



7052

Quaker
Meetinghouse

Quakers and Non-violent Resistance Agenda



- Welcome/Opening worship
 - What is Non-violent Action?
 - Quaker Peace Testimony
 - Spiritual Context
 - Historical Context
 - Non-Violence and Peace Movements around the World
 - Personal Experiences with Non-Violent Resistance
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- Applying non-violence today
 - Choose Democracy
 - BLM
 - Move to Amend
 - Discussion: What does non-violence look like in our own lives?
 - Closing Worship

What is Non-Violent Action?



Nonviolence is distinct from a passive acceptance of superior force. It implies:

- - a willingness to take action without giving in to or resorting to violence
 - - a respect for everyone involved in a conflict
 - - a refusal to do harm to people or living things, and
 - - a willingness to take suffering on oneself without inflicting it on others.
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- Source: <https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/203/Nonviolent-action>

What is the Quaker Peace Testimony?



Like other Quaker testimonies, it is not a “belief”; instead, it is a statement of committed action to promote peace and oppose participation in war.

Historically has led Quakers into passionate non-violent activism.

What is the source of this conviction?

Quaker Peace Testimony: Spiritual Context



“All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world. That [spirit of Christ](#) by which we are guided is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world.”

--declaration to King [Charles II of England](#) in 1660 by George Fox and 11 others.

Why are Quaker's Pacifists?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm56GeaBazY>

Quaker Peace Testimony: Historical Context



“Following the 1660 Restoration of King Charles II and a clamp-down on religious radical groups such as the Fifth Monarchists... a number of letters and statements were written this year, as much to remove any suspicion that Friends might have been involved in violent political activity as a desire to make their position clear. Margaret Fell wrote a letter to King Charles II that was co-signed "in unity" by a number of prominent Friends, including Fox.”

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Testimony

“A number of historians studying Quakerism have argued that Quaker pacifism was rare before 1660 (Hill 1984, Reay 1985). **Further, some historians see the Quaker rejection of war in the statement to Charles II in that year as a self-protective measure (Ingle 1994).** However, there are records of a number of other Quakers who came to reject ‘all wars and fightings’ well before 1660.”

Source: “Quakers, War, and Peacemaking” by Lonnie Valentine

Non-violence and Peace Movements Worldwide

Nonviolence and Peace Movements: Crash Course World History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP-mv5ljFzY>



- Quaker involvement in the American Women's movement. When the first female students of the pioneering women doctor, [Ann Preston](#), were met with angry demonstrations in 1869, their quiet composure helped to sway public opinion in their favour.
- [Alice Paul's "Silent Sentinels" demonstration](#) outside the White House in 1917 helped to bring about President Woodrow Wilson's support for women's suffrage.
- In 1934, Quaker lawyer [Richard Gregg](#) wrote *The Power of Non-Violence*, one of the first books to introduce Gandhi's ideas to a Western audience.
- [Bayard Rustin](#), a Quaker and a key advisor to Martin Luther King. Imprisoned for his [conscientious objection](#) during WWII.
- In [Germany in the 1930s](#), a small group of Quakers took a stand against Nazi policies. Simply by continuing to use the greeting 'Grüss Gott' instead of 'Heil Hitler,' they risked imprisonment. When the Nazis initiated the boycott of Jewish shops in 1933, Quakers made a point of visiting Jewish friends and Jewish shopkeepers

Non-violence and Peace Movements Worldwide

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- Quaker convert, [Ham Sok-Han](#), known as the Gandhi of Korea, repeatedly suffered imprisonment and carried out hunger strikes, first under the Japanese occupation of Korea in the 1920s, then under the communists in North Korea and finally under a series of corrupt dictatorships in South Korea.
- The [Alternatives to Violence Project \(AVP\)](#) began in 1975, when a group of Quakers were asked by long-term prisoners in a New York prison to provide a workshop for youth coming into conflict with the law. AVP has now spread to 50 countries around the world and has been used in situations from refugee camps to women's refuges.



Personal Experiences (Sharing)



Applying Non-Violence Today

- **BLM** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvPGk6w7vg4>

-**Choose Democracy**
<https://choosedemocracy.us/>

-**Move to Amend**
<https://www.movetoamend.org/about-us>



What does non-violence look like in our own lives?



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