

Non-Violence Talking Points Guide

National Summit on Non-Violence

“Changing the Culture of Violence in America”



Prepared by

Black Women for Positive Change

P.O. Box 78211

Washington, DC 20013

www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com

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Dedication

Dedicated to Trayvon Martin, Hadiah Pendleton and all of the citizens in America who have lost their lives due to needless violence.

We must "Change the Culture of Violence in America."



Dear Faith Leader, Elected Official and/or Community Leader,

This “Non-Violence Talking Points Guide” is designed as an assistance tool for Faith Leaders, Elected Officials, Community Leaders, Educators, Hip Hoppers and the Media who are planning to give Non-Violence Sermons and Speeches. The Guide was prepared by Black Women for Positive Change and Members of the Summit Council on Non-Violence. Included in the Guide are:

- Six Principles of Non-Violence by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Non Violence Quotes by Mahatma Ghandhi
- Non-Violence Verses in the Christian Bible, King James Version
- Non-Violence Verses in the Muslim Holy Qu’ran
- Non-Violence References in Judaism and the Torah

We hope the ancient wisdom of thinkers and scholars and the more recent Principles of Non-Violence taught by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., are useful to you as you preach the message of Non-Violence and work to “Change the Culture of Violence in America. We look forward to witnessing the results of your positive change messages. On-Line copies of The Guide are available at www.blackwomenforpostivechange.org

Please share any feedback you have to: Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com

Yes We Can!

Dr. Stephanie Myers and Delegate Daun S. Hester
National Co-Chairs, Black Women for Positive Change
National Summit on Non-Violence 2013



SIX PRINCIPLES OF NON-VIOLENCE BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. It is a positive force confronting the forces of injustice, and utilizes the righteous indignation and the spiritual, emotional and intellectual capabilities of people as the vital force for change and reconciliation.

The Beloved Community is the framework for the future. The nonviolent concept is an overall effort to achieve a reconciled world by raising the level of relationships among people to a height where justice prevails and persons attain their full human potential.

Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil. The nonviolent approach helps one analyze the fundamental conditions, policies and practices of the conflict rather than reacting to one's opponents or their personalities.

Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal. Self-chosen suffering is redemptive and helps the movement grow in a spiritual as well as a humanitarian dimension. The moral authority of voluntary suffering for a goal communicates the concern to one's own friends and community as well as to the opponent.

Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence. The nonviolent attitude permeates all aspects of the campaign. It provides mirror type reflection of the reality of the condition to one's opponent and the community at large. Specific activities must be designed to help maintain a high level of spirit and morale during a nonviolent campaign.

The universe is on the side of justice. Truth is universal and human society and each human being is oriented to the just sense of order of the universe. The fundamental values in all of the world's great religions include the concept that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice. For the nonviolent practitioner, nonviolence introduces a new moral context in which nonviolence is both the means and the end.

Source: Based on Non-Violence concepts by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom*. Retrieved from the web: <http://www.thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy#sub2>



Non-Violence Quotes by Mohandas (Mahatma) Ghandi

There are many causes I would die for. There is not a single cause I would kill for.

An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind.

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

There is no way to peace; peace is the way.

I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.

Nonviolence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed.

The ideally non-violent state will be an ordered anarchy.

The cause of liberty becomes a mockery if the price to be paid is the wholesale destruction of those who are to enjoy liberty.

Use truth as your anvil, nonviolence as your hammer and anything that does not stand the test when it is brought to the anvil of truth and hammered with nonviolence, reject it.

Source: http://refspace.com/quotes/Mohandas_Gandhi

Christian Verses About Non-Violence

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Other Biblical References to Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 14:17-19 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

1 Peter 1:2 According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Mark 9:50 Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Luke 6:27 But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

1 Corinthians 7:15 But, if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.

James 3:18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Numbers 6:25-26 The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Romans 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Retrieved from: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-verses-about-peace-20-great-scripture-quotes/#ixzz2We9bFX2p>

Qur'anic Verses About Non-Violence

We decreed for the Children of Israel that whosoever kills a human being for other than capital punishment for manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whosoever saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind. (Chapter 5:32)

Wherewith God guides all those who seek His Good Pleasure to ways of peace, and He brings them out of darkness by His Will and shines light on the matter and guides them to the Straight Way (5:16)

Therefore stand firm (on the Path of God) as you art commanded, - you and those who with you turn (unto God); and transgress not (from the Path of Peace): for He sees well all that you do. (Chapter 11:112)

O you who believe! ... and let not hatred of a people-- because they hindered you from the Sacred place of worship-- incite you to exceed the limits, and help one another in goodness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and aggression; and be careful of (your duty to) God; surely God is severe in requiting (evil). (Chapter 5:2)

(O mankind!) Call upon your Lord humbly and in secret. Lo! He loves not violent aggressors. (Chapter 7:55)

(But they were violent), so he (Moses) called upon his Lord (saying): "These are indeed the people who are sinners." (Chapter 44:22)

If your enemy inclines toward peace, then you too should seek peace and put your trust in God. (Holy Qur'an Chapter 8:61)

Source for Qur'anic Verses:

IMAM TALIB M. SHAREEF, CMSgt, USAF-Retired
President, Masjid Muhammad (The Nation's Mosque)
1519 Islamic Way 4th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001
Off: 202-483-8832 FAX: 202-265-3562

Websites: www.masjidmuhammad.com; www.mmdcv.com
Email: masjidmuhammaddc@gmail.com

Jewish References Regarding Non-Violence

Judaism and religious Jews oppose violence

The philosophy of nonviolence has roots in Judaism, going back to the Jerusalem Talmud of the middle third century. While absolute nonviolence is not a requirement of Judaism, the religion so sharply restricts the use of violence, that nonviolence often becomes the only way to fulfilling a life of truth, justice and peace, which Judaism considers to be the three tools for the preservation of the world. (Source: Bearing witness: violence and collective responsibility, Sandra L. Bloom, Michael Reichert, Routledge, 1998: page 242)

Jewish law (past and present) does not permit any use of violence unless it is in self-defense. (Retrieved from the Internet, <http://www.koltorah.org/ravi/>)

Any person that even raises his hand in order to hit another person is called "evil." (Retrieved from <http://www.ask.com/questions-about/Rasha>)

Guidelines from the Torah to the 'Jewish Way to Fight a War'

When the time for war arrived, Jewish soldiers are expected to abide by specific laws and values when fighting. Jewish war ethics attempts to balance the value of maintaining human life with the necessity of fighting a war. Judaism is somewhat unique in that it demands adherence to Jewish values even while fighting a war. The Torah provides the following rules for how to fight a war:

1. Pursue Peace Before Waging War.
2. Preserve the Ecological Needs of the Environment.
3. Maintain Sensitivity to Human Life.
4. The Goal is Peace. (Retrieved from http://judaism.about.com/library/3_intro/level2/bl_war.htm)

Avoidance of violence

The ancient orders (like those) of wars for Israel to eradicate idol worshiping does not apply today. Jews are not taught to glorify violence. The rabbis of the Talmud saw war as an avoidable evil. They taught: "The sword comes to the world because of delay of justice and through perversion of justice."

Jews have always hated war and "Shalom" expresses the hope for peace, in Judaism war is evil, but at times a necessary one, yet, Judaism teaches that one has to go to great length to avoid it. (*Judaism* by Arye Forta, Heinemann, 1995, p. 122)

Sources: Listed by references above.

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