



Peace Through Service



Joint E-Bulletin

of

Rotaract club of Kathmandu Mid-Town (RI District 3292)

&

Rotaract Club of Mumbai Ghatkopar (RI District 3140)

Marking International Non-Violence Day

2nd October



Message from Editor: RAC Mumbai Ghatkopar

It gives us great pleasure to release this joint bulletin with Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Midtown on the occasion on World Non-violence day and Gandhi Jayanti.

Nepal and India have been countries where non-violence has been practiced for centuries. Gautam Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi spread the message of truth and non-violence around the world. Their actions inspired many people around the world to take up the path of peace and non-violence.

Unfortunately, both Nepal and India have suffered violent acts of terrorism in recent years. This bulletin attempts to understand the concept of non-violence better and examines how it can be applied in contemporary society.

We hope you enjoy reading this bulletin and do send us your feedback on the same.

With Love,

Rtr. Vijay Raman

International Service Director, Director-Partners in Service and President Elect
Rotaract Club of Mumbai Ghatkopar



Message from Editor: RAC Kathmandu Mid-Town

Dear Readers,

It makes us delighted to present this special joint e-bulletin themed Non-Violence. The bulletin has been released marking the International Non-Violence Day i.e. October 2, 2012. Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October so it is being celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti (celebration of non-violence). Then later, world started to observe this day as an International day for Non-Violence which has been recognized by United Nation as well.



We have tried to disseminate the message of peace through our bulletin content. We hope this small effort will add some block to the campaign of peace that everyone is pursuing. We would like to quote the phrases of Dalai Lama; *“Non-violence means dialogue, using our language, the human language. Dialogue means compromise; respecting each other’s rights; in the spirit of reconciliation there is a real solution to conflict and disagreement. There is no hundred percent winner, no hundred percent losers—not that way but half-and-half. That is the practical way, the only way.”*

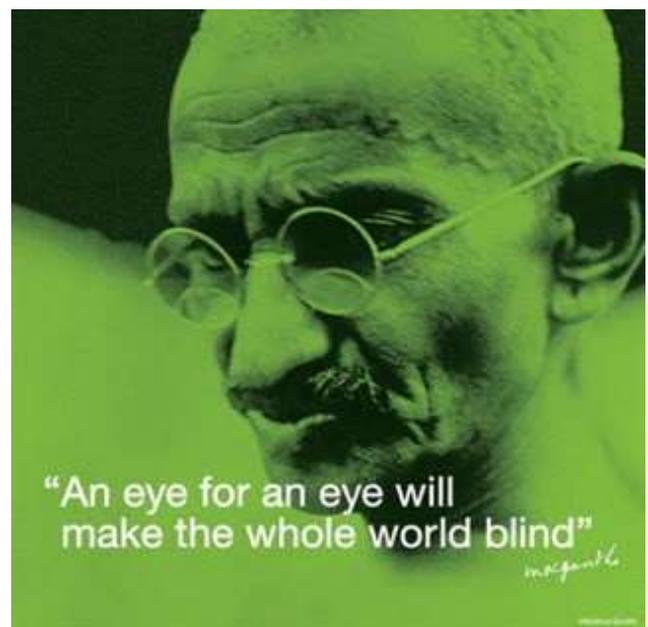
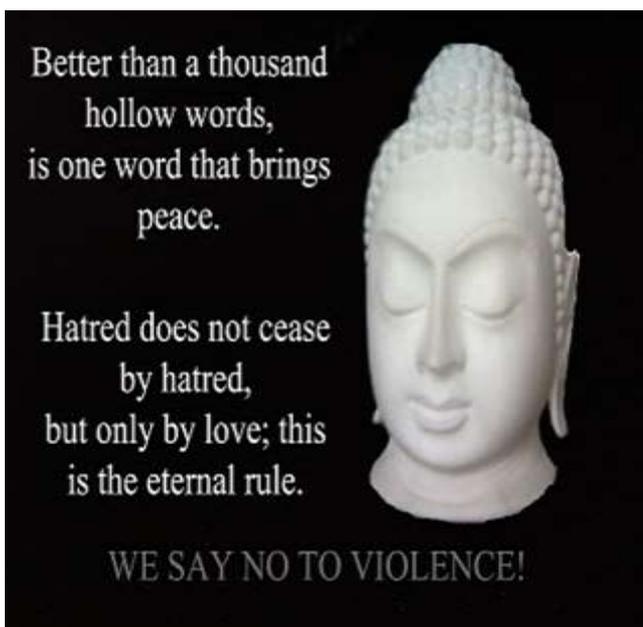
So please take this bulletin as an urge for non-violence. Let’s start respecting each other and do service and flinch the campaign to support RI president’s theme ‘Peace through Service.’ Have a great time ahead and enjoy reading.

Regards,

Rtr. Saugat Gautam

(Editor-RAC Ktm Mid-Town)

Let’s see what great ones have to say



Non-Violence

Ahimsa Paramodharama is a phrase that is quoted by Mahatma Gandhi and many others from our ancient scriptures. Loosely translated it means, Ahimsa (Non-violence) is one's supreme duty.

Non-violence is often confused by many for weakness, laziness, lack of ability to fight etc. On the contrary, non-violence requires a great deal of strength, discipline and self-control. When an aggressor commits an act of aggression on us, our instinct is to react violently by hurting the aggressor. Non-violence requires us to suppress our natural instinct and instead react with love and affection. No violence requires a great deal of patience and a deep understanding of the aggressor's motivations for the aggression and a firm faith in one's cause and one's individual ability.



A critical success factor for a nonviolent movement to succeed is the ability to inspire people. When people see an individual non-violently protesting against painful aggression, they get inspired and join the individual. The network effects then result in a large number of people following the lead individual. The large number of followers puts pressure on the aggressor and forces the aggressor to reconsider their action.

One question that comes to mind when the topic of non-violence is raised is that if problems can always be solved through non-violence why do we need armies, weapons, police etc. to maintain peace and order. It's important to understand that non-violence does is not effective in some situations, three of which have been listed below.

For non-violent movements to succeed, it's critical that the aggressor have some degree (albeit small) of humanity and reason. For example: non-violent movements would not work against the like of powerful dictators like Hitler, Mussolini etc. Non-violence requires a clear, identifiable and powerful aggressor with a purpose. For example: the aggressor was the British Raj in India in the case of Mahatma Gandhi. Hence, unfortunately, non-violence may not be able to provide a solution to modern day terrorism because it is difficult to identify the aggressor and purpose with absolute certainty. Lastly, non-violence may not be the best way to defend against imminent threat to one's life or the lives of a country's citizens. Just as one needs to take immediate physical action if one has a knife pointed at oneself (being non-violent and daring the attacker to kill you would not be heroic but an act of stupidity), a country needs to be armed and ready to defend itself against aggression that poses an immediate threat to its citizens while pursuing non-violent means to problems that require longer durations to solve.

Thus Non-violence is a very powerful tool that can be used to alter the course of human civilization. However, one must realize that requires immense effort and has its limitations.

**Compiled by:
RAC Mumbai Ghatkopar**

Towards a culture of non-violence

The world at present is transient through an atmosphere full of conflict and violence and the youths of today are at greater risks. The World Report on Violence states that homicide and non-fatal assaults involving young people contribute greatly to the global burden of premature death, injury and disability. South-Asian countries are of prime to these facts. In Nepal, the youths (16-40 years) make up 38.8 percent of the total population and they represent a critical constituency for shaping of nation's future. However, violence among youths has become one of the most observable forms of violence in our society and a hindrance to national growth. The newspapers and the broadcast media report daily on different forms of violence by gangs, in schools or by young people on the streets. The prime victims and perpetrators of such violence, nearly everywhere, are themselves the youths.



The participation of youths in violence and conflict in Nepal has been evident since the war began in 1996. Although the signing of peace accord after the second people's movement in 2006 halted a decade war and put the light towards the pathway of peace, the youths have still not been able to find a way out from the vicious cycle of violence. The gun and the gang culture have by now occupied an overriding position among several youths, threatening the future of many young people who warrant a non-violent and peaceful quality of life. Political parties and armed groups have confined young people to street politics, strikes and violent actions with intent to consolidate their vested interests. This in turn has been impacting Nepali youths in number of ways. While the direct effects of violence such as victimization are always noteworthy, many young people have also been suffering from losing their educational and vocational opportunities.

In the context of violence, youths have always been viewed as a problem or threat to security. However, no concrete actions from the national and societal level have reached these youths to bring them together towards mainstream of national development through peace-building and renouncing violence. Youths they have also never stood collectively as one to say no to crime and violence. But now there is a greater need to generate a culture of youth leadership in society. Rotaractors, who have been embracing the Rotary International Theme of "*Peace through Service*", could be one of the major actors in combating youth violence at a community level.

As youths, developing selves as productive citizens and peace workers could be a starting point for all the Rotaractors to develop the culture of non-violence and peace. The Rotaract clubs with their new ideas, new energy and neutral background, can contribute to development of peace and non-violence. Since the youths are ready to participate in community services, they should be treated as partners in all social activities concerning violence prevention. Rotaract clubs can either themselves lead/initiate or participate in various forms of anti-violence campaigns and educational/empowerment programs.

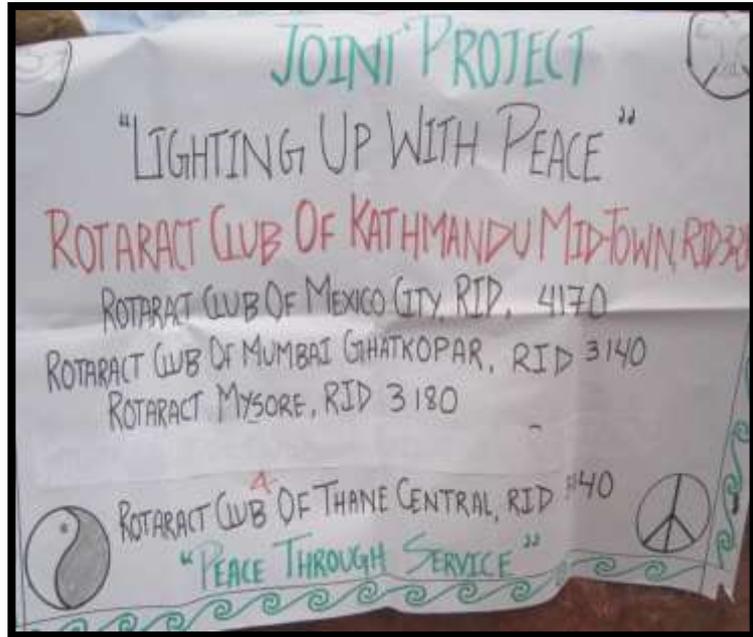
RI President Sakuji Tanaka said, "Through service, we become more tolerant of our differences and more grateful for the people in our lives. Our sense of gratitude drives us to understand others better and to see the good in everyone. Through better understanding, we learn to respect others. With mutual respect, we live with others in peace."

Written by:
Rtr. Prabesh Ghimire
Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town



"Lighting up with Peace"

Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town (RID 3292) jointly with 4 different International Rotaract clubs, Rotaract club of Mumbai Ghatkopar (RID 3140), Rotaract club of Thane Central (RID 3140), Rotaract club of Mexico City (RID 4170) and Rotaract Mysore (RID 3180) organized the Lighting program for peace on 21st September marking International Peace day. The objective of program is support RI President Rtn. Sakuji Tanaka's theme for the Rota year 2012/13 "Peace through Service" and mark International Peace Day.



Event in Mumbai, India

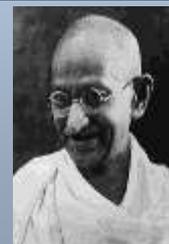


Event in Kathmandu, Nepal

There are many causes I would die for.

There is not a single cause I would kill for.

-Mahatma Gandhi



Glimpse from Lightening Program from Nepal and India

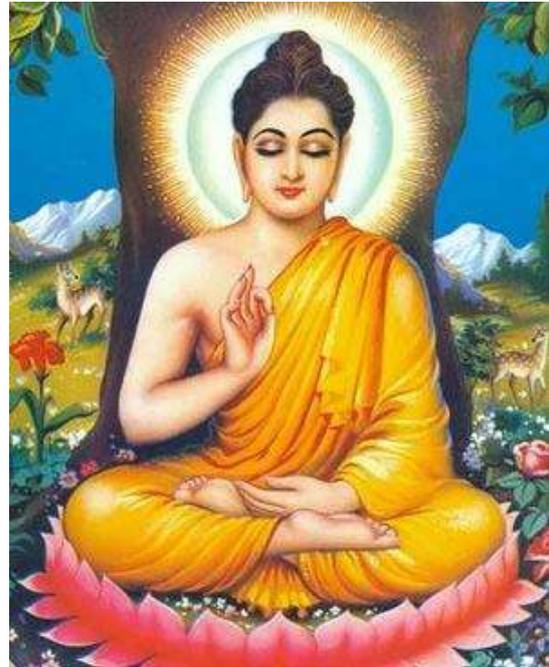


Peace through children's eye

The picture is drawn by Sijamaya Gharti who is the winner of Joint Drawing competition which was held on 15th September. RAC Mumbai Ghatkopar and RAC Ktm Mid-Town jointly organized the drawing completion program at their respective places. The theme of drawing competition was **"PEACE."**

Gautam Buddha

Gautama Buddha was a spiritual teacher on whose teachings Buddhism was founded. Gautama is the primary figure in Buddhism, and accounts of his life, discourses, and monastic rules are believed by Buddhists to have been summarized after his death and memorized by his followers. Various collections of teachings attributed to him were passed down by oral tradition, and first committed to writing about 400 years later.



The word Buddha is a title for the first awakened being in an era. In most Buddhist traditions, Siddhartha Gautama is regarded as the Supreme Buddha of our age, "Buddha" meaning "awakened one" or "the enlightened one". In Hinduism, he is also considered the avatar of Lord Vishnu.

Buddha shared his insights with masses to help sentient or conscious beings to understand the true nature of cycle of suffering and rebirth. Buddha did not lead a non-violent movement against any political orders; he was focused on imparting his insights to end suffering of conscious beings willing to practice self-reliance for alleviating pain of a hard life and "helplessness" experienced by masses.

He once said *"They are not following dharma that resorts to violence to achieve their purpose. But those who lead others through nonviolent means, knowing right and wrong, may be called guardians of the dharma."* Gautama Buddha is an inspiration to many on this planet and there is a religion behind him. Buddhism, founded by Buddha preaches about love, kindness, non-violence and many more aspects of life. But it is indeed a sad thing to learn that the land where Buddha was born, Nepal, is going through a lot of political instability and non-violence. We have forgotten what the Great Monk had taught us. Once, we realize his words were indeed true; Nepal is being a peaceful nation again.

Written by:

Rtr. Pooja Lama

Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town



At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



We welcome your constructive feedback.

Thank you. Hope you enjoyed reading this special edition 😊