

LITANY

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Six Principles of Nonviolence

LEADER: Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.

**PEOPLE: It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.
It is assertive spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.
It is always persuading the opponent of the justice of your cause.**

LEADER: Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.

**PEOPLE: The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation.
The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved
Community.**

LEADER: Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.

PEOPLE: Nonviolence holds that evildoers are also victims.

LEADER: Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform.

**PEOPLE: Nonviolence willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.
Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation.
Nonviolence accepts violence if necessary, but will never inflict it.
Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous
educational and transforming possibilities.
Suffering can have the power to convert the enemy when reason
fails.**

LEADER: Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.

**PEOPLE: Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as of the body.
Nonviolent love gives willingly, knowing that the return might be
hostility.
Nonviolent love is active, not passive.
Nonviolent love does not sink to the level of the hater.
Love for the enemy is how we demonstrate love for ourselves.
Love restores community and resists injustice.
Nonviolence recognizes the fact that all life is interrelated.**

LEADER: Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

**PEOPLE: The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually
win.**