

National Day of Non-Violence

Assembly Plan

Time: 15 minutes Audience: KS3/KS4

This PowerPoint and the plan below is provided as a resource to enable you to deliver a short assembly highlighting the National Day of Non-Violence and and encourage pupils to reflect on the importance of finding nonviolent solutions to conflict.

We encourage you to adapt the resource to your school – slides may be hidden to make the assembly shorter and the notes below are only a guide on what to say for each slide.

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| Slide 1 |  |
| Slide 2 | Today in our assembly we are focusing on the National Day of Non-Violence, started by the charity Stand Against Violence following the tragic death of 17-year-old Lloyd Fouracre in a violent attack. The purpose of the day is to unite the country in finding nonviolent solutions to conflict and echoes the UN’s International Day of Non Violence which is celebrated on the 2nd October. |
| Slide 3 | Gandhi said: “I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.” |
| Slide 4 | But an international day of nonviolence can seem so out of our reach, I in every 6 countries are at war[[1]](#footnote-1) with the worst conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. [[2]](#footnote-2)  Globally Violence costs £1400 for every person in the world! (or 13.3% of the GDP)2  Gun violence is a significant problem, seen in the press in the USA but also in many other countries where gun laws are not as strict as the UK. In the USA youth homicide (murder + manslaughter) rates are 10 times higher than the UK -because the availability of guns means more assaults end in death.[[3]](#footnote-3)  At a time of escalating conflicts, violent extremism, displacement and humanitarian need, the courage and determination of Mahatma Gandhi, whose birthday we celebrate today, is an inspiration for us all. |
| Slide 5 | Einstein said: “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”  If we want to avoid violence we have to understand the other person or countries point of view. |
| Slide 6 | In the UK violence is reducing but 60% of violence is committed by or against young people aged 10-30. With 16% young men and 8% of girls becoming victims of violence.  6% of young people admit to carrying a weapon  Alcohol is a big factor with 60% of violent offences taking place in or around places that serve alcohol,  Domestic violence is also a problem, 25% of women and 16% of men admit to being victims.[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| Slide 7 | Gandhi said: “The future depends on what you do today.”  – It can be easy to think it should be someone else’s job to deal with the big challenges in the world, like stopping violence, but Gaundi said for the world to change it needed the world to step up. |
| Slide 8 | Explain any problems of violence in the school (remember verbal abuse and threats both count as violence) and in the surrounding community.  Also highlight any progress especially in school. |
| Slide 9 | The Dalai Lama XIV said: “Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there.  Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means” |
| Slide 10 | So what can you do?  Manage your emotions – if you’re feeling angry try and get away before you say or do something you regret.  Apologise – If you’ve said or done something you shouldn’t have, admit it and say sorry.  If you see someone being picked on – stick up for them  Or if you don’t feel you can – report it  Don’t support it or join in – nothing makes a situation worse than a crowd shouting “Fight, fight, Fight”. |
| Slide 11 | Together we can stand against violence |
| Slide 12 | In memory of Lloyd Fouracre who was killed in a violent attack on the 25th September 2005 |

1. Professor Havard Hegro, University of Oslo, 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Global Peace Index 2016, <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/GPI-2016-Report_2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Violent Britain. 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Violent Britain 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)