

QUEER APOCALYPSE SOLUTIONS

Queer Apocalypse Survival Skill #2: BUILD ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES

We cannot survive alone. We need the help of our community, and we need to help our community. This is one of our more controversial skills that requires you to take some risks and get out of your comfort zone. This may mean accepting that we have exited safe space and entered bold space. For this, we ask you to engage in corporeal politics and create accountable safety networks. Putting your body in the same physical space with other bodies is a resistance to and break from the dystopic world of the social media fake news cycle. Know who is with you and who is not. To paraphrase [Timothy Snyder](#), having old friends is the last resort, making new ones is a crucial step towards positive change.

Tactic #1: Cross Boundaries

How to:

Have deep and meaningful interactions with people in unusual places. Engage fully with the person who serves your coffee, lives across the street from you, hangs out by the bus station, bags your groceries, is in your exercise class, stands next to you in a line, takes care of your lawn, or really anyone who lives within your daily/weekly trajectory. Make eye contact, and go beyond small talk. Find out where they are from, who are *their* people, what are their dreams, what are they up to after work or the next weekend. If you're living in a conservative part of the country, this allows you to learn who is accountable during moments of crisis and who will be part of fueling the crisis.

Safety tip: Engage in conversations during daylight and in public places.

Variation: Talk to someone you already know, but truly connect with them and get their contact information. Go on a hike together, have coffee, cook a meal or volunteer.

Tactic #2: Establish Boundaries

How to: Establish very clear rules regarding what is your public versus private life, especially online. The totalitarian state wants us to have complete access to our private life. In fact, the state wants us to have no boundaries between public and private life whatsoever. This doesn't mean that you must not share at all, but rather, you are conscious of the boundaries.

Studies have shown that people can be more empathetic when they have strict boundaries with regards to how much they engage with others and to what extent. In order for you to be an accountable member of your apocalypse community, you need to have clear boundaries. Put your phone on silent during nighttime, when you need to focus, and/or when you are having quality time with someone. You do not need to be available at all times. If you have an energy vampire friend or family member, limit the

amount of time you spend on them. Few things in our lives are true emergencies. Allow yourself to rest after long periods of social engagement.

Variation: If you are having a dinner party/get together set a clear beginning and end time. If people do not leave by the end time, tell them you need to get to your work or need to sleep.

Tactic #3:

How to: Ignore the two first tactics, read Malcolm Gladwell's [Talking to Strangers](#), and draw your own conclusions.