

# 59 Protest movements

## Extinction Rebellion protest blocks the Strand

During the *Extinction Rebellion*\* **demonstrations** in April, the police arrested over 1,000 people and charged 53 **in connection with** the climate change protests across five UK cities. In response to these arrests, the group **staged** another demonstration yesterday outside the Royal Courts of Justice. They **occupied** much of the Strand, and by **erecting barriers** and sitting in the road, they effectively blocked the **entire** area for almost eight hours. No arrests were made and the police have recognised their right to protest. Nevertheless, the Chief Constable has made it clear that the police do have a duty to **uphold** the rule of law, and cannot **tolerate** significant **disruption** to communities across the capital.

Meanwhile, the group has **called on activists** to participate in a summer of 'creative acts of civil **disobedience**', which they hope will force government into taking action.



\* *Extinction Rebellion* is a political **movement** with a **mission** to **avert** climate catastrophe and **minimise** the risk of ecological collapse, and with it the extinction of **human beings** altogether. They aim to do this through non-violent **resistance**.

### GLOSSARY

<b>rebellion</b> [U, C]	opposition to authority by an organized group	<b>tolerate</b>	allow sb to do sth that you do not agree with <b>SYN put up with sth</b>
<b>protest</b> [U, C]	the expression of strong disagreement with or opposition to sth. A person is a <b>protester</b> . <b>protest</b> v	<b>disruption</b>	a situation in which it is difficult for sth to continue in the normal way
<b>demonstration</b>	a public meeting or march at which people show they are protesting against sth or supporting sth. A person is a <b>demonstrator</b> . <b>demonstrate</b> v	<b>call on sb to do sth</b>	ask or demand that sb do sth
<b>in connection with sth/sb</b>	for reasons connected with sth/sb	<b>activist</b>	a person who works to achieve political or social change
<b>stage</b>	organize and take part in action that needs careful planning	<b>disobedience</b>	refusal or failure to obey
<b>erect</b>	put sth in position and make it stand <i>upright</i> (= in a vertical position)	<b>movement</b>	a group of people who share the same ideas or aims
<b>barrier</b>	an object like a fence that stops people moving forward	<b>mission</b>	particular work that you feel it is your duty to do
<b>entire</b>	including everything, everyone or every part	<b>avert</b>	prevent sth bad or dangerous from happening
<b>uphold</b>	support sth that you think is right and make sure it continues to exist	<b>minimize</b>	reduce sth, especially sth bad, to the lowest possible level
		<b>being</b>	a living creature: <b>a human being</b>
		<b>resistance</b> [U, <i>sing</i> ]	opposition to or dislike of an idea, plan, etc; refusal to obey

### SPOTLIGHT *occupy*

**Occupy** has several meanings:

- 1 enter a place in a large group and take control of it (as above)
- 2 fill or use a space, an area or an amount of time: *The bed **occupies** half the room.*
- 3 live or work in a room, building, etc: *We **occupy** the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the building.*

**1 Underline the stress on these words. Use the  to help you.**

rebellion      minimise      protester      uphold      demonstrators      avert  
erect      occupy      demonstration      meanwhile      protest *n*      disobedience

**2 Circle the words which suggest public protest.**

demonstration      mission      disruption      rebellion  
uphold      disobedience      tolerate      resistance      occupy

**3 True or false? Write T or F. If false, explain why.**

- 1 If you erect something, you make it stand upright. ....
- 2 If someone upholds the law, they are trying to break it. ....
- 3 If you avert an accident, you see it. ....
- 4 If you tolerate something, you stop it happening. ....
- 5 A building which is occupied is empty. ....
- 6 A barrier is put somewhere to prevent someone from going somewhere. ....
- 7 If you minimize something, you reduce it slightly. ....
- 8 A rebellion is a person who is demonstrating against something. ....

**4 Replace the underlined word(s) with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.**

- 1 The protesters pulled down the metal fences that the police had put across the road. ....
- 2 There was even greater refusal to obey today at the march. ....
- 3 The people who are working to get political change are meeting in the square. ....
- 4 The demonstration caused considerable problems and interruptions. ....
- 5 There could be a lot of opposition to this plan. ....
- 6 A new political group has formed around concerns about hate crimes. ....
- 7 The government has asked people to cooperate with them at this time of crisis. ....
- 8 We're organizing a march through the city to protest about cuts to public spending. ....
- 9 The whole village is opposed to the council plan for more new homes. ....
- 10 The local community won't put up with any more disruption. ....

**5 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?**

- 1 We weren't treated like human at the demonstration – more like animals. It was disgusting. ....
- 2 The organizers of the march have called activists to avoid any forms of violence. ....
- 3 Although the demonstration will cause problems, the police are keen to the disruption. ....
- 4 Reporters want to interview the protesters in with the events of last night. ....
- 5 The offices have been by an employment agency for over forty years. ....
- 6 They were careful to any potential danger to the neighbourhood. ....
- 7 We joined a group of who were carrying banners protesting about climate change. ....
- 8 The airline has attempted to avert during the pilots' strike. ....
- 9 We should no longer up with our politicians continually ignoring global warming. ....
- 10 It was the protesters who the barriers in order to keep themselves safe. ....

**6 Complete the texts.**

Economic instability in the country has led to the emergence of a new protest (1) ..... called 'Fight to Survive'. Their (2) ..... is to bring about political change through civil (3) ..... : acts such as marching, sitting in the road or strikes. At the same time, they wish to (4) ..... any disruption to the general public, and they are aware that actions such as (5) ..... government buildings are rarely (6) ..... by the authorities.

A group of (7) ..... have been protesting in front of Parliament about animal rights. The (8) ..... started at 8.00 a.m. in Hyde Park, and led to a march towards Parliament Square with (9) ..... carrying signs saying 'Meat is Murder' and 'Think with your heart, not your stomach'. They are (10) ..... on Members of Parliament to pass laws ensuring that animals have equal rights with human (11) ....., and they are planning to (12) ..... further demonstrations in the coming weeks.



TEST YOURSELF