

THE VISION AND OVERVIEW OF CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE

mainstreaming nonviolence, building a culture of peace, and organizing 1000 marches nationwide September 16-24, 2017

Campaign Nonviolence is a long-term movement to build a culture of peace and nonviolence free from war, poverty, racism, environmental destruction, and the epidemic of violence and injustice. How? [By mainstreaming nonviolence, connecting the issues, and taking action together.](#)

Its vision is rooted in an understanding of nonviolence as a force for truth, justice, and the well-being of all that is neither passive nor violent. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put it, nonviolence is “the love that does justice.” It is an orientation that unleashes creativity, connectedness, and compassion. It is a way of life and a means of transforming the world.

Violence in all of its interlocking forms constitutes the greatest crisis facing our cities, our nation, and our planet. Catastrophic climate change, escalating poverty, permanent war, and a horrific epidemic of violence haunt our lives and our world.

Interwoven through all of these monumental challenges is the structural violence of racism and all other forms of institutionalized oppression. We will not solve the problems of war, poverty, racism 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.

In its work to support a comprehensive movement joining forces to build a culture of peace, Campaign Nonviolence is taking a clear stand against racial injustice and its systemic violence – mass incarceration, economic and social inequality, systematic exclusion, militarization of U.S. police forces, chronic dehumanization, and the threat to survival and life itself – which prevents a culture of peace from emerging.

Campaign Nonviolence honors the centuries-long struggle for racial justice, and stands with its powerful contemporary movement led by Black Lives Matter, Let Us Breathe, and the Hands Up Coalition who are taking nonviolent action in the wake of the killings of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Rekia Boyd, and many other persons of color. Campaign Nonviolence groups across the United States are walking in solidarity with this movement, and are committed to supporting this new struggle for racial justice.

As the latest daily wave of violence engulfs us, we wonder: is there any alternative to a violent future? In the face of the intractably crushing reality of violence, can we foster a viable nonviolent option, let alone a comprehensively just, peaceful, and healed world?

There are no easy answers, but if such a world is possible, it will hinge on a systematic effort to mainstream the power of active nonviolence; to connect the dots between the great challenges we face (and the many movements that are working to resolve them); and to build a durable culture of peace capable of sustaining the planet and its teeming inhabitants.

Campaign Nonviolence is rolling up its sleeves to support these long-term tasks.

Launched with hundreds of marches, rallies and demonstrations in all 50 states in September 2014, Campaign Nonviolence is a long-term movement to take a clear public stand against all violence – and to build a culture of peace and nonviolence free from war, poverty, racism, environmental destruction and the contemporary tsunami of violence.

Campaign Nonviolence is building this long-term movement because traditional approaches have faltered. To move forward, we must innovate in two crucial ways. First, we must fully tap, spread, and build out the power of active nonviolence. It must become a key dimension of our lives and our world. Second, we must overcome the customary silos that keep movements separate and join forces in an increasingly comprehensive and effective way for the monumental change needed in the 21st century.



C A M P A I G N
N O N V I O L E N C E

Mainstreaming nonviolence. Over the past century, the power of nonviolence to resist violence and to create effective alternatives has increasingly been demonstrated. The time has come to increasingly spread this power through comprehensive through awareness, education, and action. Campaign Nonviolence has set as one of its fundamental long-term goals is to mainstream the vision, tools, stories, methods and power of active nonviolence.

Connecting the dots. For decades many campaigns and movements have been working throughout the world to end specific wars and the institution of war itself, to eliminate the scourge of poverty and racism, and to stop the destruction of the planet. Each of these has been incalculably important. At the same time, Campaign Nonviolence holds that it is time to connect these historic efforts in a new and powerful way. War, poverty, racism, and environmental destruction are not four separate realities. They are interrelated dimensions of the growing global crisis of violence and injustice. Making headway on any one of these monumental challenges requires making headway on all of them. Hence the need for these historically separate movements to join forces in a long-term, comprehensive movement to alert, educate, win and mobilize people power everywhere for change.

These two foundations—mainstreaming nonviolence and building a movement-of-movements—ground Campaign Nonviolence’s call for people everywhere to:

- Discover and deepen the power of nonviolence, including the vision and tools for nonviolent change that Mohandas Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other people and movements have activated for social and personal transformation;
- Practice nonviolence toward themselves, toward all others, and toward the world by joining the global movement for peace, economic justice, environmental healing, and effective nonviolent solutions; and
- Connect, collaborate and innovate in creating a new culture of peace and nonviolence.

Campaign Nonviolence launched this long-term movement September 21-27, 2014 with 239 actions and events in every part of the nation and continued with 370 actions in 2015 and 758 in 2016. Campaign Nonviolence marches, rallies, vigils, prayer services, fasts and festivals took place over seven days in September from American Samoa to Maine, from Washington State to Florida, and from California to New Hampshire. Events also took place in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Canada. Campaign Nonviolence organized in every state in the country, led skill-building trainings across the nation, completed a national speaking tour, established nonviolence study groups nationwide, and has been endorsed by over 220 national and local organizations.

Now, Campaign Nonviolence is taking the next step. In its fourth year, Campaign Nonviolence is encouraging people across the nation and beyond to study nonviolence, practice nonviolence, build out the infrastructure of nonviolence, and take nonviolence public. It will do this by:

- Organizing [Campaign Nonviolence Skill-Building Workshops](#) across the nation;
- Growing [1000 Nonviolence Trainings Project](#), [The Nonviolence Training Hub](#) and the [Nonviolent Cities Project](#)
- Taking action nationwide during the third annual [Campaign Nonviolence Week of Nonviolent Actions, September 16-24, 2017](#). In cities and towns in all 50 states, Campaign Nonviolence will march against violence and for a world of peace, justice and sustainability. During Campaign Nonviolence Week, we will connect the dots between war, poverty, racism, climate change, and all forms of violence —and join forces to work for a culture of peace.

