



**MOTION:**

## ‘Protestors should give up on disruptive action’

*Extinction Rebellion became a household name in 2018 following a series of disruptive protests, varying from smashing windows of bank headquarters to supergluing themselves to the gates of Buckingham Palace, all in the name of climate action. Whilst their publicity soared, public support for their cause wavered. This has led to a shift in their tactics which they announced at the beginning of 2023 stating they would be focusing on “relationships over roadblocks” in order to further their objective.*

*In contrast, other environmental groups like Just Stop Oil have expanded their direct action in recent times including throwing paint at world-famous artworks. Civil disobedience of this nature has been tried and tested for centuries, often deployed during major turning points in human rights movements such as the suffragettes who fought for women’s right to vote using disruptive tactics.*

*Some would argue that creating meaningful and long-lasting change has to be a better solution and would prevent societal dissolution. However, it can take years for this transformation of thinking to occur. Should protestors give up on disruptive action to help their cause?*

PROPOSITION (Agree) ✓	OPPOSITION (Disagree) X
Disruptive protests can disengage the general public with their troublesome tactics – isn’t it more important to connect with wider society to seek support?	Historically, civil disobedience has led to great change for the better – surely this is proof of its merit?
Civil disobedience often involves breaking of the law – how can we condone this?	Utilising disruptive strategies denotes a sense of urgency and zeal - don’t desperate times call for desperate measures?
Successful campaigns tend to be built on trust, shedding light on issues faced over time. How can disruptive protesters possibly grow solidarity on important issues?	Disruptive protests gain major publicity and help unite their advocates to broadcast their message – why shouldn’t this be taken advantage of?

**Research Links:**

- <https://trello.com/b/ligsgZ1J/concern-primary-debates>
- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> - noted links to SDGs 10, 16, 17
- <https://bit.ly/3y2ZDLo>
- <https://www.concern.net/schools-and-youth/1planet4all>
- <https://bit.ly/3mifnb0>
- <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/24721/why-civil-disobedience-works/>
- <https://bit.ly/3y1YuDY>
- <https://rebellion.global/blog/2020/11/03/civil-disobedience-examples/>
- <https://bit.ly/3SEVg2S>
- <https://herit.ag/41ybjnf>