

## **East Point Peace Academy**

### **Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation**

#### **History of Kingian Nonviolence**

Kingian Nonviolence is a training curriculum that was developed by Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. and David Jehnsen, created out of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the organizing strategies of the Civil Rights Movement based on a conversation that took place just hours before his assassination. On the morning of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1968, King called out to Dr. LaFayette, then the national coordinator of the Poor People's Campaign, that their next movement had to be to "institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence." This training is the result of that conversation.

Often referred to as Dr. King's "final marching orders," this training has helped thousands of people all over the world understand the depth of the philosophy of nonviolent conflict reconciliation. From prisons to universities, from high schools to social justice movements, anyone can benefit from the lessons packed into this two-day workshop.

#### **Kingian Nonviolence Defined**

Kingian Nonviolence is a philosophy and methodology that provides the knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary for people to pursue peaceful strategies for solving personal and community problems. This approach is critical if the epidemic of violence is to be eradicated. Often mistaken for being simply the absence of, or opposite of violence, Nonviolence is, rather, a systematic framework of both conceptual principles and pragmatic strategies to reduce violence and promote positive peace at the personal, community, national, and global levels.

Over these two-days, participants will be led through a variety of learning methodologies, including role-plays, small group activities, video presentations, readings and mini-lectures. We will explore topics such as:

- Definitions of violence and nonviolence,
- Analyzing the types and levels of conflict,
- The principles of nonviolence,
- The steps of nonviolence (a model of organizing a nonviolent campaign), and
- The history of some of the campaigns from the Civil Rights Movement.

#### **Who Is It For?**

This training and philosophy is useful for anyone who deals with conflict on any level. It will help you to respond in creative ways to conflicts in your personal life (family, friends, partners, co-workers), conflicts in your community (school closures, violence in your community), or larger social conflicts (racism, corporate greed). Whether the conflicts you want to transform are personal or global, conflict plays by the same rules.

This training has helped teachers and students, police officers and formerly incarcerated people, regular ol' folk and activists alike. The training utilizes many different teaching methodologies, from role-plays and small group activities to mini-lectures and video presentations.

*For more about the history of Kingian Nonviolence, check out [www.tinyurl.com/MLKMarchingOrders](http://www.tinyurl.com/MLKMarchingOrders)*

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**The Six Principles of Kingian Nonviolence\***

**Principle 1: 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 spiritual, emotional, and intellectual capabilities of people as the vital force for change and reconciliation.*

**Principle 2: 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.*

**Principle 3: 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.*

**Principle 4: Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve a 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.*

**Principle 5: Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence.**

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

**Principle 6: 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 is long but it bends towards justice. For the nonviolent practitioner, nonviolence introduces a new moral context in which nonviolence is both the means and the ends.*

**The Six Steps of Kingian Nonviolence\***

**Step 1: Information Gathering**

*The way you determine the facts, the options for change and the timing of pressure for raising the issue is a collective process.*

**Step 2: Education**

*Is the process of developing articulate leaders, who are knowledgeable about the issue.*

**Step 3: Personal Commitment**

*Means looking at your internal and external involvement in the nonviolent campaign and preparing yourself for long-term as well as short term action.*

**Step 4: Negotiation**

*Is the art of bring together your views and those of your opponent to arrive at a just conclusion or clarify the unresolved issues, at which point, the conflict is formalized.*

**Step 5: Direct Action**

*Occurs when negotiations have broken down or failed to produce a just response to the contested issues and conditions.*

**Step 6: Reconciliation**

*Is the mandatory closing step of a campaign, when the opponents and proponents celebrate the victory and provide joint leadership to implement the change.*

\*From "The Briefing Booklet: An Orientation to the Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation Program and The Leaders Manual," © Bernard LaFayette, Jr. & David C. Jehnsen