

What is the Proactive Nonviolence Cooperative?

The *Proactive Nonviolence Cooperative* (Proactive Co-op) is not another organization. It was purposely set up as a non-organization to make crystal clear that it will not in any manner compete with or duplicate the effort of existing organizations. Since it is not an organization, it does not organize activities or campaigns. Likewise, the Proactive Co-op is a zero-budget entity so it does not compete with the fundraising efforts of existing organizations. It is zero-budget because it has zero expenses.

What is the Proactive Co-op? It is a cooperative to support and serve the nonviolent social change movement. Merriam-Webster defines a cooperative as:

- **1a.** marked by cooperation <cooperative efforts>
- **1b.** a willingness and ability to work with others <cooperative neighbors>
- **2.** of, relating to, or organized as a cooperative <cooperative store>.

Those are the applicable definitions. Putting them all together we can define the Proactive Co-op as a group of people who have the motivation and know-how to cooperate among themselves and with others in brainstorming proactive nonviolent strategies (for a global campaign) and tactics (for regional actions).

How does the brainstorming take place? The brainstorming takes place by e-mail. All forum participants are free to respond to an e-mail forum in progress, or to initiate a forum of their own to solve a problem they have encountered. The one who initiates the forum usually moderates it. We'll evaluate alternative forum formats if e-mail ever becomes ineffective.

Is there an agenda? So far an agenda has been unnecessary but there could be certain topics that perhaps should be addressed in steps.

Who participates in the Proactive Co-op? Existing organizations working for nonviolent social change can designate a representative to actively participate in the brainstorming. Some have done so. People who have a passion for nonviolence can participate on their own – organizational affiliation is not required. So far participation has not encompassed enough organizations to make it truly representative but we have accomplished some things:

- (1) We have drafted a model *Global Constructive Program* that can be tailored to local ethnic/cultural conditions and still maintain global unity in goals and implementation, and
- (2) we have formulated a *Nonviolent Warrior Ethos* that gives a sense of identity and solidarity among people worldwide who are working for nonviolent social change. Whatever the Nonviolent Co-op produces is

freely available for all organizations to use in the struggle for nonviolent social change, whether they participate in the forum or not.

Current Proactive Co-op participants represent centuries of collective experience in nonviolent social change including training and conflict resolution. A more qualified think tank in that area does not exist.

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