



Love Your Enemy: a Campaign to Reclaim Human Dignity Through Nonviolence – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What's special about LYE? Primarily the personal training that we recommend. That will both make us more effective in our peacework and form a bond among us as a community. Also the focus on concrete steps and the long-term commitment.

2. Why 'love' our enemies? "Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, this demand is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. Yes it is love that will save our world and civilization; love even for our enemies." In a time of much hatred, indeed at all times, love is a powerful antidote to the spiritual emptiness of modern civilization. Love in this sense is not an emotion (only) but a recognition of connectedness, unity. It does *not* mean giving in, giving the other whatever s/he wants: it can mean firm resistance without rejection of the person. As Gandhi echoed, "it's not nonviolence until you love your enemy."

3. Haven't they humiliated us? They tried. If we don't accept an insult offered us, it has no place to 'land.' it is up to us to break the cycle of humiliation by 'reclaiming human dignity. Remember if we inflict humiliation on 'another' it degrades us, too. Nonviolence is the way to redress grievances, reverse injustice, *without* degrading — either the other or ourselves. It can be used by anyone, of any gender, age, or creed — including no specific creed at all.

4. Don't they deserve punishment for what they did? According to the nonviolent view of justice, it is more effective to restore, rehabilitate than to seek retribution. However, even assuming that such an approach is not feasible here, 9/11 should have been – and to some extent still could be – treated as a crime, not an act of war. "Terrorism is a technique, not a country. You can't wage "war" on it," said a U.S. military person. The International Criminal Court was set up to handle egregious acts like this, crimes against humanity.

5. Shouldn't I be angry about what they did? Indeed you should. BUT. We have a choice what to do with our anger. Martin Luther King discovered this secret, "We did not unleash outbursts of anger, we expressed anger under discipline for maximum effect." Note that he also said, "I will never let anyone bring me so low as to make me hate him." What better way to express our anger than harness it in constructive actions, personal and social, that can permanently resolve this situation.

6. Why should we *not* use violence, though (we're so good at it)? When we 'solve' a problem with violence, we promote violence as a solution — which is the worst possible kind. Look at the death penalty: it *increases* homicide. Violence does sometimes "work" but it always creates greater difficulties and alienations further down the line.

7. Isn't this a conflict between their religion and ours? When 'religion' becomes a source of conflict it is religion in name only. As peace researcher Johan Galtung discovered, our ultimate need is for access to oil and theirs is respect for their religion. Not only is there no "clash of civilizations," no conflict of religions, there is no conflict at all if we confine ourselves to what we really need and not dwell on our bruised feelings.

8. Are there precedents? Yes: a disciple of Gandhi's 'reformed' bandits in Central India; in individual cases (and one group: the Rosenstrasse Prison Demonstration, 1943) even Nazis were won over or at least dissuaded from violence.

9. How do I get started? I'm just an individual. What do you mean "just" an individual? There is unlocked power in every one of us, and in fact, one of the great advantages of nonviolence is that it unlocks that power. Nonviolence brings into play the underlying principle of unity that is called "Ubuntu" in South Africa, *through* empowering individuals who are aware of it. Get started by practicing the five points we have listed on the campaign page, begin reconciliations of all sizes in your personal relationships, and get this movement going: share it with your networks.

10. What do I do on 9-11? During the "nationwide Satyagraha" of 9/10-12 there will be many activities listed on this site that we have collected from partners around the world. Remember: we are training for actions that are ongoing, not just one-off, and concrete, not just symbolic.

"I have learned through bitter experience the one supreme lesson to conserve my anger, and as heat conserved is transmitted into energy, even so our anger controlled can be transmitted into a power that can move the world."

M.K. Gandhi

