

# SAFE EVENTS

10 ways to keep safe at events

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE





The Safe Space Alliance is a LGBTQI+ led nonprofit organisation that aims to help people identify, navigate, and create safe spaces for LGBTQI+ communities worldwide. Being part of the Safe Space Alliance is being part of a global and collaborative safe space community.

Version 1.0


Published 2024 by Safe Space Alliance

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It's important to keep safe at events, particularly LGBTQI+ events where heightened threat levels have been identified and published by local authorities.

# OVERVIEW

This guide covers ten ways to keep safe at events:

- ① Plan ahead
- ② Stay connected
- ③ Travel in groups
- ④ Be aware of your surroundings
- ⑤ Know emergency procedures
- ⑥ Avoid isolated areas
- ⑦ Drink and eat wisely
- ⑧ Keep personal items secure
- ⑨ Report suspicious activity
- ⑩ Have an exit strategy

# 1. PLAN AHEAD

Familiarise yourself with the event location including exits, restrooms, and first aid stations.

Know the layout at the event so you can navigate it easily in case of an emergency.

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## SUGGESTIONS



Create a detailed itinerary. Include the event schedule, travel times, meal breaks, and any other activities you want to do.



Determine how you will get to and from the event. Look into public transportation, ride-sharing services, and/or carpooling options.







## 2. STAY CONNECTED

Inform friends and family of your whereabouts and schedule.

Keep your phone charged and have emergency contacts readily available.

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### SUGGESTIONS



Physically write down and take emergency contact information to use if your phone loses power, is stolen, or is lost.



Follow the events official social media accounts for updates and announcements.

# 3. BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Stay alert and pay attention to what's happening around you. If you notice anything unusual or feel uncomfortable, move to a safer area.

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## SUGGESTIONS



Identify notable landmarks or features in the area. These can help you navigate the venue and serve as meeting points if you get separated from your group.



Pay attention to the behavior of people around you. Watch for sudden changes in crowd movement or mood, which can indicate potential issues.



Be aware of any announcements or signals indicating emergencies. Know the event's emergency procedures and follow them promptly.



Be friendly but cautious with people you don't know. Avoid sharing personal information or leaving with strangers.

## 4. TRAVEL IN GROUPS



Attend the event with friends or companions. There's safety in numbers, and you'll have someone to rely on if something goes wrong.

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### SUGGESTIONS

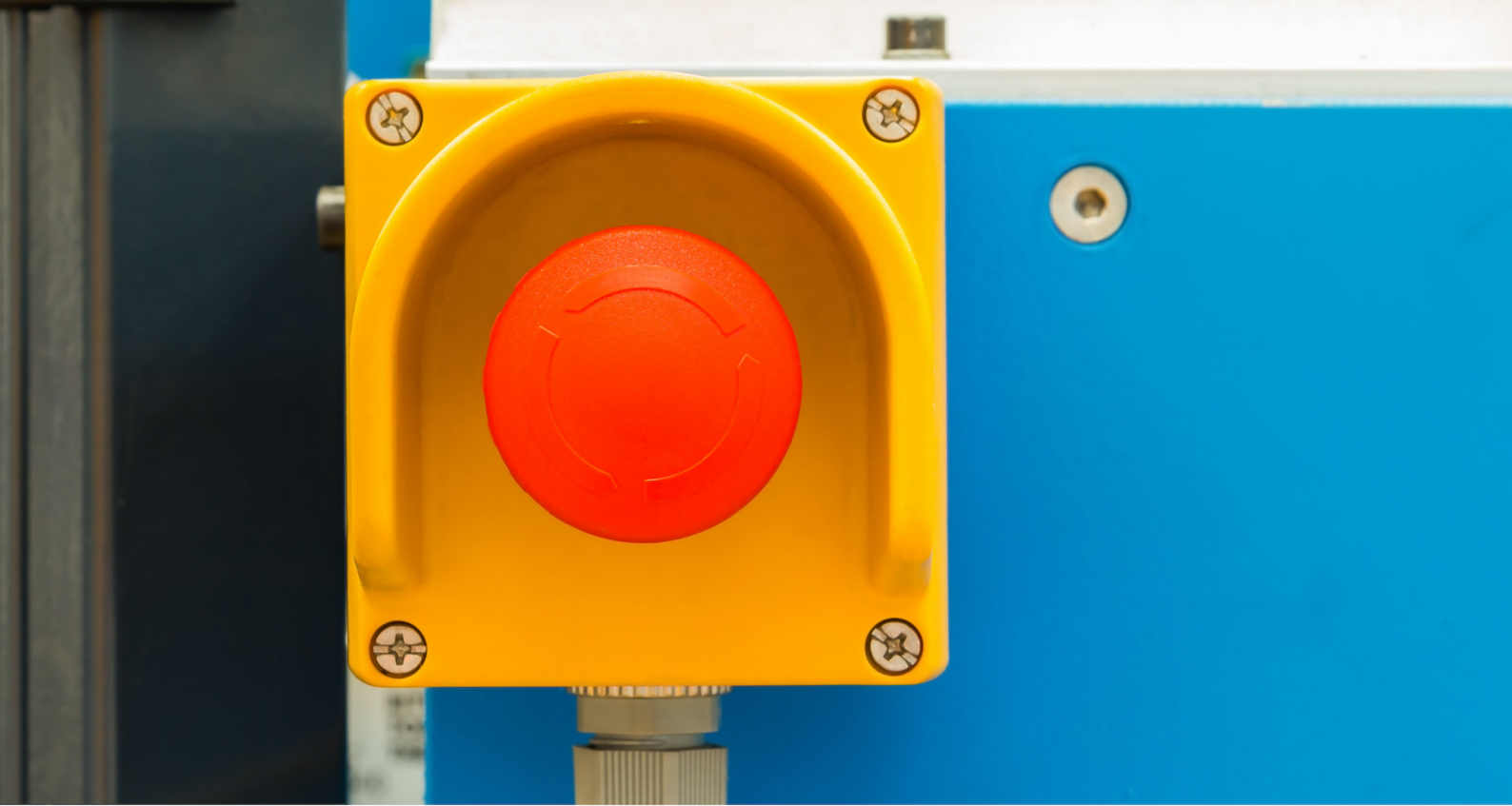


Use a messaging app to communicate and coordinate with the group during the event.



Delegate tasks among group members, such as navigating, keeping track of time, or managing belongings. Distributing responsibilities helps lighten the load and ensures everything runs smoothly.





## **5. KNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Pay attention to announcements and follow instructions from event staff or security personnel in case of an emergency.

# 6. AVOID ISOLATED AREAS

Stick to well-lit and populated areas. Avoid going to secluded spots, especially alone, and be cautious when using restrooms or money machines.

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## SUGGESTIONS



Maintain visibility by staying within sight of other attendees, event staff, or security personnel.



Use main walkways and pathways rather than taking shortcuts through secluded areas. This reduces the likelihood of encountering isolated spots.





## 7. DRINK AND EAT WISELY

Stay hydrated, especially if the event is outdoors or involves physical activity. Drink plenty of water and have snacks to maintain your energy levels.

Avoid accepting drink and food from strangers.

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### SUGGESTIONS



Carry a reusable water bottle and refill it regularly to stay hydrated.



If alcohol is served at the event, drink responsibly and pace yourself.



# 8. KEEP PERSONAL ITEMS SECURE

Use a secure bag or pouch for your belongings. Avoid bringing valuable items, and keep your wallet, phone, and keys in a secure, easily accessible place.

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## SUGGESTIONS



If your clothing has pockets, opt for ones with secure closures like zippers or buttons to prevent items from falling out or being easily accessed by others.



Never leave your belongings unattended, even for a brief moment. Thieves can take advantage of distracted or unsuspecting individuals to steal unattended items.

# 9. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



If you see anything or anyone that seems suspicious or out of place, inform event security or authorities immediately.

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## SUGGESTIONS



Avoid confronting individuals engaged in suspicious behavior. Instead, maintain a safe distance and discreetly observe their actions while notifying event staff or security.



After reporting the suspicious activity, remain available to provide additional information or assistance to event staff or security personnel if needed.



## 10. HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY

Identify multiple exits and have a plan for leaving quickly if necessary. Avoid rushing to the main exit with the crowd in an emergency; use alternative exits if possible.



Remember, prioritising safety at an event is essential for personal well-being, enjoyment, and maintaining a positive experience for everyone involved.





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