.

Contact mayhaw@riseup.net for customized trainings

Virtual offerings
NATIONWIDE OR VIRTUAL TRAININGS & RESOURCES

DC Peace Team (DCPT)
DCPT provides training in nonviolent strategies and tactics including de-escalation and bystander intervention techniques. Additionally, they provide unarmed civilian protection and accompaniment in local communities including at public events including at rallies, protests, and demonstrations.

- Request information about customized trainings
- Upcoming trainings
- Virtual offerings

Training Active Bystanders (TAB)
TAB is an innovative evidence-based program that trains participants on active bystander competencies and leads discussions on response plans in their communities. Their experienced trainers teach, ‘Training Active Bystanders’ workshops and trainings for trainers. The experienced Veterans Mediation trainers teach, communications, problem resolution, and mediation.

- Request information about Active Bystander trainings, communication trainings, and Veteran Mediation trainings
- Upcoming bystander intervention trainings
- Virtual offerings
Right To Be
Right To Be is a movement–building social justice organization that focuses on turning care for each other into simple, creative, and effective action. Its mission is to train communities to build a world free of harassment and filled with humanity.

Request information about customized trainings

Upcoming bystander intervention trainings

Upcoming de-escalation trainings

Guide to the 5Ds of bystander intervention

Vision Change Win
Vision Change Win is a Black-led, queer and trans group of social justice professionals who provide consulting and program offerings for groups committed to movements for liberation. They offer a Community Safety Training series, which is a three-part workshop focused on introducing verbal de-escalation, direct action, event safety protocols, and the basics of organizational safety. These fundamentals of community safety are taught from an abolitionist and anti-oppression framework focusing on how we keep ourselves and our communities safe without relying upon the state. Individuals or groups committed to these values are welcomed to register for trainings, offered every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month on Zoom; scholarships are available.

Contact info@visionchangewin.com or Vision Change Win for customized trainings

Virtual offerings
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
A U.S. federal agency that aims to understand, manage, and reduce risk to cyber and physical infrastructure including election infrastructure.

- **Election Security report** — provides information on physical security preparedness at voting locations and election facilities.
- **Personal Security Considerations fact sheet** — outlines basic security measures to mitigate threats to personal safety.
- **De-Escalation Series and the Power of Hello resource** — provides information for critical infrastructure staff to identify potentially escalating situations, safely disengage, and report.
- **Active Shooter Preparedness video** — demonstrates possible actions that individuals can take if confronted with an active shooter scenario.

Community Relations Service (CRS)
A component of the Department of Justice, CRS works with community groups to resolve community conflicts or prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes. CRS trains representatives from government, faith organizations, law enforcement, civil rights groups, and other community organizations.

- Request information about customized trainings
- Learn more about CRS' training programs

For a full list of nationwide trainings visit, bridgingdivides.princeton.edu/community-resources/de-escalation-resources
De-escalation and bystander intervention resources are intended to support efforts at the local level to prevent and mitigate potential violence, harassment, and abuse.

**Local officials** such as city council members, school board members, election officials, and poll workers may want to consider utilizing de-escalation and bystander intervention tools to prepare for potentially contentious public meetings and election administration.

**Volunteers and community members**, who are planning to attend potentially contentious meetings may use these resources to prepare and strategize and techniques to recognize and de-escalate conflict.

See BDI’s de-escalation guides for [local officials](#) and [poll workers](#).

See [DC Peace Team’s de-escalation and bystander intervention guide](#). DC Peace Team is a nonprofit that empowers ordinary civilians to become nonviolent agents of sustainable peace and justice.

If your organization offers trainings like these, please reach out to [bdi@princeton.edu](mailto:bdi@princeton.edu) to be added to the directory.
Anyone (active bystander) can de-escalate tensions or harmful behavior by drawing on the CLARA method. However, before engaging in de-escalation, it is important to assess the situation, including your safety and others. Conflict de-escalation is not a technique that is appropriate for all circumstances.

**calm and Center Yourself:** Check in with yourself, appear calm, centered, and self-assured even if you don’t feel it. Avoid pointing, crossing your arms, or other more aggressive postures.

**listen:** Let the person vent and be sure to listen explicitly for feelings, needs, or values.

**acknowledge:** Begin by acknowledging the feelings, needs, or values you have heard. [Not about agreeing with their position, statement, or behavior.] ex. “I sense your aggravation at this situation. I hear your concern for safety.

**respond:** After acknowledgment, if there is a further threat of harassment or violence, offer open-ended or choice questions; address the issue; make a clear request or proposal. ex. “Will you tell me more about your concerns? “I understand you have every right to feel angry but it is not ok to threaten people here.”

**assess:** Trust your instincts: If de-escalation is not working, STOP & GET HELP.