



NH Peace Action

As an organization, we work on several issues, topics and problems in our world. We'd like you to understand the relationship we see between our peace work and the issues/topics/problems that we connect with.

Why we are drawn to working on conflict resolution: From textbooks to conferences, those who study or practice peace often begin with conflict. Our pragmatic aim is to rebalance the understanding of conflicts back toward the view that they exist only as long as we maintain them. When we better understand how to resolve conflicts, we transform them into temporary instances before the moment of communication and their becoming a past instance. Over the past few years especially, we have introduced our members and the public to various types of conflict, and alternative ways of arriving at desired results. Some instances of conflict are inevitable because of the social structures we live with but don't result in violence when we engage the full complement of nonviolent tactics to resolve them. We consider it our role in NH to point this out, to help fellow citizens recognize when conflicts are not intractable, but merely a temporary characteristic of current social life.

What resolution are we seeking in this area: We are seeking to reduce the scope of the influence conflicts play in our society, from the all-encompassing conflict worldview we sometimes see, to just one facet of modern life. Better understanding of what a conflict is, the stages of conflict and the routes to resolution helps all citizens learn to lead more effective lives in both personal and public spheres. This means that we hope to increase the scope of the resolution of conflicts so that resolution becomes a prevailing value we all share.

NHPA connects with this issue.

We educate on this issue by: including in our discussions of current conflicts some suggestions for how they might be resolved, or noting and naming barriers to their resolution. Many of the conflicts in our state and larger society are representative of intersecting problems, so they are opportunities for us to work on several fronts together. Finally, we illustrate the benefits to some conflicts that make it hard to resolve them, as one explanation for why people maintain them.

We organize on this issue by: modeling the behavior we are hoping to see. We engage with representatives, host discussions, and suggest new models for operating. For example, to lead the way toward cooperation over competition, we

hosted a game night featuring only cooperative games, to demonstrate that there are many ways to 'win.' Likewise, our Art for Peace event introduced new ways to 'speak' about the resolution of conflicts across the world.

We mobilize on this issue by: joining larger movements that push equally for a different mode of life, such as the Poor People's Campaign, and we insist on non-conflict modes of creating a culture of peace, such as our annual recognition of and events surrounding the International Day of Peace on 21 September.

Our vision comes closer when this emphasis on conflict resolution is championed because: we will be living in a world wherein the last resort for world conflict is not war, but discussion or peaceful means of reducing harm-based decision making. Citizens in our communities will better navigate the things with which they do not agree; policies and legislation will better represent the will of the people and the empathy for minority voices; and the opportunities for success will be illustrated as win-win, rather than win-lose.

If you and/or your organization would like to pursue partnerships in this area, we invite you to contact us at info@nhpeaceaction.org .