Gandhian Conflict Norms
As systematized by Johan Galtung, The Way is the Goal: Gandhi Today,
Gujarat Vidyapith Peace Research Centre, Ahmedabad, India, 1992

1. Goals and Conflict

1.1 Act in conflicts!
   Act now!
   Act here!
   Act for your own group!
   Act out of identity!
   Act out of conviction!

1.2 Define the conflict well!
   State your own goals clearly!
   Try to understand your opponent's goal!
   Emphasize common and compatible goals!
   State the conflict-relevant facts objectively!

1.3 Have a positive approach to conflict!
   Give the conflict a positive emphasis!
   See the conflict as opportunity to meet the opponent!
   See conflict as opportunity to transform society!
   See the conflict as opportunity to transform yourself!

2. Conflict Struggle

2.1 Act non-violently in conflicts!
   Do not hurt or harm with deeds!
   Do not hurt or harm with words!
   Do not hurt or harm with thoughts!
   Do not harm the opponent's property!
   Prefer violence to cowardice!
   Do good even to the evil-doer!

2.2 Act in a goal-consistent manner!
   Always include a constructive element!
   Use goal-revealing forms of struggle!
   Act openly, not secretly!
   Aim the struggle at the correct point!

2.3 Do not cooperate with evil!
   Non-cooperation with evil structure!
   Non-cooperation with evil status!
   Non-cooperation with evil action!
   Non-cooperation with those who cooperate with evil!

2.4 Be willing to sacrifice!
   Do not escape from punishment!
   Be willing to die if necessary!

2.5 Do not polarize!
   Distinguish between antagonism and antagonist!
   Distinguish between person and status!
   Maintain contact!
   Empathy with your opponent's position!
   Be flexible in defining parties and positions!

2.6 Do not escalate!
   Remain as loyal as possible!
   Do not provoke or let yourself be provoked!
   Do not humiliate or let yourself be humiliated!
   Do not expand the goals for the conflict!
   Use the mildest possible forms of conflict behavior!

3. Conflict Resolution

3.1 Solve conflict!
   Do not continue conflict struggle forever!
   Always seek negotiation with the opponent!
   Seek positive social transformations!
   Seek human transformation!
   - of yourself!
   - of the opponent!

3.2 Insist on the essentials, not on the non-essentials!
   Do not trade with essentials!
   Be willing to compromise on non-essentials!

3.3 See yourself as fallible!
   Remember that you may be wrong!
   Admit your mistakes openly!
   Consistency over time not very important!

3.4 Be generous in your view of the opponent!
   Do not exploit the opponent's weaknesses!
   Do not judge the opponent harder than yourself!
   Trust your opponent!

3.5 Conversion, not coercion!
   Always seek solutions that are accepted!
   - by yourself!
   - by the opponent!
   Never coerce your opponent!
   Convert your opponent into a believer of the cause!