

Examples of Nonviolent Actions for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons:

- **1950's:** the emergence of anti-nuclear weapons movements; humanitarian consequences from nuclear fallout sparked 60,000 women in the US to **peacefully protest** in 60 different cities; a group of physicists and chemists came together in Pugwash, Canada to oppose the implications of nuclear weapons
- **1960's: nonviolent Easter marches** took place in the US, the UK, Germany and France to demonstrate opposition to nuclear weapons
- **1980's: the radical Christian, nonviolent Plowshares Movement** trespassed into nuclear weapons facilities, poured blood on nuclear weapons to symbolize its destructive power and dismantled parts of the nuclear weapons
- **2005:** 40,000 **peaceful protesters marched** past the United Nations headquarters in New York to signify 60 years after the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- **2013:** thousands of Scottish citizens **blocked a nuclear naval base** to peacefully protest nuclear weapons
-



International Fellowship of Reconciliation – Austria
Internationaler Versöhnungsbund – österreichischer Zweig
Lederergasse 23/3/27, 1080 Wien, Österreich/Austria
Tel./Fax: (43)-01-408 53 32
www.versoennungsbund.at

How to Build a “Nuclear Testing Machine”

Goal: A “Nuclear Testing Machine” is a tool to gain the attention of passers-by and raise their awareness for the issue of Nuclear Weapons.

Material Needed: Three or more people, balloons/balls/boxes as symbols of Nuclear Weapons, flyer to promote nuclear disarmament and additional banner to declare a “Nuclear Testing Zone.”

Step 1: Person A steps forward and starts building the machine by combining a simple movement with any noise a machine might make.

Step 2: All other people involved attach themselves one after the other with their own movements and noises.

Step 3: Person A stops their motion and picks up a balloon (representation of a nuclear weapon) and loudly declares what it is and where it comes from (e.g.: This is a Trident Warhead from a British submarine).

Step 4: The “nuclear weapon” is passed on to the next person and the next etc. Each one stops their motion while they examine the weapon and adds a fact concerning the weapon and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Step 5: The last person in the machine declares: “This weapon is a threat to humanity and is hereby declared useless and ready for disarmament.” (**Repeat Steps 3-5 referring to different Nuclear Warheads**)

Last Step: Everybody stops and stands up. Person A declares: “Testing is finished. All nuclear warheads have now been declared useless. Nuclear abolition complete.”

What is Active Nonviolence?

In the presence of injustice, people throughout history have used active nonviolence to achieve change. Nonviolence is the use of peaceful means, not violence, to bring about political or social change. Active nonviolence is a **basic attitude of life** that everyone possesses which is a force that can change and overcome violence. There are also two main beliefs of active nonviolence: **injustice hurts all parties involved** and **people are capable of change**.

Progression of Active Nonviolence

1. Dialogue
 - Talk with the opposition about your side and theirs, your contribution to the problem and how the issue is an injustice
 - Offer solutions, suggestions and compromises
2. Nonviolent-Direct Action
 - Raise public awareness and support
 - Brochures, documentaries, symbolic action and strikes and boycotts
3. Noncooperation and Civil Disobedience
 - Interruption of the injustice by removing the base of the system
 - Forces dialogue or change

Throughout history, active nonviolence has proven to be effective in bringing about change in the presence of social, political and humanitarian injustice.

What can Active Nonviolence contribute to the abolishment of nuclear weapons?

Since the invention of nuclear weapons, there has been a constant threat of nuclear war with serious consequences for mankind. International treaties, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), have been established to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and show the international movement against the further production, proliferation, testing and use of nuclear weapons; however, there is still the need for total global support to abolish nuclear weapons.

Active nonviolence can contribute immensely to the abolishment of nuclear weapons. By following the progression pillars, we can start a new dialogue with governments that possess nuclear weapons. We can also spread awareness of the issue of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons through demonstrations, brochures and strikes. We have a responsibility to always provide positive solutions throughout the progression, including alternatives and compromises. We also have the power to cause change concerning this issue of nuclear weapons.

"Swords to Plowshares"
nonviolence in action
(examples on next page)

