Campaign Nonviolence’s Nonviolence Agreement

We encourage CNV action organizers to abide by this agreement during the CNV event.

War, poverty, racism and environmental destruction are colossal forms of violence. In seeking to end them, Campaign Nonviolence rejects the use of violence for any reason and affirms that all CNV activities will employ nonviolent tactics exclusively.

Violence and Nonviolence
For the purposes of this agreement, “violence” means behavior involving physical, verbal or emotional means intended to hurt, damage, or destroy. “Nonviolence,” on the contrary, is a force for transformation, truth, justice, and the well-being of all that is neither violent nor passive. Concretely expressed in CNV actions, nonviolence means a commitment to:

- Avoid the use of violence
- Search for the widest possible vista on the truth pertaining to any situation, and
- Being willing to accept the consequences of taking action, including voluntary suffering if necessary, to bring a conflict to a just resolution.

Guidelines
Campaign Nonviolence actions will have these characteristics in common:

- The attitude of participants will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect towards all people encountered.
- Participants will use no violence, verbal or physical, towards any person, including in reaction to violence.
- Participants will carry no weapons.
- Participants will not destroy or damage property.
- Participants will not bring or use alcohol or drugs (except for medical purposes).
- Participants will not seek to avoid the consequences of their actions.

Adapted from Oregon PeaceWorks and many other sets of nonviolent action guidelines.
We encourage you to read this covenant aloud to participants before commencing the nonviolent action.

This covenant of nonviolence is based on the guidelines of nonviolence which Dr. King used in the Birmingham, AL Campaign, in the Spring of 1963. We encourage everyone to reflect on these guidelines and to deepen their nonviolence during our time together. We agree to these basic principles of nonviolence and pledge to be nonviolent people who spend our lives working for a new culture of nonviolence:

- The attitude of every participant will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect towards all people encountered.
- Participants will use no violence, verbal or physical, toward any person, including in reaction to violence.
- Participants will carry no weapons.
- Participants will not destroy or damage property.
- Participants will not bring or use alcohol or drugs (except for medical purposes).
- Participants will not seek to avoid the consequences of their nonviolent actions.
- Participants will strive to practice a prayerful spirit of peace, mindfulness, compassion and universal love.
- Participants will follow the directions of the designated coordinators and leaders.
- Participants will try to be as nonviolent as possible to ourselves and one another today, and for the rest of our lives, and do what we can to work for a new culture of peace and nonviolence.

Please feel free to use these guidelines for other actions and your own local events in the future.

For further information, visit: www.campaignnonviolence.org