

## Trans Army Field Guide: Moving and Traveling as a Trans Person Under Oppressive Regimes

*Version 1.0 — Tactical Movement, Evasion, and Safe Travel*

### INTRODUCTION

Travel isn't just movement, it's exposure. Under oppressive regimes, transit is surveillance, checkpoints are traps, and movement becomes a form of resistance. Whether you're relocating to safer ground, transporting meds across lines, or linking with other trans rebels, this guide is your toolkit for tactical, discreet, and sovereign movement.

You are not fleeing. You are migrating with intent.

### PRINCIPLES OF TRANS TRAVEL UNDER DANGER

1. **Move Smart, Not Loud** — Stealth > Symbolism
2. **Know the Terrain** — Every state, route, and checkpoint has a pattern
3. **Distribute Your Identity** — Your name, your gender, your story: keep them fluid
4. **Secure the Pod** — Travel with vetted allies when possible
5. **Pack Like You're Already Free** — Survival, not spectacle

### PREPARATION PHASE

- **Scan Local Legislation:** Check for anti-trans, anti-immigrant, and stop-and-frisk laws
- **Update Documents:** Carry both legal ID (if safe) and emergency aliases
- **Redundant Storage:** USB + cloud drive with medical, identity, and legal files
- **Emergency Paper Packets:** Printed affirming doctor letters, name change orders, prescriptions
- **Clothing Strategy:** Blend in—layered, plain, adaptive to region

### ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR TRANS TRAVELERS

- Burner phone (no biometrics, pre-loaded contacts)
- Encrypted flash drive (Proton Drive, Cryptomator)
- HRT kit (2+ weeks, multi-method if possible)
- Snacks, cash in small bills, water purifier bottle
- Pepper spray or self-defense tool (region-dependent)

- Stim tools, sunglasses, scarf/mask for dysphoria management

## **MODES OF TRAVEL: RISK + TACTICS**

### **1. Car (Personal or Rideshare)**

- Best for privacy; avoids TSA
- Use anonymous or trusted driver apps (e.g. not Uber in high-surveillance areas)
- Keep gas receipts, route logs offline

### **2. Train (Amtrak or Local)**

- Moderate surveillance: no ID often needed
- Use cash or pre-paid cards
- Carry distraction (book, headphones) and avoid sleeping alone

### **3. Bus (Greyhound, Megabus)**

- High risk: routine ICE searches at depots
- Avoid border zones or interstate stops
- Always have alternate route if detained

### **4. Air Travel**

- High surveillance but fastest; use for urgent escape only
- TSA: Request private pat-down, carry affirming medical letter
- Use gender-neutral clothing, arrive early, expect misgendering

## **NAVIGATING HOSTILE TERRITORY**

- Mark “Red Zones” (e.g., Texas border counties, southern ICE corridors)
- Never stay overnight in towns without trans- or queer-friendly allies
- Use couch-surfing or vetted radical hospitality networks instead of hotels
- Avoid conservative gas stations or truck stops alone
- Wear coded symbols (rings, bandanas) for ally recognition

## **DIGITAL SAFETY WHILE TRAVELING**

- Use VPNs + Tor when accessing trans-related or medical content
- Turn off GPS and location history
- Avoid real-time posting; only share travel logs post-escape
- Use shared group locations only in encrypted apps (Signal, Briar)
- Wipe browser history regularly; use DuckDuckGo

## **FINDING OR BUILDING TRANS SAFE HOUSES**

- Connect with mutual aid or anarchist housing networks ahead of time
- Vet hosts through back channels, not public posts
- Bring trade/supplies as offering when possible (food, meds, labor)
- Leave no trace: clean space, secure names, erase messages

## **WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- Say only your name and “I want a lawyer”
- Do not consent to searches
- Do not unlock your phone
- Request gender-respectful treatment, but focus on survival
- Record badge numbers and names discreetly if possible

## **TRANSIT SIGNALS FOR HELP OR AID**

- Use color-coded bandanas for nonverbal distress (e.g., yellow = need help, blue = need meds)
- Establish backup check-in buddies with 6–12 hour windows
- Have one contact *outside* the danger zone monitoring your signal chain
- Use “door knocks” or indirect phrases to ask for shelter or redirect support

## **CONCLUSION**

You are not running. You are rerouting. Every mile you travel, every checkpoint you survive, every town you mark safe for someone else, you are building the next map.

*Move in silence. Move in code. Move like they'll never see you coming.*