



PRESS RELEASE

**National Campaign - India Unites for Non-Violence and Harmony
January 30, 2019 - Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom Day**

*"The cry for peace will be a cry in the wilderness, so long as the spirit of nonviolence does not dominate millions of men and women"
"We must keep nonviolence as our goal and make strong progress towards it."*

-Mahatma Gandhi

India Unites for Non – Violence and Harmony is a non-political, citizen led campaign being organized on January 30, 2019 to commemorate the 71st anniversary of Gandhiji's martyrdom. Various civil society organizations and individuals are coming together on the anniversary of Gandhiji's martyrdom to appeal to the nation to resist and confront the growing culture of violence facing the country.

Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead on January 30, 1948 at 17:17 hours as he headed towards a multi-faith prayer meeting. He was assassinated by fundamentalist forces opposed to his idea of Swaraj promoting nation-building on the principles of equality of all citizens, Hindu -Muslim unity and communal harmony. Gandhi's Swaraj focussed on the composite nature of Indian nationalism.

Under Gandhi's leadership, the freedom movement successfully mobilized and drew people into the struggle for independence against colonial rule: men and women, people from all faiths, regions, speaking different languages, having varied castes, traditions, customs, cultures, beliefs and inhabitants of both rural and urban areas. He dreamt of an India where people lived together and respected each other's differences; where interactions, protest and negotiations would be shaped by the principle of non-violence/ahimsa.

Today, 70 years after independence, we are witnessing a rise in hatred and prejudices based on religion, caste, gender, sexuality, region and class. Society is becoming increasingly intolerant and violent. Communal violence, caste based violence and hate crimes are on the upsurge. As citizens we can no longer be silent spectators to this growing ill will, hatred and violence. We must come together to protect the secular, pluralistic and democratic fibre of the country.

We invite every citizen, who is committed to the cause of non-violence and harmony to join this national campaign, India Unites to Non Violence and Harmony which has three critical components -

1. A call to every citizen in the country to observe a minute's silence wherever they are putting aside whatever they would be doing at 11.00/ 17:17 hrs on January 30, 2019 and to take a pledge for non-violence and harmony.
2. The organizing of activities/events such as peace rallies, awareness programmes, public meetings, interactions in schools/colleges and communities in the run up to the national campaign on January 30, 2019.
3. As part of the national call a Convention on Non-Violence and Harmony is being organized at Sophia Bhabha Auditorium, Breach Candy, Mumbai on Jan 30, 2019 between 4 -10pm. The programme which is open to the general public will have talks by eminent citizens, public intellectuals, media personalities, legal luminaries, etc. This will be followed by a cultural programme on the theme. The exact programme will be announced in a week's time.

We appeal to all citizens to come together through this campaign to build resistance against the forces of intolerance and to take the message of nonviolence and harmony to millions of Indians through various networks, organizations, institutions and social media platforms.

Say yes to Non Violence, Justice and Harmony!

Jaago, Utho, Chalo Ahimsa ki Aur !

Signed by

Harshvardhan Hegde, India Inclusive, **Leena Dabiru**, India Inclusive, **Shabnam Hashmi**, Anhad and India Inclusive
Brinelle D'Souza, TISS, Mumbai, **Irfan Engineer**, Centre for Studies in Society and Secularism, Mumbai,
Joycia Thorat, ICWM-Mumbai, **Lara Jesani**, PUCL-Maharashtra, **Varsha Vidya Vilas**, Sadbhavana Sangh, Mumbai



AN APPEAL

**National Campaign - India Unites for Non-Violence and Harmony
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Jaago, Utho, Chalo Ahimsa ki Aur !

PS: Kindly send a report about programmes that you organise as part of this call to indiaunites30jan@gmail.com



India Unites for Non-Violence and Harmony

Endorsed by :

1. Abdul Shakeel, activist - New Delhi
2. Abha Bhaiya, National Coordinator, One Billion Rising Abhimanyu Kohar, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
3. Afroze Malik, President, Jai Ho Foundation
4. Akhilesh Dave, social activist, Ahmedabad
5. Akshay Naik, activist, Navi Mumbai
6. Amir Peje , Mumbai
7. Amita Buch, Gujarat
8. Anand Patwardhan, Documentary Filmmaker
9. Aniket Navalkar
10. Anjali, AISF
11. Anwar-ul-Haq, activist - New Delhi
12. Archana Kaul
13. Arshad Ajmal, social activist, Patna
14. Arun Kumar, Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Chair Professor, Institute of Social Sciences
15. Aruna Roy, School for Democracy
16. Augustine Pushpraj SJ, social activist, Karnataka
17. Aysha, activist - New Delhi
18. Beena, activist - New Delhi
19. Bhakti Ghatge, Student
20. Bhartendu Kashyap, Mocking Birds Theatre Group, Lucknow
21. Bhasha Singh, Writer & Journalist
22. Bipin Soni, Concerned Citizen - New Delhi
23. Brijesh Shivhare, Concerned Citizen - New Delhi
24. Brinelle D'Souza, TISS
25. BRP Bhaskar, Chennai
26. Chhotebhai, Gandhi Peace Foundation
27. Chhote Lal, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
28. Com. Charul Joshi , IPTA (Mumbai)
29. Com. Hannan Mollah, General Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha
30. Com. Masood Akhtar, IPTA (Mumbai)
31. Deepak Kabir, Dastak ,Lucknow
32. Dev Desai, Social Activist, Gujarat
33. Dhananjay Shinde, Mumbai
34. Dharmendra Kumar, activist - New Delhi
35. Dilip Simeon
36. Dolphy D'Souza, Convenor-Police Reforms Watch
37. Dr Anil Pannikker, Consultant Psychologist, Hisar Haryana
38. Dr Harshvardhan Hedge, India Inclusive
39. Dr. Antima, Nainital
40. Dr. Denzil Fernandes, Executive Director, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi.
41. Dr. Frazer Mascarenhas S.J., Educationist, Mumbai



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42. Dr. Suresh Khairnar, National President, Rashtriya Seva Dal
43. Dr. Sylvia Karpagam, Public Health Doctor, Bangalore
44. Dunu Roy, Hazards Centre, New Delhi
45. Elizabeth Soreng, Jharkhand
46. Fahad Ahmad, TISS
47. Fahim, Kabir Festival ,Lucknow
48. Faisal Khan, Khudai Khidmatgar
49. Farah Ajeez, activist - New Delhi
50. Fr Cedric Prakash
51. Feroz Mithiborewala, Bharat Bachao Andolan
52. Fr. Jude Murzello , Mumbai
53. Geeta Devi, activist - New Delhi
54. Godfrey D'souza, Mumbai
55. Harpal Chaudhary, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
56. Harsh Mander, writer, social activist, Delhi
57. Indira Unninar, Advocate, Gurgaon
58. Indrashish, activist - New Delhi
59. Irfan Engineer, social activist, Mumbai
60. Isaac Gomes, Catholic Association of Bengal, Mumbai
61. Jagjit Singh, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
62. Jatin Desai, journalist, Mumbai
63. Javed, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
64. Jignesh Sengal, independent activist, Gujarat
65. JK Patel, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
66. Joe Athialy, New Delhi
67. John Dayal, Journalist, Delhi
68. Joy Sengupta, actor, teacher, cultural activist, Mumbai
69. Joycia Thorat, Mumbai
70. Khairun, Parwaaz, Gujarat
71. Kishor Jagtap , Maitra Kul
72. KM Shrimali, Historian, Delhi
73. KNPanikkar, Historian, Kerala
74. KV Biju, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
75. Lara Jesani, Mumbai
76. Leena Dabiru, India Inclusive
77. Mahadev bhai Vidrohi, National Convenor, Sarva Seva Sangh
78. Mahesh Pandya, Paryavaran Mitra
79. Mala Devi, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
80. Mamta, activist - New Delhi
81. Manan Trivedi, independent activist, Gujarat
82. Manjula Pradeep, WAYVE Foundation
83. Marcia D'cunha, Mumbai



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84. Mayank Saxena, Bollywood writer, Mumbai
85. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)
86. Mohammad Samad, Concerned Citizen, Uttar Pradesh
87. N. Raghuram, Professor, New Delhi
88. Nadeem Ali, activist - New Delhi
89. Nadia D'souza, Mumbai
90. Nasim Ansari, Tarun Chetna Trust, Pratapgarh, UP
91. Nayan Patel, activist, Gujarat
92. Nazma, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
93. Neeta Mahadev, Lok Samiti, Gujarat
94. Neha Shah, Ahmedabad
95. Nikhil Dey, School for Democracy
96. Niranjana Takle, Journalist, Maharashtra
97. Nisha, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
98. Noel D'souza, Mumbai
99. Padma Velaskar, Academician, Mumbai
100. Pamela Fernandes, Commission for Justice and Peace, Mumbai
101. Parth Wagle, Mumbai
102. Pathik Arora, Legal counsel, Mumbai
103. Peeyush Mishra, Advocate, Lucknow
104. Pooja Badekar, President, Marathi Bharti
105. Pooja Uniyal, activist - New Delhi
106. Poonam Devi, Concerned Citizen, New Delhi
107. Prof. Roshan D'Souza, Mumbai
108. Pushpa Devi, activist - New Delhi
109. Rajeshree Urf, Documentary Filmmaker
110. Rajkumar Gupta, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
111. Rajni Dave, Sarvodaya Mandal
112. Ram Lal, activist - Uttarakhand
113. Ram Puniyani, Centre for Study of Society and Secularism
114. Ram Tarun
115. Ramnik Mohan, writer, Rohtak
116. Ranu Jain, academician, Mumbai
117. Rasal, President, Kalyan Vikasini
118. Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
119. Ravi Bhilane, Friends of People
120. Ravindra Kumar Singh
121. Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, Nagpur
122. Rohan D'souza, Student, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
123. Rohini Hensman, Writer and Researcher
124. Saba Dewan, Filmmaker, Gurgaon
125. Sabiha Hussain, Jamia Millia Islamia



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126. Samatha Fernandes, Student, St. Xavier's College
127. Samita Patel, Majur Mahajan Sangh Mahila wing
128. Sandeep Gidde, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
129. Sangita, Kabir Festival ,Lucknow
130. Sanjay Kumar, Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan.
131. Sannybhai, Lokmanch
132. Santosh Mudgil, retired principal Rohtak
133. Santveer Singh, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
134. Saral Jhingran
135. Shabnam Hashmi, social activist, Delhi
136. Shanta Kumar , Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
137. Sheba George, SAHRWARU, Gujarat
138. Shiv Kumar Kakkaji, Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
139. Simantini Dhuru, Documentary Filmmaker
140. Smita Pandya, Ahmadabad
141. Smita Salunkhe , President Vazir Graduate Forum
142. Sohail Hashmi, filmmaker, writer, historian, Delhi
143. Sr. Jyothi Fernandes, Mysore
144. Subhash Mendhapurkar, SUTRA Jagjit Nagar, Himachal Pradesh
145. Subhendu Ghosh, Pratidhwani, Delhi.
146. Sunetra Deshpande, Ahmedabad
147. Swami Sachidananda Bharathi, Kochi
148. Tanushree Gangopadhyay , journalist, Gujarat
149. Uma Chakravarti, Historian
150. Varsha Vidya Vilas, Sadbhavna Sangh
151. Veena Rana, Kabir Festival ,Lucknow
152. Venita Fernandes, Mumbai
153. Vijendra Sharma, activist - New Delhi
154. Vijeta Bhonkar, President, Gandhigiri Abhiyan
155. Vineet Tiwari, National Secretary, All India Progressive Writers Association
156. Walter fernandes, North East Social Research Center, Guwahati
157. Yash Marwah, Let Mumbai Breathe
158. Yashodhan Paranjpe
159. Yohan Tengra

Organisations :

1. Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan
2. Act Now for Harmony & Democracy (Anhad)
3. All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA)
4. All India Federation of University and College Teacher's Association (AIFUCTO)
5. All India Kisan Sabha
6. All India Progressive Writers Association



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7. Aman Biradari
8. Centre for Study of Society and Secularism
9. Friends of People
10. Gandhigiri Abhiyan
11. Gandhi Peace Foundation
12. India Inclusive
13. Indian Christian Women's Movement (ICWM)
14. Indian Social Institute, New Delhi
15. Kalyan Vikasini
16. Khudai Khidmatgar
17. Majur Mahajan Sangh Mahila wing
18. Marche Pe Kavi, Mumbai
19. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)
20. National Alliance for People's Movements (NAPM)
21. National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW)
22. Nishant Natya Manch
23. One Billion Rising
24. Paryavaran Mitra
25. Police Reforms Watch
26. Pratidhwani, Delhi.
27. PUCL, Maharashtra
28. Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh
29. Rashtriya Seva Dal
30. Right to Education
31. Sadbhavna Sangh
32. SAHRWARU, Gujarat
33. Sarvodaya Mandal
34. School for Democracy
35. SUTRA, Himachal Pradesh
36. The Banned
37. Vazir Graduate Forum
38. WAYVE Foundation