

## Touchstones Theme: Nonviolence



I do not like the “I hate it” feeling, but I have it. I hate it that there are too many good people who allow the ways and works of violence to continue; I hate it that too many people who know better simply talk and pray about justice and ...believe ...they have ...fulfilled the requirements of justice; ...I would be delivered from all this evasion and blindness, apathy and self-service. ...I will then let my hate for all that spoils the beauty of the earth, all that diminishes the life of the world, move me to thought and effort that celebrates and promotes peace, that honors and serves justice. ...Yes, I do not like the “I hate it” feeling, but if I must have it, I will use it to move my mind and heart where they can do the most good. *Albert Ciarcia*

You may well ask, “Why direct action, why sit-ins, marches, and so forth? Isn’t negotiation a better path?” You are exactly right in your call for negotiation. Indeed, this is the purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. I just referred to the creation of tension as a part of the work of the nonviolent resister. This may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word “tension.” I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive nonviolent tension that is necessary for growth.

*Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from a Birmingham Jail, August 1963*



### Join us in exploring Nonviolence

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