



A H I M S A C E N T E R
NONVIOLENCE IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

International Conference on Nonviolence Creating A Culture of Ahimsa: Visions and Strategies

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Bronco Student Center, Ursa Minor: May 14-15, 2004
Schedule: May 14, 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., May 15, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Goals

The Ahimsa Center conferences will highlight experiments and innovations in the practical applications of ahimsa (nonviolence). In our inaugural conference, dedicated to *Creating a Culture of Ahimsa*, we will explore the power of visions inspired by nonviolence and examine the strategies through which such visions are translated into realities. Our main goals are to:

- ? Help us see the depth and destructiveness of violence. Violence is so pervasive, and yet so invisible—and hence so corrosive.
- ? Make us aware of the constructive power of nonviolence and its practical significance in social, political and ecological contexts. Nonviolence is often misunderstood and hence assumed to be of little practical significance.
- ? Engage us in building communities of *ahimsaks* (people committed to ahimsa). Individual as well as social transformation is critical to the creation of a culture of nonviolence.

Themes and Topics

- ? The meaning and significance of the culture of ahimsa.
- ? The role of education, training and networking in fostering respect and care for all life forms.
- ? The role of compassion, civility, forgiveness, courage and justice in creating a culture of ahimsa.
- ? Individual and community level experiments and innovations in the culture of ahimsa.
- ? The role of nonviolence in social, political and environmental movements leading to social change.

Speakers and Panelists

A. T. Ariyaratne, Founder and President, *Sarvodaya Shramadana* Movement, Sri Lanka.

Kiran Bedi, Civilian Police Advisor to the United Nations Department of Peace Making, New York.

Christopher Key Chapple, Professor of Theological Studies and Associate Academic VP, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

Peggy DoBreer, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence, Los Angeles.

Jack DuVall, President, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, Washington D.C.

Dolores Huerta, Co-founder, United Farm Workers of America and President, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Bakersfield, CA.

Laura Finley, Lecturer, University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University.

Mahmood Ibrahim, Chair and Professor, History Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Padmanabh S. Jaini, Professor Emeritus, Jain and Buddhist Studies, University of California at Berkeley.

Mary Elizabeth King, Professor of Political Science, United Nations University of Peace, Costa Rica. Resident Scholar at Oxford University, U.K.

Uma Majmudar, Religious Studies Department, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Shabbir Mansuri, Founding Director, Council on Islamic Education, Fountain Valley, CA.

Eisha Mason, Executive Director, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence, Los Angeles.

D. R. Mehta, Founder and Chief Patron, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (*Jaipur Foot*), and Prakrit Bharati Academy, India.

Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, California State University, Northridge, CA.

Glenn D. Paige, Director, Center for Global Nonviolence, Honolulu, HI.

Da'an Pan, Associate Professor, English Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.

Krishna Ahoja Patel, International President, Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, Geneva.

Samani Sanmati Pragya, Jain Visva Bharti Institute, Ladnun, India.

Tara Sethia, Director, Ahimsa Center and Professor of History, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.

Jagdish N. Sheth, Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Sulak Sivaraksa, Prominent Thai Social Critic; Co-Founder of Asian Cultural Development Forum and International Network of Engaged Buddhists, Bangkok, Thailand.

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