

## #NonViolentApril

Historically, April is the most violent month of the year. During the month of April, tragedies such as the Oklahoma City Bombing, the shooting at Columbine, the Virginia Tech massacre, and the bombing at the Boston Marathon, have occurred. Although the reasoning behind why so many tragedies have occurred in April is unknown, every April the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies celebrates the theme of nonviolence and honors the victims of these tragic events. In the past, the Center has produced events such as Peace Week, Taking Back April: Relay for Nonviolence, Paint for Peace, and the Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference.

On April 7, 2014, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies displayed our #NonViolentApril project inside of the Letterman Building Lobby and inside of City Hall. Over 120 people participated in our photo project, including members of the Ball State, Muncie, and Columbus, OH communities. We were honored to have the honorable Mayor Tyler, President Ferguson, City Councilmember Doug Marshall, and many more pillars of the community take part in our project against violence. Each participant had their picture taken and answered the question of what nonviolence meant to them. Their response was added to their photo, and a slideshow of all the photos was created.

Throughout the day, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and members of the Ball State and Muncie communities observed the unifying message of nonviolence. Although each response was unique in its perspective, every single response represented the importance and necessity of nonviolence. Many of the observers commented on the powerful and inspirational message. Some were even inspired to contribute their own photo and response on the spot!

## About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary, university-based unit that pursues research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; implements nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; offers mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and trains people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship skills. It also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

To stay up to date with news and information about the Peace Center, call (765) 285-1622, [email us](#) to sign up for our discussion list, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and sign up for our [newsletters](#)! We welcome hearing from you!