The 6th CANVAS People Power Academy presents an exciting opportunity for discourse and education about the critical topics the world is facing.

Each day will feature keynote speakers, activists sharing insights from their campaigns, panel discussions, study groups, and interactive workshops. This will be an engaging platform for attendees to learn new perspectives and strategies to apply to their own movements, and to gain new skills and tools for achieving their goals!

People Power Academy continues to be a vibrant space for individuals who seek to challenge repression. During the 2025 PPA we will address vital issues such as protection and resilience strategies for movements, combating law restrictions against activists, and the effects of Artificial Intelligence in activism. We will explore how activists can safeguard themselves, navigate legal obstacles, and harness or counteract the evolving role of artificial intelligence in modern movements. Attendees will have the chance to gain practical knowledge on how to sustain movements in hostile environments and defend human rights in the digital age.

In addition to learning, this Academy offers outstanding networking opportunities, allowing activists to forge meaningful connections, exchange ideas, and collaborate with like-minded individuals. Whether in person or through online streaming, we look forward to your participation in this shared exploration of how we can protect our fundamental rights and overcome the increasing obstacles that challenge freedom of assembly.

We hope to see you in April as we stand together against repression and push forward in the defense of people's voices!

GLOBAL SCHOOL 4 ACTIVISTS

PEOPLE POWER ACADEMY

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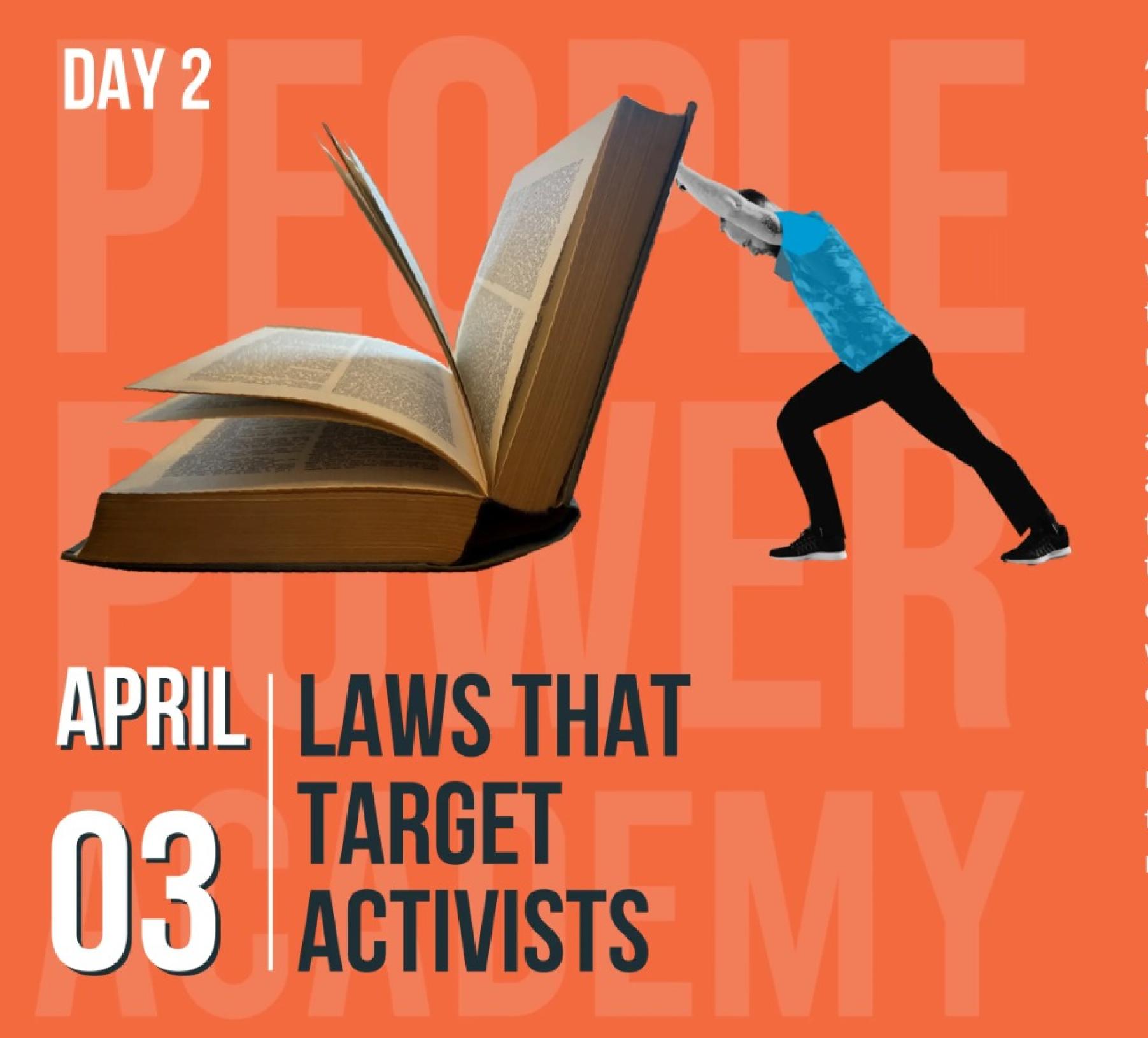
APRIL 02 | PROTECTION & RESILIENCE STRATEGIES

In a world where challenges to safety are rapidly unfolding, building resilience is crucial for those on the frontlines of social change. Pro-democracy movements are forced to operate in increasingly hostile environments as armed conflicts have embraced an overwhelming intensity. Meanwhile, many autocratic leaders have successfully gauged the vulnerabilities of their opposition, allowing them to employ sophisticated methods of repression in both physical and digital realms. We will navigate the tools necessary to help activists identify threats, implement risk assessments, and develop comprehensive protocols for the security of their movement. The rise of mass surveillance also presents significant challenges for activists in their effort to maintain protection – not only through the means of physical and digital protection but also one's mental well-being as they remain vigilant for their cause. With the rise of trauma caused by increased repression and disinformation, we aim to develop practices to prevent long-term psychological harm, while also reinforcing effective strategies to ensure one's physical and digital safety.

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APRIL 03 | LAWS THAT TARGET ACTIVISTS

As autocratic regimes worldwide extensively impose restrictive laws to curb dissent, activists must adapt to new challenges threatening their ability to organize and protest freely. One of the most pressing legislative threats is the enactment of foreign agent laws, which are used to censor activists and organizations who oppose the acting government's repression. We will examine the implications of these laws and discuss ways to navigate their restrictions. With the growing trend of banning protests and other forms of public opposition, we will also explore how activists can adapt their tactics to continue peacefully advocating for change, even in environments where traditional forms of protest are criminalized. Movements have been targeted within the digital sphere too, as legal restrictions have extended to activists' use of media in our increasingly online world. The effective use of digital tools to combat unjust censorship, therefore, is vital in maintaining the stability of your movement. Understanding how and why legislation targets the rights of activists will allow us to develop innovative approaches to achieve the freedoms necessary for sustaining nonviolent movements under repressive regimes.

DAY 3
APRIL
04

MOVEMENTS IN THE AGE OF AI
OPPORTUNITY OR CHALLENGE?

As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes various aspects of society, its impact on social movements cannot be understated. On one hand, AI offers activists unprecedented tools for organizing, amplifying their voices, and mobilizing support. Machine learning algorithms can help activists analyze data, spot trends, and automate processes that strengthen social movements. These tools promise to enhance the effectiveness of movements while upholding democratic values by promoting transparency and accountability. However, AI also introduces significant threats. Autocratic regimes and malicious actors increasingly use AI for surveillance, disinformation, and repression, jeopardizing both civil liberties and the integrity of democratic institutions. This session will explore the double-edged sword of AI, diving into how movements can harness its power while remaining vigilant against its misuse. Experts will offer insights into cutting-edge AI tools for advocacy, alongside critical discussions on safeguarding democracy in the age of artificial intelligence.

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