



Affirming the vision and practice of active nonviolence at the heart of the Catholic Church.

A project of Pax Christi International

Action guide for individuals and groups

Also found under Resources on the CNI website

At the Catholic school, university level

Education/Formation

- Link to the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI, www.nonviolencejustpeace.net) on your school/university's website.
- Use the [resources](#) and the [World Day of Peace 2017 resources](#) on the CNI site.
- Ensure peace education grounded in Gospel nonviolence for all ages.
- Urge integration of Catholic peacebuilding and active nonviolence into theology, Catholic studies and peace studies programs, as well as research centers, immersion trips, and job fairs in Catholic universities, colleges and high schools.
- Create a Just Peace Leadership Corps at Catholic colleges and universities for young people to supplement their academic training with skill training in becoming just peace and active nonviolence leaders in our communities and broader society. Solicit funding to defray college debt through post-graduate work in appropriate organizations.
- Encourage internships with groups like Pax Christi, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Operation Dove, Christian Peacemaker Teams and Cure Violence.

Policy advocacy

- Advocate all level of governments to integrate restorative justice processes into the justice system and school system.
- Advocate all level of governments to increase investment in peacebuilding and violence prevention programs; (e.g. the Cure Violence model, peace education in schools.)
- Advocate for police departments to require substantial, ongoing, frequent de-escalation training of police and to pilot deployments of unarmed police as they do in the UK, Norway, New Zealand, Ireland, etc.

Mobilization

- If your school does not have one already, start a Pax Christi group.
- Create, train a local/regional Catholic team to provide nonviolent presence in situations of social tension.
- Promote related programs of restorative justice, trauma healing and conflict transformation as apostolic ministries of schools.

At the parish/religious community/lay movement level

Education/Formation

- Link to CNI (www.nonviolencejustpeace.net) on your website
- Promote prayers for conversion to nonviolence and just peace (prayer cards, monthly intentions, etc.)
- Watch [videos from the Nonviolence & Just Peace conference](#) and [webinars about the conference](#).
- Use [discussion questions](#) found on CNI website in a group.
- Use [prayer resources](#) found on CNI website.
- Invite a speaker associated with the conference/CNI.
- Use [World Day of Peace 2017 resources](#) regarding active nonviolence found on CNI website.
- Formation programs at all levels could include robust learning about Gospel nonviolence and daily practices to cultivate this virtue in our lives.

Policy advocacy

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- Advocate for police departments to require substantial, ongoing, frequent de-escalation training of police and to pilot deployments of unarmed police as they do in the UK, Norway, New Zealand, Ireland, etc.
- Support those who struggle for basic human rights and dignity using active nonviolent means through the policy influencing arms of the Church.

Mobilization

- Join/start a Pax Christi group – find contacts on the Pax Christi International site, www.paxchristi.net
- Create and train a local/regional Catholic team to provide nonviolent presence in situations of social tension.
- Promote related programs of restorative justice, trauma healing and conflict transformation as apostolic ministries of parishes.
- Support those who struggle for basic human rights and dignity using active nonviolent means through direct participation and solidarity; through field-based programs and material support.
- Expand and deepen partnerships and synergies focused on improving knowledge and skills related to strategic nonviolent action

At the diocesan level

Education/Formation

In addition to suggestions at the parish/religious community/lay movement level,

- Invite your bishop to sign the “[Appeal to the Catholic Church to re-commit to the centrality of Gospel nonviolence.](#)” If possible, meet with him personally to discuss.
- Include conversion to nonviolence and just peace regularly in bishop’s prayer intensions.
- Justice and Peace Commission: Integrate the theology, spirituality and praxis of Gospel nonviolence in its work, teaching; and ongoing training of Catholics at parishes, schools, etc.
- Require course on peace theology and practice of all seminarians.

Policy advocacy

See suggestions at parish/religious community/lay movement level.

Mobilization

See suggestions at parish/religious community/lay movement level.

At a national and international level

Education/Formation

- Urge national level Catholic organizations to advocate for active nonviolence.

Policy advocacy

- Develop and draw on a just peace approach as a framework for all advocacy efforts at a national, regional (Africa Union, European Union, etc.) or international (United Nations) level.
- Share the [2017 World Day of Peace message](#) with your government representatives and UN officials.
- Advocate for creative and bold just peace and nonviolent initiatives in present conflicts, such as Syria, Iraq, S. Sudan, Libya, and Yemen, etc.
- Call on the UN to implement the [2015 Peace Operations Report](#) recommendation to scale-up unarmed civilian protection.
- Invest in and call on government to increasingly invest in developing nonviolent capacities (e.g. nonviolent resistance movements, nonviolent civilian-based defense, etc.) through research, training, and resourcing.

Mobilization

See suggestions at parish/religious community/lay movement level.