

Peace Quotations Exercise Resource

As you come to know the seriousness of our situation – the war, the racism, the poverty in the world – you come to realise it is not going to be changed just by words or demonstrations.

It's a question of risking your life. It's a question of living your life in drastically different ways.

Dorothy Day

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We will match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering.

We will meet your physical force with soul force.

We will not hate you, but we cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws...

And in winning our freedom we will win you in the process.

Martin Luther King Jr

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The job of the peacemaker is to stop war, to purify the world, to get it saved from poverty and riches, to heal the sick, to comfort the sad, to wake up those who have not yet found God, to create beauty and joy wherever you go, to find God in everything and everybody.

Muriel Lester

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The smartest mosquito is more wonderful than anything man can produce. So we must never lose our sense of the marvelousness of the world around and inside us. Such an attitude engenders a spirit of nonviolence.

E M Schumacher

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Do not go gentle in to that last good
night
Rage, rage against the dying of the
light.

Dylan Thomas

If you think you are too small to make
a difference, try sleeping with a
mosquito.

Dalai Lama

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There are moments in your life when
you must act, even though you cannot
carry your best friends with you. The
“still small voice” within you must
always be the final arbiter when there
is a conflict of duty.

Mohandas K Gandhi

The marks of grace are gentleness,
hope and faith. The most dependable
sign of its presence is joy.

Jim Wallis

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Of course prayer helps. And knowing that we are one with the power that helps the blade of grass break through the asphalt.

Dorothy Sölle

Remember: the church is the chosen people of God.
But the chosen shall be known by their choices.

Allan Boesak

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No ideological or political doctrine should be considered more important than life and love of our fellow human beings. Without ideological and political doctrines we can still live in peace, but without respect for life, the world will be destroyed.

Thich Thien Minh

Nobody was born nonviolent. No one was born charitable. None of us comes to these things by nature but only by conversion. The first duty of the nonviolent community is helping its members work upon themselves and come to conversion.

Lanza del Vasto

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It is time to make preaching the Gospel publicly controversial again. We need the kind of preaching that will call people away from the ruling myths, illusions and lifestyle.

Jim Wallis

We lack a holy rage... to rage at the complacency of so many in the church who fail to see that we shall live only by the truth, and that our fear will be the death of us all.

Allan Boesak

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I do not believe in violence, hatred or armed insurrection. They take place too quickly. They change the circumstances of people's lives without giving them time to adapt to the changes. It is useless to dream of reforming society... without a corresponding deep change in our inner lives.

Dom Helder Camara

Walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in everyone.

George Fox

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I would say that I'm a nonviolent soldier. In place of weapons of violence, you have to use your mind, your heart, your sense of humour, every faculty available to you ... because no one has the right to take the life of another human being.

Joan Baez

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I pin my hopes to the small circles and quiet processes through which vital and transforming events take place.

Rufus Jones

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My heart is moved by all I cannot save
So much has been destroyed
I have to cast my lot with those who
age after age,
perversely, with no extraordinary
power,
reconstitute the world.

Adrienne Rich

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To harm the earth is to heap contempt
on its creator.

Chief Seattle

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.

Margaret Mead

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Satyagraha allows for several stages of winning over an opponent. The first stage is characterized by persuasion through reason. The subsequent stages enter the realm of persuasion through suffering wherein the satyagrahi attempts to dramatise the issues at stake and to get through to the opponent's unprejudiced judgment so that he may be persuaded through rational argument. Finally, if persuasion by reason or by suffering does not succeed, the satyagrahi may resort to nonviolent coercion... coercion whose sting is drawn by its nonviolent qualification.

Joan Bondurant

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Nobody has perhaps drawn up more petitions or espoused more forlorn causes than I, and I have come to this fundamental conclusion that if you want something really important to be done you must not merely satisfy the reason, you must move the heart also. The appeal of reason is more to the head, but the penetration of the heart comes from suffering. It opens the inner understanding in people.

Mohandas K Gandhi

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When people refuse their cooperation, withhold their help, and persist in their disobedience and defiance, they are denying their opponent the basic human assistance and co-operation which any government or hierarchical system requires. If they do this in sufficient numbers for long enough, that government or hierarchical system will no longer have power. That is the basic political assumption of nonviolent action.

Gene Sharp

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Nonviolent direct action seeks to create a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to so dramatise the issue that it can no longer be ignored.

Martin Luther King Jr

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A Christian should be without fear, happy and always in trouble.

Douglas Steere

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In our hands now lies not only our own future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the earth.

David Attenborough

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Christians should be communities of loving defiance, not comfortable clubs of conformity.

Ron Sider

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Violence breeds violence...Pure goals can never justify impure or violent action...They say the means are after all just means. I would say means are after all everything. As the means, so the end...If we take care of the means we are bound of reach the end sooner or later.

Mohandas Gandhi

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Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity. Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

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Cowardice asks the question - is it safe? Expediency asks the question - is it politic? Vanity asks the question - is it popular? But conscience asks the question - is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.

Martin Luther King Jr

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The evils of government are directly proportional to the tolerance of the people.

Frank Kent

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Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding.

Albert Einstein

You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war.

Albert Einstein

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If you want total security, go to prison. There you're fed, clothed, given medical care and so on. The only thing lacking... is freedom.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end, they always fall -- think of it, ALWAYS!

Mohandas Gandhi

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Peace is a process to engage in, not
a goal to be reached

Sydney Bailey

For evil to triumph it only takes good
people to do nothing

Edmund Burke

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The kingdom is not only beyond our
efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We
accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny
fraction of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.

We may never see the end results, but
that is the difference between the
master builder and the worker. We are
workers, not master builders; ministers,
not messiahs. We are prophets of a
future not our own.

Oscar Romero

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None of us can do everything, but all of us
can do something.

Oscar Romero

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