

CORE AGREEMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN

WITNESS AGAINST WAR 2008: FROM CHICAGO TO ST. PAUL

July 12TH – September 1ST 2008

Thank you for your interest in participating in **Witness Against War 2008 (WAW)**, a walk from Chicago, IL to St. Paul, MN. The walk is being organized by Voices for Creative Nonviolence (VCNV). The following information is to assist you in preparing for your participation in the walk.

As much as possible, we aim to foster, along the route, a community of walkers dedicated to goals of living simply and sharing resources equitably. We look forward to developing a welcoming and friendly project. We're fortunate to have been able to consult seasoned activists who've worked to develop interstate, cross-country and multinational walks. Their advice has been helpful in forming these guidelines.

VCNV asks that each participant in the "Witness Against War" project endorse the following by offering their signature of agreement:

Statement of Nonviolence

Voices for Creative Nonviolence is committed to nonviolence and nonviolent action. All participants are expected to share the same commitment to nonviolence and nonviolent action. VCNV is adopting the following principles for this particular action.

- 1) Our attitude will be one of openness and respect toward all whom we encounter in our actions.
- 2) We will use no violence—verbal, physical, or otherwise—toward any person or property.
- 3) We will not destroy, damage or otherwise harm property.
- 4) We will carry no weapons.
- 5) We agree not to consume alcohol or use illicit drugs while participating in the walk.
- 6) We will not retaliate if physically challenged or injured.
- 7) We will seek dialogue with those who may disagree with us and maintain a spirit of openness, friendliness and respect towards all with whom we engage.
- 8) There will be zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment based upon gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical appearance, ability, creed or political perspective. Harassment is defined as epithets, derogatory statements and slurs based on any of these qualities. We will respect everyone's right to express their identity.

9) We will honor one another's desire for personal space. There will be zero tolerance for any unwanted touching, sexual advances, or sexual assault.

10) Anyone feeling that they are experiencing discrimination, harassment or assault is asked to bring the issue as soon as possible to a member of the working team.

Dr. Martin Luther King enunciated the power of nonviolence, summarizing its essential components as:

1. Nonviolence is resistance to evil and oppression. It is a human (and humane) way to struggle for justice.
2. Nonviolence does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his/her friendship and understanding.
3. The nonviolent method is an attack on the forces of evil rather than against persons doing the evil. It seeks to defeat the evil and not the persons doing the evil and injustice.
4. Nonviolence means willingness to accept suffering without retaliation.
5. The nonviolent resister avoids both external physical and internal spiritual violence - not only refusing to shoot or strike, but also to hate, an opponent. The ethic of real love is at the center of nonviolence.
6. The nonviolent resister has a deep faith in the future, and believes that the forces in the universe are ultimately on the side of justice. To quote Dr. King, the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Waiver of Liability

The volunteers who have organized Witness Against War have made every effort to minimize risks and insure the safety and well being of all participants. Walkers should be aware that VCNV is a low-budget, non-profit organization that does not have general liability insurance, nor can it provide medical insurance coverage for participants in case of injury.

I take full responsibility for my personal actions during the Walk and will not hold Voices for Creative Nonviolence or organizers of the Witness Against War campaign liable for any damages or injuries. I am responsible for my own medical care coverage.

Print Name of Walker _____

Address _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Medical and Health Information

VCNV asks that you provide emergency contact information before you join the walk. For those who will be on the walk for a longer duration, we will ask you to provide us, in advance of your participation, with additional medical information (e.g., blood type, health insurance information, medical conditions which might impact upon a medical emergency, emergency contact information, allergies, etc.). We ask for this information in order to most effectively assist you, should an emergency arise while you are participating on the walk—but you may decline to provide information.

Emergency Contact Name _____

Phone number: Daytime (____) _____ Evening (____) _____

Relationship to walker _____

Endorsement of Core Agreements for Witness Against War

I have studied and am willing to endorse and accept the proposed nonviolence guidelines as well as the proposed guidelines regarding the Statement of Nonviolence, the Waiver of Liability and the Medical & Health information.

Signed _____ Date _____