



# The Gandhi Foundation

has much pleasure in inviting your organisation to participate in

## “The Festival of Nonviolence”

during the 18 days from

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> year since Gandhi’s death in 1948**

Representatives of participating organisations will be invited to The Festival Launch Party on 25<sup>th</sup> March at The British Library Conference Centre on Euston Road when **The British Library** will unveil their new exhibition:

### “The Life of Gandhi”

At 7:30, a number of eminent people from the worlds of the arts and culture will each contribute a short piece on Nonviolence. Indian and Western music will be played during refreshments.

### **ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL [to 20<sup>th</sup> February]**

The British Library & The India Office, The Indian High Commission & The Nehru Centre, The TUC & their EU + International Relations Department, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, St Ethelburga’s Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Peace Child International, The Noble Sage Art Gallery, The Conflict Research Society, The Christian Ecology Group, “Yoga and Health” magazine, The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, The Schumacher Society, The Environmental Law Association, The Jeevika Trust, The Prem Rawat Foundation, The Blake Society, The Power of Word & Song, The Inter-Faith Network, “Alternatives” at St James Piccadilly, The London Socialist Film Club, Action for UN Renewal, The Commonwealth Countries League, The Centre for International Peacebuilding, Green Mantle  
and

Diane Abbott MP, Peter Bottomley MP, Mike Horovitz, Dr James Chiriyankandath

### **PATRONS:**

Godric Bader, Sir Bernard Crick, Lord Navnit Dholakia, Eirwen Harbottle, Professor Eric Hobsbawm, Dr Nanda Kumara, Mrs Monika Mohta, Roger Lloyd Pack, Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Martin Polden, Clive Stafford-Smith, Sir Mark Tully

### **RSVP:**

John Rowley,

**73 Carysfort Road, London N16 9AD.**

**Tel: 0207-249-4471.**

**Email: [festival.of.nonviolence@gmail.com](mailto:festival.of.nonviolence@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.gandhifoundation.org](http://www.gandhifoundation.org)**

# “The Festival of Nonviolence”

## Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

The Gandhi Foundation has created “The Festival of Nonviolence” to complement The British Library’s travelling exhibition of “The Life of Gandhi” while it is displayed in London.

Both serve to mark the 60 years that have passed since Gandhi’s death in 1948 and both will open together at The British Library on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The 6 panels of the exhibition will be on public view for the first time on the following Saturday [29<sup>th</sup> March] at **Kingsley Hall** in Bromley-by-Bow where Gandhi stayed in 1931. The Festival will end on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April when the exhibition moves to Hull, the next stop on its journey round the country.

The aim of The Festival is to remind Londoners and its visitors of the depth and power of Nonviolence and of its pervading influence today in solving the major problems of our city – implementing justice, creating and maintaining communal harmony, achieving authentic race and inter-faith relations and establishing environmental integrity.

We believe that you and your organisation are one of many committed to the basic tenets of Nonviolence and that your work reflects this. We note that there are huge numbers of other people and groups in London who share this commitment with you. They range from the Faiths, not-for-profit and campaigning groups, most businesses, central and local governments to teachers, police, journalists, trades unionists, social and community workers, lawyers, managers, artists, academics, counsellors, politicians and many more.

You can now make your organisation’s commitment to Nonviolence explicit by participating in The Festival either as a “**Supporter**”: you simply put the title and logo on your publicity for your normal work and activities. Or as an “**Activist**”: you put on a Special event during the 18 days of The Festival. The Programme shows the events already organised. Clearly, the more there are, the greater the impact of our unifying theme.

Once you register as either a “Supporter” and/or an “Activist”, we will post you a hard-copy Invitation Card for the **Launch Party** at The British Library, 6:30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> March. In between times, we will:

1. Email you weekly up-dates on Patrons, Supporters and Activists.
2. Collate your work, publicity and Special event into The Festival Programme and the website.
3. Add the publicity material for your Special event to The Festival marketing campaign.

### THE WIDER CONTEXT

You will probably know that the UN General Assembly agreed in June 2007 to nominate **Gandhi’s birthday** [2<sup>nd</sup> October] as **The International Day of Nonviolence**. The Statement “invites all Member States, NGO’s and individuals to disseminate the message of Nonviolence through education and public awareness” and “requested the Secretary-General to recommend ways and means [to] assist Member States in organizing activities to commemorate the Day.” In that light, **The Festival of Nonviolence** can be regarded as a rehearsal for the main event on 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year. The Secretary-General might find a range of activities that he could recommend to Member States for their own celebrations of Nonviolence. This will include the UK.

In fact, the Foreign Secretary has just announced his four Strategic Priorities: countering terrorism and proliferation; reducing and preventing conflict; promoting a low carbon, high growth global economy; and developing effective international institutions, especially the UN and EU. We would like to persuade him that the principles and practice of Nonviolence would bring success in all four arenas sooner and more effectively than any other vision of the future so far imagined by mankind. To date, “Nonviolence has been marginalized because it is one of the rare truly revolutionary ideas, an idea that seeks to change completely the nature of society, a threat to the established order. And so it has always been treated as something profoundly dangerous” Mark Kurlansky, 2006.

## THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME [as at 20<sup>th</sup> February]

DATE	EVENT	ACTIVISTS	ORGANISATION	TIME	PRICE	CONTACT
<b>MARCH</b>						
25	Launch of The British Library's <b>"LIFE OF GANDHI"</b> and The Gandhi Foundation's <b>"FESTIVAL OF NONVIOLENCE"</b>	Party for Patrons, Supporters & Activists <i>plus</i> Reception and Show with Ruth Padel, Corin Redgrave,	The British Library Conference Centre Euston Road London NW1	6:30	Invitation Only	John Rowley <a href="mailto:Festival.of.non-violence@gmail.com">Festival.of.non-violence@gmail.com</a>
29	Opening of <b>"LIFE OF GANDHI"</b> to public & replanting Gandhi's tree	The Indian High Commissioner and The Patrons of The Festival	Kingsley Hall, Powis Rd, E3 3HJ	3:00 to 6:00	Free	David Baker <a href="mailto:gandhilion@genie.co.uk">gandhilion@genie.co.uk</a>
29	<b>HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA</b>	Indian Flute Concert	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan	7:00	£15 + concs	<a href="http://www.bhavan.net">www.bhavan.net</a>
31	<b>"My Life, My Words: Remembering Mahatma Gandhi"</b> Plus 2 <b>Sudhir Mishra</b> film tributes to Gandhi	Book Launch Two Film Premiere's	The Nehru Centre South Audley St London W1K 1HF Tel: 020 749 13567	6:30	Free	<a href="mailto:nehrucentre@aol.com">nehrucentre@aol.com</a> www.nehrucentre.org.uk
<b>APRIL</b>						
2	<b>"Lage Raho Munnabhai"</b> Director: Rajkumar Hirani with Sanjay Dutt. 144 mins + subtitles	The hit musical comedy <b>film</b> . A Mumbai gangster begins to see Gandhi's spirit and to practice what he calls Gandhigiri (non-violence) to help solve people's problems.	The Nehru Centre [see 31 <sup>st</sup> March]	6:30	Free	E: <a href="mailto:nehrucentre@aol.com">nehrucentre@aol.com</a> www.nehrucentre.org.uk
3	<b>"Nothing But The Salt"</b>	Story-telling by Vayu Naidu	The Nehru Centre [see 31 <sup>st</sup> March]	6:30	Free	<a href="mailto:nehrucentre@aol.com">nehrucentre@aol.com</a> www.nehrucentre.org.uk
12	<b>"Transforming conflict through Meditation"</b>	Dave Corbett	78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG Tel: 020 7496 1610	10 – 5pm	£40 with lunch	events@stethelburgas.org www.stethelburgas.org
12	<b>"Nonviolence, Restorative Justice &amp; Mapping Conflict"</b>	Workshop organised by The Conflict Research Society.	Faraday House, 48 - 51 Old Gloucester St WC1N3AE	2 – 4:30	£10 with concs	<a href="http://www.syracuseu.ac/map">www.syracuseu.ac/map</a> Contact <a href="mailto:g.j.burt@open.ac.uk">g.j.burt@open.ac.uk</a>

### OFFERED BUT NOT CONFIRMED:

<b>"Animals Count"</b>	The Animals Count Political Party	Speeches			Free	<a href="http://www.animalscount.org">www.animalscount.org</a>
<b>"Tibet and the Olympics"</b>	The Tibet Society	Speeches & Discussion	139 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HF. Tel: 020 7272 1414		Free	<a href="http://www.tibetsociety.com">www.tibetsociety.com</a>
<b>"Dances of Universal Peace"</b>	Shan Rees	Dance			Donate	<a href="http://www.livingexcellently.co.uk">www.livingexcellently.co.uk</a>
<b>"Hey Ram - The Last Day in the Life of Mahatma Gandhi"</b>	Vijay Rana plus 2 actors	Radio Play				www.nrifm.com

## **GANDHI and the scope of Nonviolence:**

**“Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man”.**

**“Nonviolence is a dormant state. In the waking state, it is love.”**

**“I believe that Nonviolence is infinitely superior to violence, forgiveness is more courageous than punishment. Strength does not come from physical capacity but from indomitable will”.**

**“Woman has been suppressed under custom and law for which men are responsible”.**

**“Be the change you wish to see.”**

**“I hate privilege and monopoly. Whatever cannot be shared with the masses is taboo to me”.**

**“It has always been a mystery to me how men can feel themselves honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings”**

**“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”**

**“Nonviolence presupposes the ability to strike. It is a conscious, deliberate restraint upon one’s desire for vengeance. But vengeance is any day superior to passive and helpless submission”**

**“War with its glorification of brute force is essentially a degrading thing. It demoralises those who are trained for it. It brutalises men of naturally gentle character. It outrages every beautiful canon of morality. Its path of glory is foul with the passion of lust and red with the blood of murder”.**

**“If every disagreement were to displease, since no two people agree exactly on all points, life would be a bundle of unpleasant sensations & so a perfect nuisance. On the contrary, frank criticism pleases me.”**

**“The mind is a restless bird: the more it gets, the more it wants & still remains unsatisfied”.**

**“I shall bring about economic equality through non-violence, converting people to my point of view by harnessing the forces of love against hatred.”**

**“Economics that hurt the moral well-being of an individual or a nation are immoral and, therefore, sinful. Thus the economics that permit one country or organisation to prey upon another are immoral. It is sinful to buy and use articles made by sweated labour”.**

**“Civilisation in the real sense of the word consists not in the multiplication but in the deliberate and voluntary reduction of want”.**

**“Live simply so that others may simply live.”**

**“Capital and labour need not be antagonistic towards each other”.**

**“Three-fourths of the miseries and misunderstandings in the world will disappear if we step into the shoes of our adversaries and understand their standpoint”.**

**“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”.**

**“I do not want my house to be walled in and my windows stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible but I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”**

**“Real swaraj [self-determination] is to be attained by educating the masses to a sense of their capacity to regulate and control authority.”**

**“The more I work at this law of love in action, the more I feel delight in life, the delight in the scheme of the universe. It gives me peace and a meaning of the mysteries of nature that I have no power to describe”.**

**“I give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt apply the face of the poorest and weakest man you have seen then ask yourself whether the next step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. In other words will it lead to freedom [swaraj] for the hungry and the spiritually starving millions. Then you will find your doubts and your self melting away”.**

**“Truth resides in every human heart, and one has to search for it there, and to be guided by truth as one sees it. But no one has the right to coerce others to act according to their own view of truth”.**

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ORGANISATION AS A  
“SUPPORTER” AND YOUR EVENT AS AN “ACTIVIST” NOW  
AND PASS THIS INVITATION ON**

**PS**

**1. “The Life of Gandhi”** exhibition is already booked to travel to Hull, Kent, Sheffield, Leicester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Cardiff, Southampton until January 2009. Contact the Library on [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) for further details.

**2. Gandhi's statue in Parliament Square.** The Mayor has said that he intends to do this. Please write to him encouraging him to do so soon.