

Nonviolence for a Change

Do-it-Yourself guide for screening the film in groups

What's the film all about?

This 30-minute film seeks to stimulate debate and get people to reflect on where they stand when it comes to nonviolent protest, particularly nonviolent direct action. Nonviolent protest is all about actively challenging and addressing injustice with the long-term vision of building another, more just, world. *Nonviolence isn't simply not using violence. It is a pro-active, positive approach to working for change.* It offers a third way between passively accepting the status quo and trying to impose a change through violent force.

Turning the Tide originally made this video in 2001 and in 2011 we released an updated version, the dvd you are about to watch. This updated version poses the same questions in the newer context and explores how people's perspectives and opinions about nonviolent protest may have shifted over those ten years.

Thank you for screening the film. We hope you find this d-i-y guide useful and if you'd like more resources or support, please visit our website, send us an email or call. Our contact details are overleaf at the bottom of the page.

Before the screening with the group we suggest you ...

- Watch the film and think about what parts of this d-i-y guide are relevant to the group and plan accordingly.
- Talk over your plan for screening with someone and get their feedback.
- Keep in mind that people come to meetings/events with their own personal pre-occupations and feelings as well as interest in the subject at hand.
- Facilitate the discussion in a way that includes everyone and keep in mind there are no such things as right and wrong answers, only different opinions. *The film is intentionally provocative in order to stimulate discussion.* Turning the Tide is not saying that the actions in the film are 'right' or 'wrong' – that's for you to decide.
- Bear in mind that some people might be more comfortable sharing in pairs or small groups rather than the whole group so you might want to create that sort of space before opening up a whole group discussion.
- If you intend to use the download version (<http://vimeo.com/21800941>) instead of the dvd, ensure you have adequate internet connection at the venue.

At the screening we suggest you ...

- Arrive early and check that the equipment is in working order and arrange the room so everyone can see and hear. Consider darkening the room to make the picture on the screen brighter.
- If using the dvd (rather than the download version) have the start page on the screen with the music playing low as people enter the room. It will help to welcome them in and set the scene.
- When ready to begin, turn down the sound and thank everyone for coming. Welcome them by saying a few words about the film, such as the points mentioned in the beginning of this document (**What's the film all about?**).

- Consider an ice-breaker activity to help the group settle in and focus their attention on the task at hand. If the group doesn't know each other well, the ice-breaker (even a simple go-round introduction: who I am, why I'm here) can function to help people get to know each other better and feel more comfortable sharing during the discussion.
- To start the film, select "Nonviolence for a Change" and turn the volume back up.

After the screening we suggest you ...

- Consider the time available and what you hope the group gets out of the discussion. People are often quite stirred by the film's content and suggesting turning to your neighbour and having a quick chat about 'what do you think about that' can help people work through the first layer of their reaction to the film.

If time permits, here are some more points to explore with the group:

- What is violence and nonviolence? Consider the actions viewed in the film, is there agreement amongst the group about what constitutes nonviolence and violence?
- What constitutes 'property damage'? What role does property damage play in nonviolent action for change?
- Why is it important that we make our direct action and protests nonviolent?
- How does change happen? How do power-holders generally respond to different tactics, eg, nonviolent direct action, large peaceful marches or mobilisations, letters and petitions, etc?
- What is the role of direct action in social change? Why and when should we take nonviolent direct action? Why and when should we use 'normal channels' (eg lobbying MPs, petitions)?

The film is available as a dvd (price £5 + p&p) from:

The Quaker Centre, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Phone: 0207 663 1030/1031; Email: quakercentre@quaker.org.uk

OR

download from: <http://vimeo.com/21800941>

Turning the Tide (TTT) is a programme of Quaker Peace & Social Witness which aims to promote the understanding and use of nonviolence to bring about positive social change.

TTT offers introductory workshops on nonviolence and works with groups to help them develop their position on the effectiveness of active nonviolence, campaign strategies and tactics, and group-process. It produces a newsletter called *Making Waves*. To know more visit the website or contact:

Turning the Tide, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

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