

Commitment to Nonviolence

While visiting the Nevada Test Site in 1991, Dom Helder Camara said, "This is the scene of the greatest violence on Earth. It should therefore be the place of the greatest acts of nonviolence."

Nevada Desert Experience is committed to a nonviolent campaign of change. Our work seeks to connect issues and humanize the many victims of nuclear testing and war-making. A peaceful paradigm will only come into its fullness when we make love our first motion.

Nonviolence trainings are a part of all our events at the Test Site. We most often utilize the curriculum developed by our sister organization *Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service*, known as *From Violence to Wholeness*. We encourage you to visit their website if you are interested in nonviolence trainings. They coordinate regular trainings and may be able to organize a specific training in your community upon request.

At each of our witness actions our participants agree to a nonviolence covenant of engagement, so that our action may be carried out in a communal vision.

NONVIOLENCE COVENANT

As a participant, I agree to abide by the following nonviolent discipline, and as part of the preparation for this witness, I will reflect on these commitments:

- We will harbor no anger but suffer the anger of the opponent.

The term opponent is borrowed from Gandhi and is meant to indicate one with whom we are in opposition but whom we do not consider to be an enemy.

- We will refuse to return the assaults of the opponent.
- We will refrain from insults and swearing.
- We will protect opponents from insults or attack.
- If arrested, we will not resist.
- If arrested, we will behave in an exemplary manner. We will not evade the legal consequences of our actions.
- As members of the nonviolent demonstration, we will follow the directions of the designated coordinators. In the event of a serious disagreement, one should remove oneself from the action.
- Our attitude as conveyed through words, symbols and actions will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people we encounter, including police officers and Nevada Test Site workers.
- We will not damage any property.
- We will not bring or use any drugs or alcohol.
- We will not run or use any threatening motions.
- We will carry no weapons.
- We will not engage in symbolic blood pouring.
- Plans for our activities are shared with the "authorities."