



SIDE WITH LOVE

GROUNDING, RESILIENT, & RESPONSIBLE

Responding and Organizing
In Authoritarian Times

Welcome!

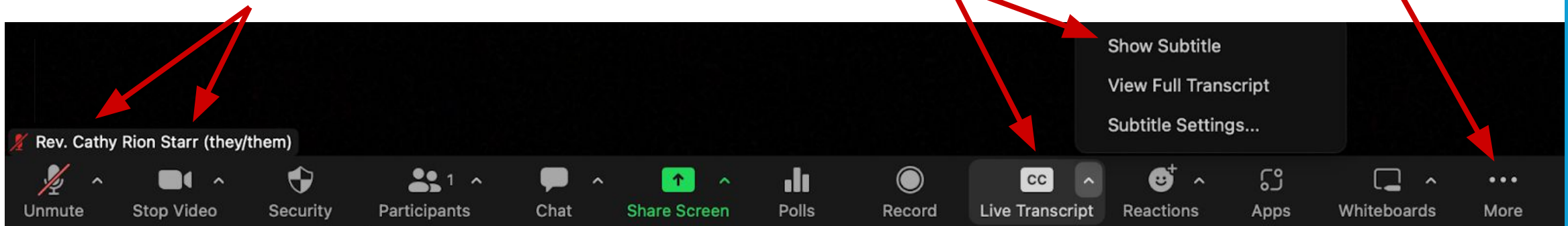
Greet one another in the chat! Share your name, city or congregation, and 1 thing that keeps you grounded.

Zoom Set-up

Click phone to mute or unmute
and click on video to wave hello

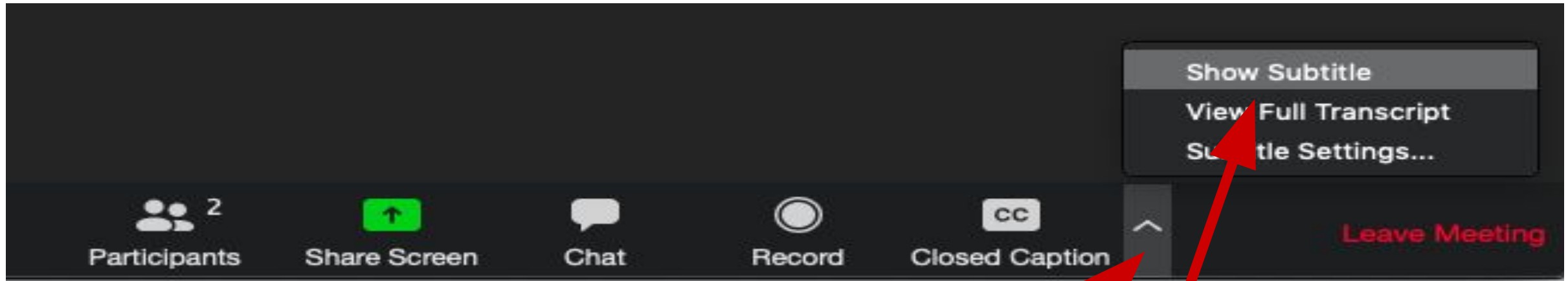
Click “Live Transcript”
Then “show subtitle”

or “...More” if you
don’t see that
option



Click “Participants” and “Chat”

Closed Captioning



Click arrow next to “Closed Caption” and click
“Show Subtitle”

Change to Gallery View

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there is a header bar with a grid of four video thumbnails. The first thumbnail shows a woman named 'Jeanne Rewa'. The other three thumbnails are blurred. In the top right corner of the header bar, there is a 'Gallery View' button with a grid icon and a dropdown menu that also shows 'Gallery View'. A large red arrow points from the right side of the screen towards this 'Gallery View' button. Below the header bar is a large, blurred video feed of a participant. At the bottom of the screen is a dark control bar with several icons: 'Unmute' (muted), 'Stop Video' (video off), 'Invite' (person with plus), 'Participants' (two people icon with '27'), 'Share Screen' (green screen icon), 'Chat' (speech bubble), 'Record' (circle with dot), and 'Leave Meeting' (text in red).



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Why we're here:

- **Learn from leaders about the moral and strategic call to grounded, resilient, and responsible organizing**
- **Discover how these lessons may be applied to your work or context**
- **Make a commitment to selecting one or more of the elements and working on them with one or more people**



Nicole Pressley
UUA



Rev. Brandan Robertson
UUA



India Harris
Audre Lorde Project



Rev. Tyler Coles
UUA



Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson
UU Justice NC

Meet the Team!

**GROUNDING,
RESILIENT, &
RESPONSIBLE**



Spiritual Care and Grounded Organizing

- **Be Centered:** If we proclaim that Love unites and sets all things free - then we - must participate in making it so.
- **Be Grounded:** Engage in embodied spiritual practices that center your spirit and sooth your nervous system (Ie. Collective Singing and Praying, Rituals of Anointing, deep breathing).
- **Free from Fear:** Resist the tantalizing voice of fear that attempts to cause us to stick to the status quo, succumb to indifference, or believe that life and living aren't worth risking for.
- **Pro Tip for Religious Leaders:** We must take our people's spiritual needs seriously. When we aren't spiritually parched, we are more inclined to build Heaven on Earth.

How Social Media Helps Us To Resist

- To **resist authoritarian tactics**, we must use social media wisely:
 - **Amplify truth, not disinformation.**
 - **Engage in strategic, rather than reactive, activism.**
 - **Protect ourselves and our communities online.**

The Do's & Don'ts of Responsible Social Media Use

✓ DO:

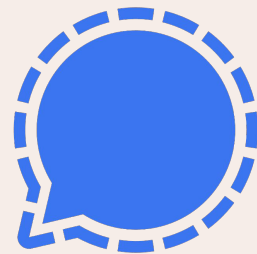
- ✓ Use time management apps to prevent burnout.
- ✓ Remove personal/location details to protect against doxing.
- ✓ Engage constructively—don't fuel toxic arguments.
- ✓ Say what you're for, not just what you're against.
- ✓ Amplify public information like Know Your Rights trainings.
- ✓ Verify before sharing—misinformation can be weaponized.
- ✓ Use content and trigger warnings where appropriate.
- ✓ Uplift marginalized voices—pass the mic to those most impacted.

✗ DON'T:

- ✗ Doom-scroll—it fuels anxiety and exhaustion.
- ✗ Share identifying details (names, faces, locations) without consent.
- ✗ Post sensitive or personal information.
- ✗ Declare intentions to engage in illegal activity.
- ✗ Spread fatalistic messages that lead to despair.
- ✗ Engage in public call-outs without assessing impact.
- ✗ Use hate speech or inflammatory language—even against oppressors.
- ✗ Participate in performative activism without taking real-world action.
- ✗ Click on suspicious links—phishing scams target activists.
- ✗ Assume privacy—everything online can be screenshotted or archived.

Social Media Sidebar:

Using Secure Channels for Organizing: Signal and Beyond



Signal

The Do's & Don'ts of Secure Communications

✓ DO:

- ✓ **Use Signal, ProtonMail, or Session** for organizing logistics and planning.
- ✓ **Keep conversations focused**—use these channels only for action-oriented discussions.
- ✓ **Regularly audit who has access** to ensure only trusted individuals remain in encrypted spaces.
- ✓ **Enable disappearing messages** where appropriate to minimize data retention risks.
- ✓ **Use code words or indirect language** when discussing sensitive actions.

✗ DON'T:

- ✗ **Chat casually on encrypted platforms**—use everyday apps for non-organizing discussions.
- ✗ **Share sensitive details over unencrypted channels** (e.g., Facebook Messenger, Gmail, WhatsApp).
- ✗ **Screenshot or forward messages**—this defeats the purpose of secure communication.
- ✗ **Assume total privacy**—even secure apps can be compromised if your device is accessed.

The Do's & Don'ts of Protests & Direct Action

✓ DO:

✓ **Create a safety plan**- Visit the location of the protest/action, determine potential exits, evacuation routes, and safe meet-up locations in case of emergency. Communicate this with your team

✓ **Know your rights**- Familiarize yourself with local protest laws and understand what to do if detained or arrested.

Pro Tip- Offer care/healing spaces for your team to decompress

✗ DON'T:

✗ **Think all protests are the same.** Different organizations have different political aims, safety provisions, and strategies. Always research before attending.

✗ **Take photos and share photos on social media of participants without consent.** This can endanger people, especially those facing surveillance, legal risks, or threats.

The Do's & Don'ts of Safety & Risk Assessment

✓ DO:

✓ **Prioritize the safety of a community over your visible support of them.** Sometimes, operating behind the scenes or offering support in less visible ways is the most responsible choice.

✓ **Assess risk based on clear values, mission, and strategy-** Discuss with leadership and community members what risks align with your commitments and what precautions should be taken.

**Pro Tip- Utilize the tools at your disposal.
Safety is defined by the actions we take.**

✗ DON'T:

✗ **Don't assume all community members have the same risk level.** Marginalized groups often face heightened threats, so tailor risk assessments to different identities and experiences.

✗ **Don't assume that past protections still apply.** Laws and policies change—what was once considered a “safe” action may now carry different risks. Laws have always been selectively enforced and the rights of marginalized communities are often violated.

Partnership:

- **✓ Do Follow the lead of your partners** and engage within their existing organizing frameworks. Show up, say yes, do the thing.
- **✓ Do Organize & Offer your Congregational Assets.** Adapt institutional systems to be nimble & responsive to partner asks.
- **✗ Don't be a safety liability.** People's lives are at stake.
- **Pro Tip - ✓ Be the kind of partner whose phone call your partners want to answer, and who they'll pick up the phone to call.**



The **Gathering**

Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead

Join us for our new monthly gathering to ground in love, build resilience, and take action for justice together.

Monday, March 10 at 8 ET, 7 CT, 6 MT, 5 PT on Zoom



New Resource From

SIDE WITH LOVE

ACTION CENTER WEEKLY UPDATES

Each week, we'll bring you a brief analysis of critical political issues, immediate actions you can take, and helpful resources to deepen your knowledge and strengthen our collective work to side with love.

SideWithLove.org/ActionCenter