



Racial Justice - Research & Strategy Team

Initial Stage

October 13, 2014

Keywords: #Ferguson #HandsUpDontShoot #EndRacism #LearnMore #StrategyIsPower #NewJimCrow #ModernDayLynching #ActiveNonviolence

Summary: On Earth Peace's Nonviolent Social Change ministry is seeking several volunteers to join in a social action research team, to begin October 22, 2014, and to complete its work by Friday, November 21, 2014. Weekly time commitment is minimum 5 hours/week, up to 10 hours/week (or more as offered/available!)

Purpose: Produce a collective analysis of possibilities and recommendations about how and whether On Earth Peace could move forward in catalyzing our constituency to act in solidarity with the emerging movement for racial justice, catalyzed by the trigger events in Ferguson, MO.

Please note: After reading this document, if you feel you have specific skills or wisdom you would like to offer, but you cannot commit to the team meeting requirements, please contact us, and we will seek ways to fold in your expertise or support. (Including if you would like to be one of the people interviewed!)

Task Description

- 1) Refine a draft set of "social action research" questions, focused on understanding the current moment with this movement, and what (if any) openings exist to mobilize or organize On Earth Peace's base/constituency
- 2) Seek answers to these through
 - a) Reviewing written or digital sources (including sources with which you are already familiar) - seeking best current strategic thought and insight
 - b) Carrying out interviews with key voices, elders, youth, and members of On Earth Peace's broad constituency (including both potential supporters and potential adversaries of a racial justice organizing initiative)
 - c) Sharing insight and wisdom from team members and seeking more through prayer
- 3) Synthesize our findings into a concise collective summary of information and recommendations, due no later than Friday, November 21, 2014.

All volunteers will participate in teambuilding and skill training/sharing, which will include orientation to On Earth Peace's nonviolent social change frameworks, a common language for our work, and how this project relates to larger purposes of social change and social movement participation.

Collective capacities of the team

As a whole, the team will comprise the following **capacities**.

(Not all members must hold all skills.)

- Facility with navigating social media platforms and streams
- Ease with reading/summarizing articles, blog posts, and other digital or written information
- Ready to talk with people they don't know on the phone, including potential opponents or critics
- Ability to synthesize data, including facts and feelings into a larger whole, focused on seeing strategic openings
- Desire to apply or learn strategic perspectives on social change and nonviolence
- Different lived experiences related to race, racism, and racial justice
- Ready to help build spiritual power and seek intuitive/prayer insight

Required skills and resources

- It is important for team members to be able to make summaries about articles or conversations and to contribute to computer-based written documentation.
- All members need to bring a ready awareness of dynamics of racial oppression and privilege.
- All members need at least basic familiarity with effective communication and healthy conflict skills; facilitation and active nonviolent communication skills are a plus.
- Access and ease for using telephone, computer and internet are essential, as these will be essential tools for our team work (including shared Google Drive documents).
- Access to high-speed internet and a webcam are strongly preferred but not required.

Schedule Considerations

- Volunteers must be ready to spend a minimum of five and up to ten hours a week carrying out their work.
- Volunteers must be available for the initial teambuilding and training session (Weds 10/22, 1pm Eastern-3pm Eastern)
- Volunteers must be available for weekly team calls (60-90 minutes) each Wednesday at 1pm Eastern - October 29, and November 5, 12, and 19.

To signal your interest and inquire further

To apply for the team, send an e-mail with the skills or capacities that you bring to the table. Our staff will respond promptly.

Please call, text, or e-mail with any questions!

Matt Guynn

Project coordinator

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