

The 25th Annual

The Gandhi Festival is Free - All are Welcome



## Mahatma Gandhi Peace Festival



**Education for Our Times: Towards a Culture  
of Peace, Nonviolence and Social Justice**

**25th Gandhi Peace Festival and McMaster  
University Conference  
McMaster Innovation Park, October 1, 2017**

Planned in conjunction with Hamilton's 25<sup>th</sup> Mahatma Gandhi Peace Festival, this conference seeks to address questions about and, potentially, rethink the role of education in these challenging times of rising virulent nationalisms all over the globe and increasing violence against racial, ethnic, and religious minorities. It will advance knowledge and understanding of a wide range of issues pertaining to education for promoting diversity, social justice, and peaceful coexistence among myriad communities. It solicits the participation of local and global community leaders, scholars, peace activists, students/youth, and the wider public.

The conference theme invites reflection on how our scholarly, artistic, activist, and pedagogical work helps us think through and navigate the crises of our times. Papers are invited to address the following themes:

- Education for Public Good
- Knowledge creation and dissemination across difference
- Gandhian views on education and social change
- The ethics and the practice of nonviolence
- Role of academic institutions in public education and deepening democracy
- Collaborations between academic institutions and community organizations
- University as a site of critique and critical thinking
- Diaspora and social change
- Education and the environment
- Youth and social change
- South Asian youth and social justice struggles
- Art and community building (literature, theater, music, dance, painting, photography, film)
- Art and resistance
- Social media and virtual communities

The conference will feature keynote addresses, research panels and roundtables, and creative performances and artists' talks. The goal of the conference is to connect researchers with peace activists, cultural organizations, and not-for-profit organizations in order to open up opportunities for dialogue and collaboration on the role of education in these vulnerable times. Conference attendees will benefit from developing professional networks with colleagues in different disciplines, institutions, and organizations. They will have the opportunity to learn from each other as well as share critical insights.

Please send approximately 300-word abstracts for papers with a 100-word biographical statement to Gandhi Peace Festival Conference Chair, Chandrima Chakraborty ([chandri@mcmaster.ca](mailto:chandri@mcmaster.ca)) by August 31, 2017.

### **Overview of 25<sup>th</sup> Gandhi Peace Festival Events:**

Sep 30, 2017: Peace Festival (1-4pm, Hamilton City Hall) consisting of invited speakers, community service peace awards, cultural programs, and peace walk followed by free vegetarian meal.

Oct 1, 2017: Conference "Education for Our Times" (9.30am-6pm, McMaster Innovation Park)

Oct 2, 2017: McMaster University's Annual Gandhi Lecture on Nonviolence to be delivered by Ms. Shabana Azmi followed by fundraising dinner (6pm, Hamilton Convention Centre)

For a history of the GPF, please see: [www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi](http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi)

Co-sponsored by:



Department of English  
& Cultural Studies