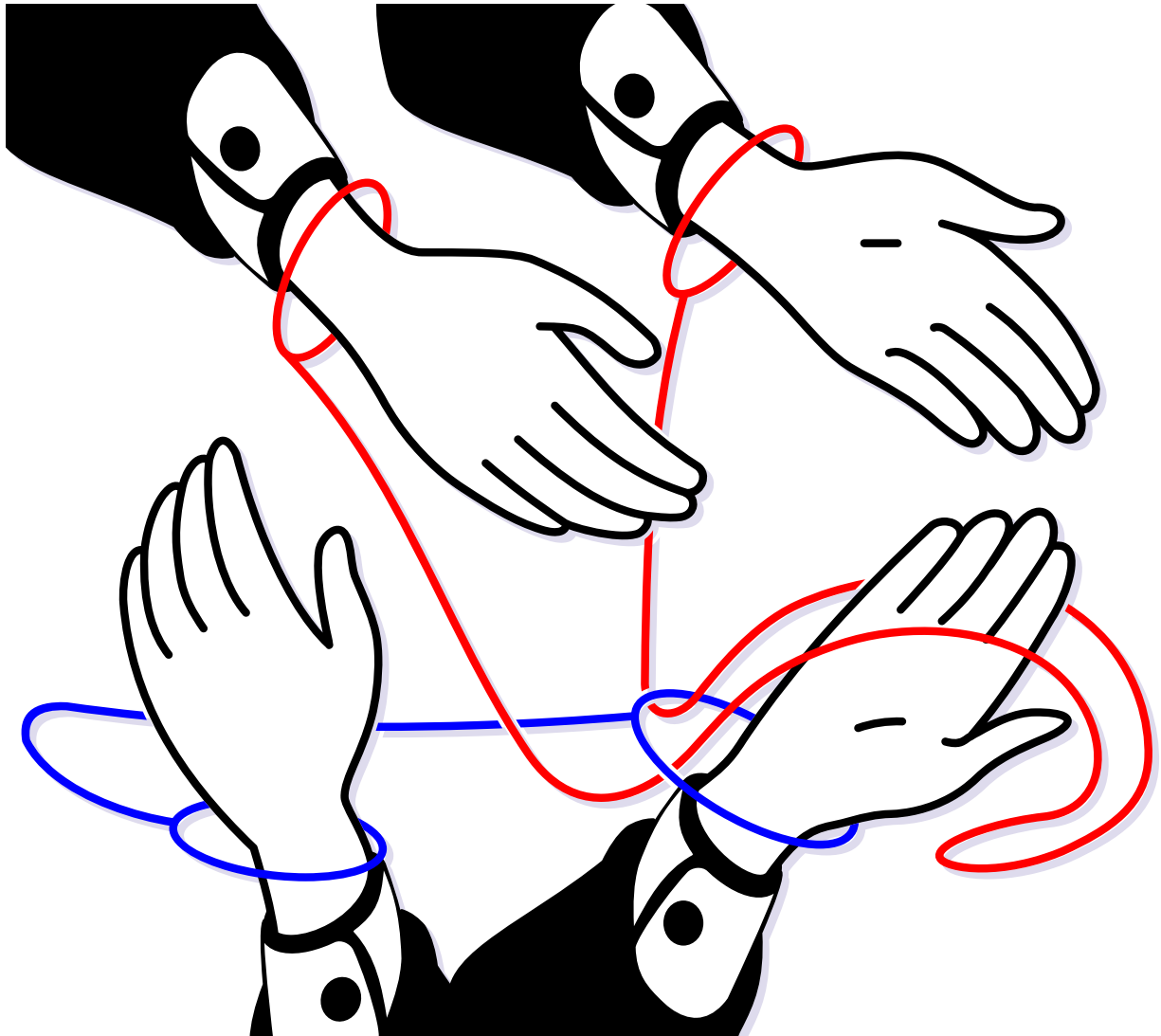


Two hostages are tied together by their wrists, as shown. Can they separate themselves without cutting the rope or untying the knots?



The hostages can easily separate themselves. One of the hostages grabs his rope with both hands so that a loose, untwisted loop is made in his rope on the other side of his partner's rope. Then he tucks the loop through the circle of rope around his partner's wrist, as you'll soon discover, it's only possible to keep the rope untwisted by moving toward one wrist, not the other. Next, he moves the loop up toward his partner's fingers. When the first hostage then passes the loop over his partner's hand and tucks the loop back through the rope, they are free.