

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

- 1.1 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!