

Build Your Multi-Strategy Civic Action Plan

With inspiration from Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray

What specific change do you want to see? _____

Why is this change needed now? _____

Who is most affected by this issue? _____

Strategy 1: Legal Approach

Following Pauli Murray's groundbreaking legal work

What legal avenue will you pursue?

- ☐ Research existing laws/policies that need changing
- ☐ File a complaint with a government agency
- ☐ Support pending legislation
- ☐ Challenge discriminatory practices
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Legal Strategy:

Specific Action: _____

Legal Basis/Arguments: _____

Timeline: _____

Resources Needed: _____

Potential Obstacles: _____

Strategy 2: Literary/Communication Approach

Following Pauli Murray's powerful use of writing and poetry

What form of written expression will you use?

- ☐ Letters to officials (like Murray's letters to FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt)
- ☐ Poetry/creative writing (like Murray's protest poems)
- ☐ Op-eds/articles for local newspapers
- ☐ Social media campaign
- ☐ Petition with compelling narrative
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Literary Strategy:

Specific Action: _____

Target Audience: _____

Key Message/Theme: _____

Tone/Style: _____

Distribution Plan: _____

Draft Your Opening Line/Stanza: _____

Strategy 3: Organizational Approach

Following Pauli Murray's coalition-building and organizing work

What type of organizing will you do?

- ☐ Form a new organization/committee
- ☐ Join existing advocacy groups
- ☐ Organize protests/demonstrations (like Murray's sit-ins)
- ☐ Build coalitions across different communities
- ☐ Plan educational events/workshops
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Organizational Strategy:

Specific Action: _____

Key Partners/Allies: _____

Your Role: _____

Meeting/Event Plans: _____

Recruitment Strategy: _____

Strategy 4: Personal Expression Approach

Following Pauli Murray's use of identity and self-presentation as resistance

How will you use personal expression?

- ☐ Fashion/clothing choices (like Murray's gender-nonconforming style)
- ☐ Art/visual displays
- ☐ Performance/spoken word
- ☐ Personal storytelling
- ☐ Symbolic actions
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Personal Expression Strategy:

Specific Action: _____

Symbolic Meaning: _____

Where/When: _____

Expected Impact: _____

Documentation Plan: _____

Integration & Timeline

How do these strategies work together?

Strategy Connections: _____

Reinforcing Messages: _____

Timing Coordination: _____

3-Month Action Timeline:

Month 1:

- Week 1: _____
- Week 2: _____
- Week 3: _____
- Week 4: _____

Month 2:

- Week 1: _____
- Week 2: _____
- Week 3: _____
- Week 4: _____

Month 3:

- Week 1: _____
- Week 2: _____
- Week 3: _____
- Week 4: _____

Resources & Support

What do you need to succeed?

Financial Resources: _____

Human Resources: _____

Information/Research: _____

Skills to Develop: _____

Mentors/Advisors: _____

Potential Challenges & Solutions:

Challenge 1: _____ Solution: _____

Challenge 2: _____ Solution: _____

Challenge 3: _____ Solution: _____

Success Metrics & Reflection

How will you measure progress?

Short-term indicators (1 month): _____

Medium-term indicators (3 months): _____

Long-term indicators (6+ months): _____

Documentation Plan:

- ☐ Keep a journal/notes (like Murray did)
- ☐ Take photos/videos of actions
- ☐ Save copies of all written materials
- ☐ Track media coverage
- ☐ Record responses from officials
- ☐ Other: _____

Reflection Questions for Monthly Check-ins:

1. Which strategy is proving most effective? Why?
2. What would Murray do differently in this situation?
3. How can you better apply intersectional thinking?
4. What unexpected allies or obstacles have emerged?
5. How has this work changed your understanding of civic engagement?

Pauli Murray Quotes

"The ultimate test of democracy is not the rhetoric of its leaders, but how it treats the least powerful of its citizens."

"Hope is a song in a weary throat."

"One person plus one typewriter constitutes a movement."

"I speak for my race and my people - The human race and just people."

Which Pauli Murray quote resonates most with your action plan? Why?

Emergency Pivot Plan

Pauli Murray was adaptable - what's your backup strategy?

If your primary legal strategy fails: _____

If your writing doesn't get attention: _____

If organizing efforts stall: _____

If personal expression faces backlash: _____

Accountability Partners

Name: _____

Role: Check in weekly, provide feedback

Email and/or Phone: _____

Name: _____

Role: Help with specific strategies

Email and/or Phone: _____