



**PEOPLE  
POWER  
ACADEMY**

# DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

**APRIL 26 TO 28  
CHARLOTTESVILLE  
VIRGINIA**



**GLOBAL  
SCHOOL FOR  
ACTIVISTS**

# PEOPLE POWER ACADEMY



## BEWARE! THEY ARE EDUCATED!

The 2024 CANVAS People Power Academy presents an exciting opportunity for discourse and education about strategies for social change and movements around the globe. Each day will have keynote speakers, presentations from activists about their campaigns, panel discussions, study groups, and engaging workshops. This will be an interactive way for attendees to learn new perspectives and lessons to apply to their own causes. People Power Academy is a dynamic platform for individuals and activists seeking to challenge autocracy and address critical issues like countering propaganda, cybersecurity, and the transition process' promises and pitfalls. We will explore obstacles and lessons learned in the domains of creativity, branding, security, and the use of technology by both movements and autocrats. Attendees can look forward to gaining knowledge about creative tactics, effective campaign strategies, and the opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals. Great networking opportunities will offer a unique chance to forge meaningful connections, exchange insights, and collaborate with other activists.

**We hope to see you in April for a shared exploration into some of the most significant challenges of our time and the ways we can overcome them!**

**REGISTER HERE**



Online streaming will be available for participants who aren't able to attend the event in person.



**26** APRIL  
FRIDAY

# LEARNING FROM THE FRONTLINE

Understanding global  
autocracy and varying  
nonviolent resistance tactics

When organizing and participating in a nonviolent movement, it is critical to understand the inner workings of autocratic oppositions.

**HOW DO AUTOCRATIC LEADERS  
CONCENTRATE THEIR POWERS?  
HOW HAVE ACTIVISTS BEEN ABLE TO  
ADAPT TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES?**

Autocratic threats to human rights and democracy may be difficult to oppose, but possible to resist and overcome. Mobilizing a successful movement takes not just passion, but knowledge of nonviolent tactics and strategies as well.

On this first day, we will discuss the methods used by autocratic governments to hold their power and authority. It is vital for civil society to comprehend how autocrats maintain control and to learn about different nonviolent resistance tactics and how effective they can be. Creative activism and dilemma actions can break fear, encourage participation and increase visibility of the cause. All this will be discussed, as well as personal experience of activists through several case studies where activists employed these techniques.



**27** APRIL  
**SATURDAY**

# TECHNOLOGY & DISINFORMATION

Navigating cyber risks and being  
equipped against propaganda

When organizing and participating in a nonviolent movement, it is critical to understand the inner workings of autocratic oppositions.

**HOW DO AUTOCRATIC LEADERS  
CONCENTRATE THEIR POWERS?  
HOW HAVE ACTIVISTS BEEN ABLE TO  
ADAPT TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES?**

Autocratic threats to human rights and democracy may be difficult to oppose, but possible to resist and overcome. Mobilizing a successful movement takes not just passion, but knowledge of nonviolent tactics and strategies as well. On this first day, we will discuss the methods used by autocratic governments to hold their power and authority. It is vital for civil society to comprehend how autocrats maintain control and to learn about different nonviolent resistance tactics and how effective they can be. Creative activism and dilemma actions can break fear, encourage participation and increase visibility of the cause. All this will be discussed, as well as personal experience of activists through several case studies where activists employed these techniques.



**28** APRIL  
**SUNDAY**

# MOVEMENTS IN TRANSITION

What Activists need to be  
aware of and how to stay  
engaged in the transitions  
process

Achieving success in a nonviolent struggle marks the beginning of a new stage - transition. Once change has been realized, it is important for movements to uphold their values during this period. Numerous aspects are crucial to the final outcome, such as holding people in power accountable and ensuring the entire society benefits from the change. Activists should actively engage in institutional reform and continue advocating from within to establish strong and independent tools of democracy. In all circumstances, maintaining stability throughout the process involves continued organizing and clear messaging in this fragile stage. On this day, we will discuss the transition process and how activists can prepare for it. Drawing insight from case studies, we will delve into promises and pitfalls of transitions and negotiations. Additionally, we will present CANVAS' recent research and new curriculum 'Movements in Transition', which entails important findings and new strategies to sustain change.



# PEOPLE POWER ACADEMY

SUPPORTED BY



UVA

KARSH INSTITUTE OF  
DEMOCRACY

