



# ATTENTION PLEASE

A MANIFESTO CLUB PHOTO ALBUM



119 Mark Wubben Brighton

120 Naomi Law Southwark



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**ATTENTION PLEASE**

**ACHTUNG!**

**AANDACHT ALSTUBLIEFT!**

**ATTENTION S'IL VOUS PLAÎT**

**ATENCIÓN POR FAVOR**

**ATENÇÃO POR FAVOR**

Caution!

Caution!

Caution!

**MOLIMO PAŽNJA**  
**PROSZE O UWAGA!**

**注意してください**

**请注意**

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Josie Appleton is convenor of the Manifesto Club. She has coordinated many of the club's campaigns, against CRB checks, booze bans and other forms of state hyperregulation of everyday life; written many of the club's reports and documents; and edits Manifesto Club publications. As a journalist and writer, she comments frequently on contemporary freedom issues.

The effect of these caution signs is to tell us: look out, do not use this space freely, mind where you are going. It puts you on edge.

Everyday features of the urban environment are draped with hazard lights. Cones are placed around a tree trunk<sup>27</sup>, or a patch of mud<sup>66,79</sup>, or some spilt grit<sup>28</sup>. Indeed, caution starts to be integrated into design itself – trains and steps are constructed with built-in warning lights. Virgin Trains' doors are one big striped warning sign<sup>102</sup>. At Leeds University, sets of steps have all their treads painted yellow<sup>105</sup>.

The accumulation of safety tape is inexorable. As you revisit public spaces, the main change you notice is often the addition of new warnings. A step that was just a step is now an occasion for Caution.

*Attention Please* was an exercise in citizens' action, to expose and (we hope) shame the officials who are plastering public space with hazard lights. This caution tape is ugly, patronising and bossy: it is a big yellow flash sign that public space is not really our own.

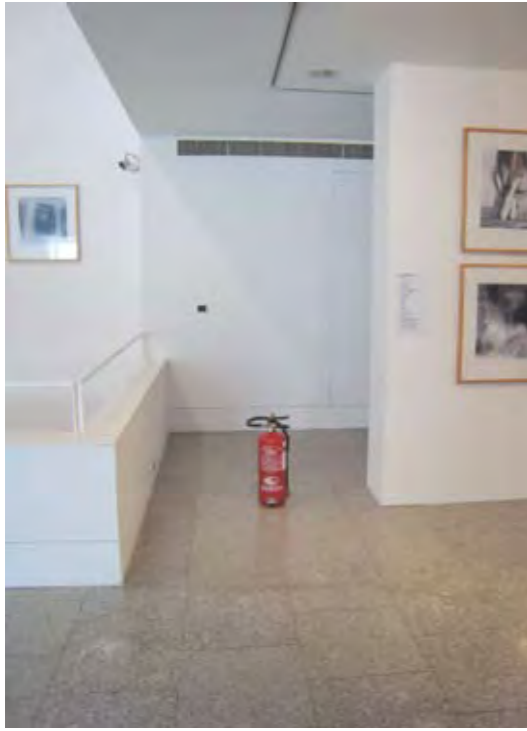
It seems that, for the authorities, there is never a good reason *not* to add a safety sign. At the Manifesto Club, we call on public authorities to reverse the burden of proof – and only put up safety signs if there is good reason. In council and board meetings, it is those who are unrolling the safety tape who should have to justify their actions. We need to pull down the unnecessary caution tape and put away the surplus cones. In doing so, we will send the message that public space is ours, to be freely enjoyed, a place we should be at our ease – and not just an accident waiting to happen.

# LOOK BOTH WAYS<sup>16</sup>



124

- 122 Jim Stoten Holborn
- 123 Metropolitan Police advertisement
- 124 Mark Wubben Brighton



1



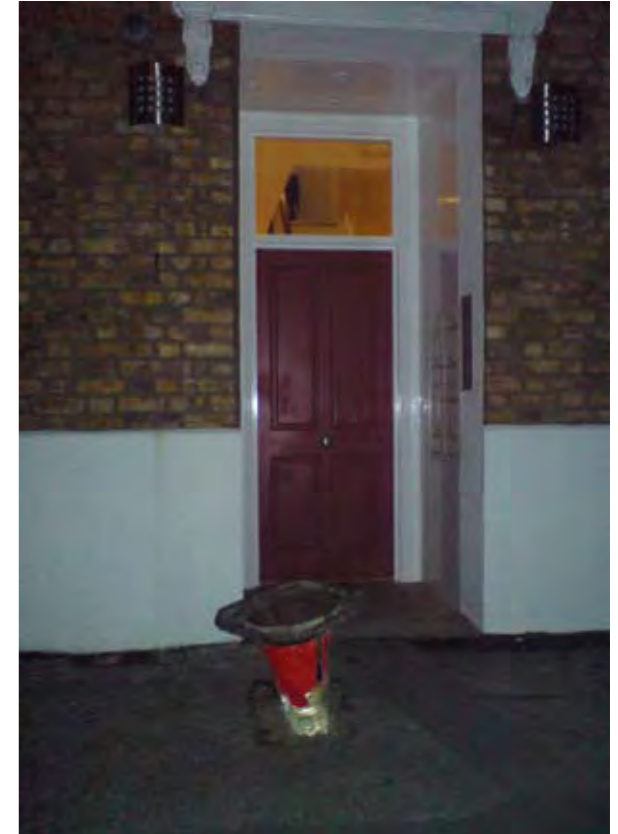
2



4



5



6



3

- 1 Simon Elvins Lisbon
- 2 Rhidian Maltby Mayfair
- 3 Kate Gordon-Rogers Morayshire
- 4 Tom Mower London Bridge
- 5 Kieth Rider Surrey
- 6 Mia Frostner Oval
- 7 Claire Harmer Paddington



7



8



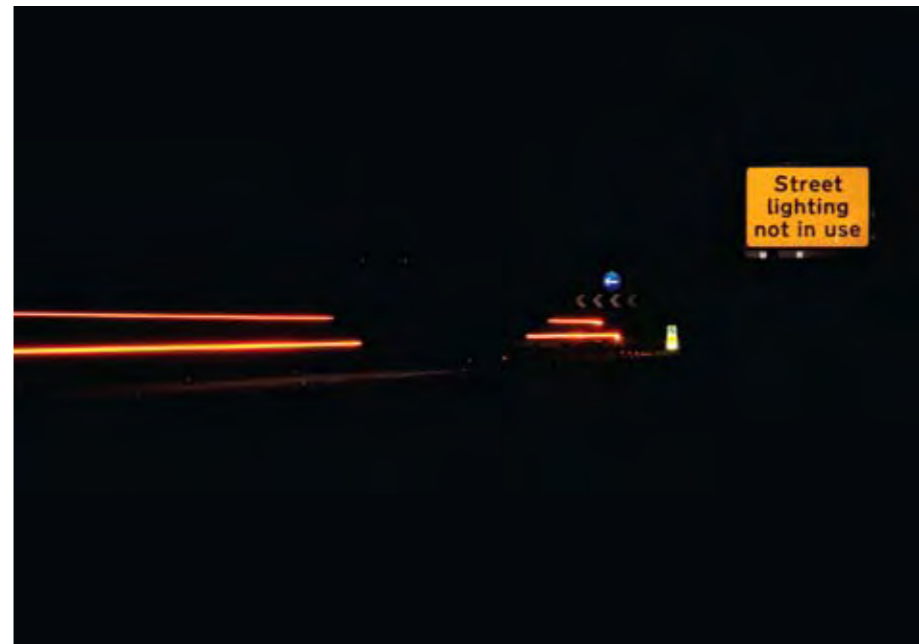
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11



10



12

- 8 Josie Appleton Virgin Trains
- 9 Sándor Szabó Manila
- 10 Andrew Cameron London
- 11 Rob Lyons University of Westminster
- 12 Tim Knight Buckinghamshire

- 113 Naomi Law Enfield
- 114 Naomi Law Hyde Park
- 115 Mark Hackett Unknown
- 116 Ashley Moore Barbican
- 117 Nathaniel Beard Milan
- 118 Mark Wubben Brighton



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