



Republic Banner Drop Action Guide

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How To Make a Banner

We recommend groups make a banner together. This is generally cheaper than printing and is a fun activity for groups to do. You can also print a banner using a variety of different services, although this will often cost slightly more.



Slogan Suggestions

In all cases, replace 'XYZ' with your location. You are also welcome to come up with your own slogans, so long as they relate to the aims of Republic and are not offensive or illegal. Here are some examples:

- XYZ FOR A REPUBLIC!
- XYZ AGAINST THE MONARCHY
- DOWN WITH THE CROWN

Design Specifications

A yellow and black colour scheme is strongly recommended if you are making your own banner. Republic has a preset font and colour scheme that we use on all our resources, which is listed below:

Font: League Spartan

Colour 1: Dark Grey, Hex Code #383838 ■

Colour 2: Yellow, Hex Code #fff60b ■

How To Do a Banner Drop

Choosing a Location

Location is everything for banner drops! Great options include:

- In front of iconic locations (e.g. Angel of the North, Buckingham Palace).
- Motorway bridges.
- Bridges over a river (e.g. Westminster Bridge, Clifton Suspension Bridge).



Considerations When Choosing a Location

- How good will the photo look? Make sure to check exactly where you can take a photo from on the day.
- How easy is the location to access?
- Does the location have any specific meaning? (e.g. relating to the Royals directly).
- Is the location safe?

Motorway bridges can be very effective locations and guarantee your banner will be seen by thousands of people. Before doing a banner drop near a motorway,

remember that there will be extra safety and legal concerns. See [this](#) YouTube video for further info on motorway bridge banner drops.

Recruiting and Organising

In order to make a banner drop happen you will need a team of people to get involved. Ideally, you want a team of 4-8 individuals who will help in making and installing the banner. Make sure to work with others in your Local Group, or, alternatively, work with another nearby Local Group to boost numbers.

You will need to assemble a team to help purchase the fabric and art supplies as well as make the actual banner. Try and pool people from your Local Group who are keen to get stuck in! Remember that this is a fun activity which is a great way to meet other republicans in your Local Group and an excellent way for people to get involved in stunts who might not want to be on the 'frontlines' of activism.

On the Day

Once your team has travelled to the location of your banner drop, you will need to 'install' the banner. This will be done through one of two approaches.

1. You hold the banner up temporarily using a team of people.

Or...

2. You 'install' the banner using zip ties and other equipment at your location before taking it down again and leaving.

If doing the second method, here is the best approach:

- Make sure you have put eyelets into your banner. This will be necessary in order to attach using zip ties.
- Use heavy-duty plastic zip-ties and install the banner on the inside of the railings, ensuring it is attached along the entire length of the top edge (Mounting holes should be no more than 50cm apart for vinyl banners and 1m apart for mesh banners).
- If the site allows, install all the top fixings along the length of the banner on the inside of the railing and then flip the banner over to the outside. Ensure the fixings can easily take the weight of the banner and are not in a position where they can rub and wear in high winds.
- Ensure all edges of the banner are fixed in place with secure fixings.
- If you want it to be seen for some time, make sure the banner team is able to wait with the banner in case of any issues.
- Ensure that you use the same levels of safety when you remove your banner as you did when you installed it. If your banner is installed above a road, wait for a gap in the traffic to remove it.

Additional Tips

- If installing above a road, wait for a gap in the traffic so that drivers aren't distracted by the installation. If the location is busy, consider installing very early in the morning. Remember, if you're not 110% sure the banner drop will be safe, hang it somewhere else!
- Wind on motorway bridges can be significant and increases as large vehicles pass underneath. If this makes fixing the banner difficult or you think it might rip, have a backup location in mind, possibly on some railings beside a road, at ground level.
- Pedestrian footbridges are sometimes easier and safer than road bridges, but might not have as much impact.
- Think about the strength of the material your banner is made from and factor this into your banner drop location and installation process. Whatever your banner is made from, be sure it is strong enough not to rip in the wind and that the attachment points (eyelets) are also strong.



Getting Great Photos

It's vital to get great photos of your banner drop. Hundreds might see your banner on the day, but tens of thousands will see it online!

- Choose your location to be good for photos, including checking exactly where you will take photos from on the day.
- Have a person with the specific role of taking photos. They should have the best camera available to them.
- Make sure photos are taken in landscape mode instead of portrait mode. This will allow for high-quality images to be posted on social media and distributed to the press.

- Take as many photos as possible! Having a large bank of photography will help both your Local Group and the Republic team be as creative as possible with the images provided.

Further info on how to operate protest and stunt social media can be found on this guide [here](#).

Legal Considerations

It is worth noting that legal considerations of an action are very much based on the location you pick! There should be little chance of any legal action following a banner drop. However, it is important to be aware of the law in regard to banner drop actions, particularly if you are doing a banner drop on a roadway bridge.

These are the two biggest legal considerations to take into account:

Section 22A Road Traffic Act 1988 - Causing Danger to Road Users.

The relevant part of this piece of legislation is:

*(1) A person is guilty of an offence if he intentionally and without lawful authority or reasonable cause -
(a) causes anything to be on or over a road, in such circumstances that it would be obvious to a reasonable person that to do so would be dangerous.*

It goes on to define dangerous:

'Dangerous' refers to danger either of injury to any person while on or near a road, or of serious damage to property on or near a road; and in determining for the purposes of that subsection what would be obvious to a reasonable person in a particular case, regard shall be had not only to the circumstances of which he could be expected to be aware but also to any circumstances shown to have been within the knowledge of the accused.

The key here is to make certain that there is no chance of the action being 'dangerous'. It is pretty clear that if the banner drop is done safely, as illustrated in the previous sections, there would be no offence committed under this section of the Act.

Criminal Damage

Criminal Damage is the "deliberate or reckless damage" of property without lawful excuse. The damage does not have to be permanent – people have been accused of this offence after using chalk on paving stones. It includes interfering with property in a manner that causes loss, which could include loss of profit (e.g. by setting off a fire alarm). Defence can often hinge on the 'lawful excuse' aspect of this offence. This offence is divided into two - Damage below £5,000, or damage above £5,000.

It is worth noting that being in possession of a banner is rarely used as the sole reason for legal consequences or police interference - what is more important is doing your research into the context in which the banner will be used.

If in doubt check [Green and Black Cross](#) for more information and contact one of Republic's Protest and Activism Team.

Please note that if you use a Banner as part of an action/stunt organised by your autonomous Local Group, Republic Campaign Ltd will not be liable for any legal consequences that follow from the use of the banner. Where Local Groups have acted responsibly but come up against injustice, Republic Campaign Ltd will do what we can in our best efforts to support your Local Group.