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Centre for Peace Studies

The Centre for Peace Studies was established by the Board of Governors of McMaster University in 1989. The Centre has an office, a Director who reports to the Dean of Humanities, an Administrative Assistant, and a Coordinating Council appointed from among the faculty, students and staff of McMaster. The Centre's operating budget is drawn from university funds, although external resources are also solicited for special projects.

The centre supports multidisciplinary research and offers a Combined Honor BA in peace studies. Research and teaching within the Centre focus on four areas: social movement against war and violence; religious and philosophical to peace and conflict; human rights; and the relation of war and peace to health.

The Centre annually sponsors the independently endowed Bertrand Russell Peace Lectures and Mahatma Gandhi Lectures on Nonviolence, has organized several international conferences, initiated a number of scholarly publications, and has a wide range of international contacts, especially in Central America, Europe, India and the Middle East.

The Centre's office is open during regular office hours. It offers a small holding of books, periodicals, audio and video tapes that are available on loan. The Centre is linked by computer to Peace Studies institutions around the world.

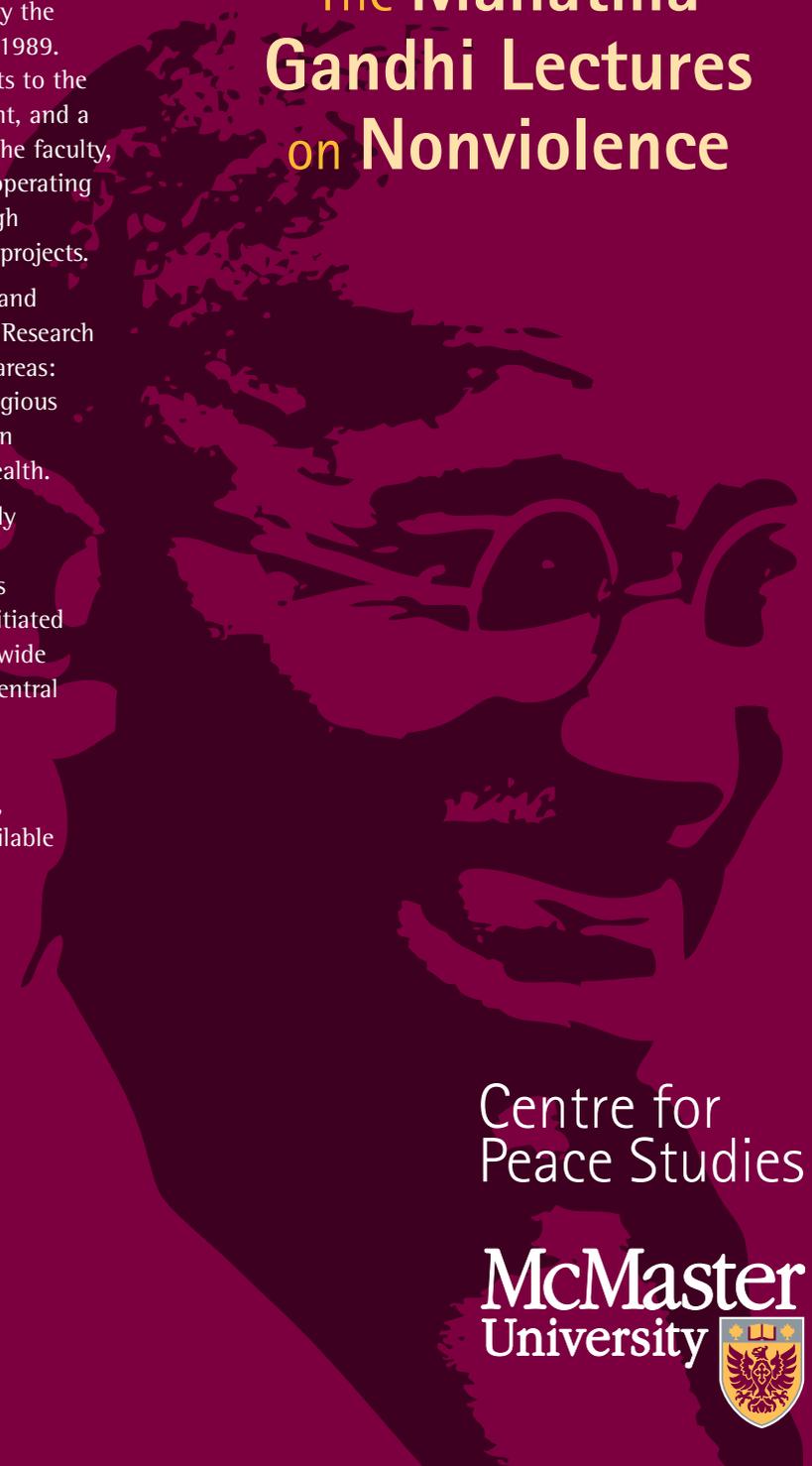
For information contact:

Centre for Peace Studies

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The Mahatma
Gandhi Lectures
on **Nonviolence**



Centre for
Peace Studies



A nonviolent revolution is not a program of seizure of power. It is a program of transformation of relationships, ending in a peaceful transfer of power.

— Mohandas Gandhi

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the global annual investment in military expenditure and the arms trade approaches \$1 trillion and is still rising. Military theorists are kept busy formulating new styles of war and the energy of scientists continues to be harnessed to the development of weapons. The mechanisms of international law and human rights developed by the world community during the bloodiest century in human history (roughly 110 million people died in twentieth century wars) are now under assault, and some world leaders apparently wish to see us return to the era of warring states and ad hoc alliances.

As if this were not enough, we human beings have finally had to acknowledge the imminent dangers we face due to our unsustainable use of energy and our neglect of our responsibility for the physical environment that sustains us.

As we look to our past to find humane traditions on which we can draw in this difficult time, we discover the transcultural tradition of nonviolence. This tradition has been undergoing change, adaptation and refinement for 2500 years. It has been kept alive even in the most brutal environments and in the most violent times. It is a tradition that rejects silence and passivity in the face of injustice, yet which attempts also to be critical of methods of waging conflict used by oppressors and tyrants. In seeking to work out a path that honours both justice and peace, this is a vital tradition for humanity. This tradition demands the best we have to offer in our scholarship, our creativity and our action. We are challenged, as well, to be critical of this tradition, not blindly worshipful, so that we may strengthen it and bring it to a higher level of development.

The Mahatma Gandhi Lectures on Nonviolence have been established at McMaster University under the direction of the Centre for Peace Studies in order to make the values and strategies of nonviolence widely known, and in order to develop the concept and practice of nonviolence through intellectual analysis and criticism, dialogue, debate and experimentation. Each year a respected analyst or practitioner of nonviolence, chosen by a subcommittee of the Centre for Peace Studies, is brought to McMaster for the delivery of one or more lectures or workshops on the theme of nonviolence.

The series is named after Gandhi in order to honour his role in the revitalization and development of nonviolence. Gandhi brought together East and West, spirituality, and practical politics, the ancient and the contemporary, and in doing so he helped rescue nonviolence from sectarianism and irrelevance. Our aim is not to put Gandhi on a pedestal but to take seriously the tradition to which he gave his life.

This series has been made possible through the effort of the India-Canada Society of Hamilton and Region, and through numerous individual donations, especially by members of the Indo-Canadian community.

We need and invite the financial support of all sympathetic persons. For information please contact the Centre for Peace Studies at 905-525-9140 ext. 23112; peace@mcmaster.ca

WOMEN AND POVERTY: THE HIDDEN FACE OF VIOLENCE WITH SOCIAL CONSENT

Thursday,
October 3

7:30 pm

Health
Sciences
Centre
(HSC) 1A1



15th Annual

**Mahatma Gandhi
Lecture on Nonviolence**

Reception to follow the
lecture in the Ewart
Angus Centre Foyer

For information contact:

peace@mcmaster.ca

905-525-9140

Ext. 23112

www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi

E L A B H A T T

Founder of SEWA (1972), the Self-Employed Women's Association of India, Ela Bhatt is a symbol for women's empowerment and has brought dignity and independence to millions of poor women in India. Deeply influenced by Gandhi, Ela has followed his ideals all her life and has relished simplicity as an all-comprehensive value.

Among several honours, Ela has received Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan by the Government of India, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the Right Livelihood Award, the Global Fairness Initiative Award, the Radcliffe Medal, the World Social Entrepreneur of the year 2010 Award, and just recently the prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

She is member of 'The Elders' at the United Nations and works on initiatives on equality for women and girls, including on the issue of child marriage.



Mahatma Gandhi Lectures on Nonviolence

(Inaugurated in 1996)

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- 1996 Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Canada
-
- 1997 Dr. Gene Sharp, Director, The Albert Einstein Institute, Cambridge, USA
-
- 1998 Dr. Adam Curle, Founding Chair, Dept. of Peace Studies, Bradford University, UK
-
- 1999 Douglas Roche, OC, Senator, Ottawa, Canada
-
- 2000 Medha Patkar, Human Rights Activist and Social Worker, Mumbai, India
-
- 2001 Professor Fatima Meer, University of Natal, South Africa
-
- 2002 Dr. Lowitja O'Donoghue, Elder of Australian Aboriginal Nation, Australia
-
- 2003 Acharya Ramamurti, Gandhian Scholar and Social Reformer, India
-
- 2005 Sulak Sivaraksa, Buddhist Thinker and Peace Activist, Thailand
-
- 2007 Satish Kumar, Gandhian Scholar and Ecological spiritualist, UK
-
- 2008 Narayan Desai, Gandhian Scholar and Peace Activist, India
-
- 2009 Rajmohan Gandhi, Historian and Biographer, India
-
- 2011 Professor Richard Falk, Princeton University
-
- 2012 Chris Hedges, The Nation Institute, USA