

## Appeal to Commemorate

# International Day of Nonviolence

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2nd October as the 'International Day of Nonviolence' in 2007. This day is dedicated to preserve and promote the culture of nonviolence, mutual appreciation among communities and to safeguard fundamental rights, namely freedom, justice and equal opportunities. Its aim is also to strengthen the spirit of democracy and secularism as well as to cultivate among individuals an aptitude for inclusive living and respect for diversity, by means of social education and communal harmony.

In our era, when the world is suffering under widespread political terror, when egocentrism is glorified as virtue, when ecological calamity (induced by modernity) threatens us with extinction, when violence is deemed as infotainment, it is imperative, as a counter force, for us to rededicate ourselves towards the promotion of a harmonious lifestyle, exemplifying oneness, sharing and mutuality. The International Day of Nonviolence offers an occasion for this rededication.

### Suggested Programmes for the Week of Nonviolence

You may declare the week (Sep. 29 – Oct. 04) as the Week of Nonviolence and organize a range of programmes each day. These programmes can also be conducted in an online mode. The programmes may focus on a whole spectrum of themes such as communal harmony, unity in diversity, inclusivism, social justice, youth empowerment, rural development, environmental sustainability, human rights and individual responsibility. These themes may be elaborated upon in the form of essay writing, poetry recitation, speeches, debates, quizzes, artistic/dramatic expressions, public exhibitions, demonstrations, documentary screening, etc.

Day 1	Sept. 29, 2024	: Essay Writing, Speech Making and Slogan Writing
Day 2	Sept. 30, 2024	: Quiz, Drawing Competition, Poems and Peace Songs; Exam, Q & A sessions about Peace, Nonviolence, and on nonviolent leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr.; Presentations for the media; publishing articles and peace messages on social media.
Day 3	Oct. 01, 2024	: Drama, Street Play and Musical Concert
Day 4	Oct. 02, 2024	: Peace March & Gathering at the City Centre, Peace Demonstration with Placards, Banners, Public Meeting; Exhibition of Posters and Peace Pledge; Display of the outcome of Day 1-3; Power Point Presentation/Video Presentation.
Day 5	Oct. 04, 2024	: Swadeshi Day/Organic Day, Khadi Day; sale of literature on Nonviolence, Swadeshi, Mahatma Gandhi and other world leaders; Screening Films like Attenborough's 'Gandhi', Al Gore's 'Inconvenient Truth';

In support of this nationwide initiative, you may also commit yourself to one or more of the following crucial projects:

1. Adopt a village and help the villagers achieve comprehensive transformation;
2. Organize an all-inclusive sanitation programme in a locality;
3. Organize de-addiction campaigns among the youth;
4. Initiate watershed management, particularly rainwater harvesting in villages;
5. Organize value education in rural schools.

**Note:** For further details or programme clarification you may contact GANDHI RESEARCH FOUNDATION or MUMBAI SARVODAYA MANDAL; for resource materials you may visit the web sites <http://www.gandhifoundation.net/>; or <http://www.mkgandhi.org/gposter/gposter.htm>

The above is merely a suggestion for a possible programme schedule. Please feel free to choose the themes that suit your preferences so that this week may be transformed into a real celebration for society.

We should also like to encourage you to write a short report of the programmes organized by you, and send this report (in printed or digital form) to the Gandhi Research Foundation (address given below), so that it may be published in our monthly bilingual magazine (Hindi & English) 'Khoj Gandhiji Ki' which has a very wide circulation.

You may also administer to the youth the 'Pledge of Nonviolence'.

#### **Pledge for Nonviolence and Peace:**

- On this 'International Day of Nonviolence', we join the people of the world, to take this solemn Pledge that:
- We shall uphold peace in the world, between individuals and communities;
- We shall uphold a harmonious life with nature;
- We shall uphold truth and justice without fear or prejudice;
- We shall practise mutual love and nonviolence in our personal and social life;
- We shall respect all human beings equally regardless of race, creed, country, religion, language or gender;
- We shall work for the elimination of all instruments and weapons of violence;
- We shall not support or resort to violence and intolerance under any circumstances;
- We shall endeavour to resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means; And,
- We shall endeavour with all our might for creating a world of peace and harmony, justice and equality, love and oneness.

## **CONTACT**

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