

# TAKE ACTION!

Nationwide nonviolent actions  
for a culture of peace

September 20-27, 2015



Wilmington, DE

## Campaign Nonviolence Action Ideas:

**Marching for a Culture of Peace -- Building a Long-Term Movement  
for an End to War, Poverty, the Climate Crisis and the Epidemic of Violence**

This September, Campaign Nonviolence is taking a public stand against all violence—and continuing the movement to mainstream active nonviolence and build a culture of peace free from war, poverty, the climate crisis and the epidemic of violence.

Here are some suggestions for creating you local CNV action this September:

- We recommend that local and regional actions feature a nonviolent march from a place of peace—such as a religious setting or a park—to an appropriate government facility to rally, pray, witness, or engage in nonviolent direct action.
- We encourage all participants to wear a blue scarf -- a global symbol of peace, justice and sustainability. [Click here to find out how to get or create blue scarves.](#) (You can also get [CNV t-shirts here!](#))
- We recommend that this action include a chance for participants to declare their stand against violence--and to show their support for this new long-term movement for peace and nonviolence. This could include inviting everyone to read the CNV pledge -- [you can see it here](#) -- or to have an open mic where people can come forward to declare their support for building a culture of peace and nonviolence.
- We also recommend that you consider using or adapting CNV's concrete policy goals as part of the event. [See them here.](#) Campaign Nonviolence will be raising the visibility of this movement through social media. We encourage you to develop a media strategy locally to garner press coverage of your action! [Here are some ideas!](#)
- Finally, check out what happened last September 2014. [Click here to learn more.](#) You might get some great ideas from groups that took action across the nation.



**Houston CNV participants wearing blue scarves!**

# 10+ Great Action Ideas!

## Campaign Nonviolence Week September 20-27

**Nonviolent action everywhere for a culture of peace  
free from war, poverty, environmental destruction and all violence**

*Successful movements build people power for social change by alerting, educating, winning and mobilizing the public. Nonviolent action plays a critical role in this long-term effort to change society's mind and to build support for alternatives. This action is most effective when it is public, creative, well organized, supports a larger strategy for change, and is determined and peaceful. As we prepare for the Campaign Nonviolence Week in September, we offer the following ideas for putting nonviolence into action in your own community for a culture of peace, justice, and environmental healing.*

### **#1 On the Move: Marches, Processions, Walks, and Pilgrimages for a Culture of Peace**

Bring the message of nonviolent change to your community by organizing a march, a procession, or a walk. It could be a journey from a place of peace—such as a religious setting or a park—to an appropriate government facility to rally, pray, witness, or engage in nonviolent direct action. Or it could be a march connecting the dots between war, poverty and environmental justice. Explore framing your march this as a “pilgrimage for peace,” like the pilgrimage that CNV and its friends will take to Los Alamos National Laboratory August 6 & 9 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. *Please consider beginning any action you organize (including those below) with a march, procession, walk or pilgrimage.*

### **#2 Rally for Change: Speakers and Music in a Public Space**

Create a powerful gathering focused on awareness, analysis and community-building, but also on deepening the commitment to the long-term movement for a culture of peace and nonviolence.

### **#3 Interfaith Prayer Services: Mark Pope Francis's US Visit and All Religious Communities Working for Peace, Economic Justice, and Environmental Healing**

For two years, the pope has challenged war, economic inequality, the arms trade, and most recently environmental destruction. Support this clarion call for concrete action by joining with people of faith and conscience in your community for public prayer and witness during Campaign Nonviolence Week, the week Francis will be in the U.S.

### **#4 Nonviolent Cities: Call on Your Local Community to Become a Culture of Peace**

Imagine Nonviolent Chicago, Nonviolent Tulsa, Nonviolent Seattle or Nonviolent Anytown USA. Campaign Nonviolence invites people everywhere to foster a culture of peace and nonviolence locally by organizing an action with the theme: “Nonviolent (Your City).” This public event could focus on what a nonviolent city would look like and what it would take to get there. This initiative could be used to call on the city to pass a resolution with nonviolent guidelines for city government, etc. This idea was inspired by Nonviolent Carbondale (Illinois).

### **#5 Stand with the Movement for Racial Justice**

Campaign Nonviolence is a long-term movement taking a stand against all violence. Integral to this work is resisting the structural violence of racism. We will not solve the problems of war, poverty, and the climate crisis in isolation — nor will we solve them without tackling the structural violence of racism and other forms of systemic injustice that shape and drive them. Connect with and support local anti-racism organizations working to challenge this systemic violence and to end patterns of police violence and chronic racism.

### **#6 Get Centered: Public Sitting Meditation**

Hold a public “sit-in” meditation. Gather a group, and hold a sitting meditation at a publically visible location that relates to one of the Campaign Nonviolence themes: war, poverty, climate destruction, or any form of violence. Hold signs that make your message clear. Appoint one person to speak with passersby. (This action idea comes from Sangha In The Streets and Buddhist Peace Fellowship.)

### **#7 All Together Now: From Polar Bear Protest to the Procession of the Species**

Rent a polar bear costume. Stand on the street corner with a sign that reads: *Homeless. Need Change.* Or organize a whole ecosystem like the Procession of the Species, an annual event in Olympia, Washington that has also been organized in other places. The Procession of the Species is “a joyous, spontaneous artistic pageant where community members celebrate their relationships with each other and with the natural world... Residents don their creative expressions and proceed through the streets... in masks and costumes [and] participate in a cultural exchange honoring the awe and splendor of the natural world.”

### **#8 Pro-cotts and Boycotts: Support a Living Wage**

Organize a “pro-cott” – opposite of a boycott – supporting living wage paying businesses. Picket them positively, even. If you'd like to use the “oppose/propose” strategy, coordinate a protest, boycott, or other action at a low-wage business with your local Fight for \$15 group.

### **#9 Hall of Fame: Take Great Local, National, and Global Activists Public**

Build a culture of active nonviolence by organizing a march in which people carry photos, banners with quotes, and literature from the great figures of nonviolence: Gandhi, King, Chavez, AJ Muste, Delores Huerta, Rosa Parks, Alice Paul, Mother Jones, Aung San Suu Kyi, but also local agents of change, and more. This “Lineage of Nonviolence” action was done by Love-In-Action Taos for its local 4th of July Parade, where they proclaimed, “There's more than one way to be a patriot.” The group won first prize for most patriotic.

### **#10 International Day of Peace Candlelight Vigil, Monday Night, September 21**

In addition to any other actions you are organizing during Campaign Nonviolence Week, plan to mark International Peace Day on September 21 with a local evening vigil.

# Ten Bonus Ideas!

## #11 Create the Plan: Take It Public

Hold a strategic planning session on how your community might make positive change, craft a plan of action, hold a public march to your city council, county commission, spiritual center, businesses, university, or utility to present it.

## #12 Sidewalk Soulforce: Chalking for a World without War, Poverty, Climate Destruction and All Violence

Gather the kids, family, friends, and neighbors and do a sidewalk chalking demonstration envisioning and imaging a world beyond war. Inspired by World Beyond War, and also by last year's Campaign Nonviolence sidewalk chalking action in Louisville, KY, "Nonviolence: Something To Chalk About." It can be a great way to "connect the dots."

## #13 Get the Word Out: Spell "Nonviolence" with Your Closest 200 Friends

Create an eye-catching declaration of peace by organizing people from your community to spell out the word "nonviolence" in a significant public space. Great fun!

## #14 Sound the Alarm: Break the Silence on Climate

Bring your alarm clocks, bells, whistle, and ticking clocks to a meeting, street corner, public place, grocery store, post office, or shopping mall with the message that "climate can't wait" and all of us need to tackle environmental destruction now. Bring fliers to distribute.

## #15 Ending Global Poverty: Bring the September 26 Global Citizen Mobilization Home

2015 is the year for the movement to end poverty. This September at the UN General Assembly in New York, world leaders from 193 countries will announce new Global Goals designed to fight inequality, protect our planet, and end extreme poverty by 2030. The Sept. 26 Global Citizen Festival in New York City's Central Park is billed as "a critical lever for achieving policy and financial commitments that will shape the success of the Global Goals over the next 15 years." Take action locally in solidarity.

## #16 Tune-Up for Paris: Global Summit on Climate Change in December

In 2015, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, otherwise known as "Paris 2015," will take place from November 30th to December 11<sup>th</sup> in France. COP21 will seek to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. Help build global momentum for this historic, verifiable, international treaty with action on the summit in your community.

## #17 Resist Homeless Hate Laws

If your city has laws aimed at people without homes that prohibit the human rights of standing, sleeping, and eating, engage in creative mass noncooperation and civil disobedience, as citizens of Fort Lauderdale, Florida recently did. This will work best if coordinated in a plan for a whole campaign of actions.

## #18 Organize a Nonviolence Teach-in

A teach-in is defined as "a prolonged period of lectures, speeches, etc., conducted without interruption... as a technique of social protest." Toward building a culture of peace, organize a teach-in at a local college or community center.

## #19 Launch a Monthly Campaign Nonviolence Gathering

Share food, films, stories, and strategies for a culture of peace. The Estonian Singing Revolution used Historical and Cultural Societies to teach resistance when political protest was banned.

## #20 Brilliant Message: Projection as Protest

Using theater lights and metal stencils, project your theme for all to see! Learn more by visiting the Backbone Campaign's Website at [backbonecampaign.org](http://backbonecampaign.org)

*Finally, please begin or end your action by reading the Campaign Nonviolence Pledge together:*

I solemnly pledge to take a stand against violence and to help build a culture of active nonviolence. I will strive to:

- Practice nonviolence toward myself
- Practice nonviolence toward all others
- Practice nonviolence by joining the global movement to abolish war, end poverty, stop the destruction of the earth, and foster a just and peaceful world for all.

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