

A CALL TO LA RAZA FOR A PERSONAL PLEDGE TO NON VIOLENCE
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We must avoid the violence found in man's exploitation of man...in our hearts and in our minds.

We must all give the best of ourselves to social action "so that present hopes will not turn to frustration, frustration to despair, despair to violence" as the Statement of the Fast for Non-Violence issued by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee eloquently warns.

1. All of us are poignantly aware that our people in the field and in the barrios have suffered much and have been cruelly victimized by those who deliberately use the ugly weapons of violence against us.
2. Deliberate provocations to trap us into returning violence with violence have been used to intimidate our people, silence our leadership, destroy our movements and end our struggles for justice.
3. Violence must be courageously and consistently resisted, or we will corrupt the integrity of our cause and deepen the despair and suffering of our people.
4. Injustice against our people must be resisted, and our grievances must be redressed. As a people and as individuals, we cannot and will not submit to repression, deprivation and injustice with passivity. Non-Violence does not mean non-militancy. It does not mean apathy or cowardice.
5. Non-Violence means courage, commitment and determination, as Cesar Chavez' personal sacrifice and vigil have shown. Non-Violence means dedication to bold, forceful and effective social action based upon the principles of peaceful, democratic and orderly change.
6. We must have change in America, change in our barrios, change for La Raza. There are too many of our people forced to endure poverty, too many without jobs, too many of our children subjected to inferior educations, too many suffering ill health. We demand change and we will have it!
7. We will achieve change through community organization and positive community action. Non-Violence must govern our efforts or we will destroy far more than we will create.

Many of us have vowed to carry on determined and militant social action based on non-violence to end the subjugation, exploitation and abuse of human rights suffered by La Raza.

In offering ourselves to this commitment, we believe that social justice can be peacefully achieved not only for La Raza but for all victims of poverty, deprivations and alienation.

We must respond with a personal commitment to non-violence in the full spirit of its profound significance for all men of all races. We appeal to you to offer your own personal commitment to non-violence in the full spirit of its profound significance for all races. We appeal to you to offer your own personal commitment in the same spirit.