As crowds cry for change in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, we ask: How long? How long will police brutality against persons of color (POC) rage on? How long will cruelty go unstopped in our country?


Here are a few excerpts.

A. Google whether your local police department outfits all on-duty police officers with a body-worn camera and requires that the body-worn camera be turned on immediately when officers respond to a police call. If they don’t, contact officials to advocate it.

B. Google whether your city or town employs evidence-based police de-escalation trainings; write authorities to demand the trainings.

C. More and more stories of black folks encountering racism are being documented. Call the site or organization involved to tell them how upset you are.

D. Buy your school-teacher friends books that feature POC as protagonists and heroes, no matter...
Choking Racism

It was so visible, so wrong
In contrast to the death snarl
Of an invisible pandemic attack
When an officer pressed the wind pipe
Of George Floyd to his death
Even after he pleaded, “I can’t breathe”
Which took the whole world’s breath away
Suffocating from the choke hold of racism
Past its “ad nauseam” finality of endurance
When another modern day lynching
Brought out huge protests turning violent
Pledging for relief from society’s nemesis
Ignoring the ethics of “love your neighbor”
And the hate for groups based on our skin
Please, can’t we move on. Enough already!
If we are to make America great again
We have to refocus our worries on survival
By worrying about Climate Change and
The devastation of a nuclear holocaust
No longer can we survive on ”petty” violence
By proving ourselves superior to another
By enslaving property and lying to ourselves
We need the protest voices that erase hypocrisy
And embrace a higher calling for peace and
Justice by burying racism in the ugly past. *

Stop police brutality

PeaceWorks-KC is part of the national group Peace Action. Its executive director, Jon Rainwater, sent this action request early this month. The first bill has not yet been assigned a bill number.

Following George Floyd’s murder, Reps. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) introduced legislation to directly condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the excessive use of force, as well as the growing militarization of police departments.

At the same time, Reps. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) and Lacy Clay (D-Mo.) have introduced legislation, H.R. 4359, to change the federal legal standards on the use of force. For too long police have not been held accountable because they can simply argue that they were afraid. This bill tightens up the standard for use of force from a standard of “reasonable” to a standard of “necessary” use of force. Groups like Amnesty International and Color of Change say that changing the standard can save lives.

Will you ask your members of Congress to support these critical pieces of legislation today? *

White people & racial justice — continued from p. 1

the racial make-up of the class. Purchase educational toys that feature POC, such as finger puppets and Black History Flashcards.

E. Work on ensuring that black educators are hired where black children are taught.

F. Many companies have recruiting channels that are predominantly white. Work with your HR department to recruit Americans who are descendants of enslaved Africans.

G. Donate to anti-white-supremacy work.

H. Support black businesses. Find them on WeBuyBlack, The Black Wallet, and Official Black Wall Street. Also, bank black. Opening an account with some money is better than no account at all.

I. Don’t buy from companies that use prison labor. Find a good list here: https://returntonow.net/2016/06/13/prison-labor-is-the-new-american-slavery.

J. Read up about mandatory minimum sentences and watch videos about this on the Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) website. FAMM’s website includes work being done at the federal level and state level. *
Being targeted by police and community

By Anneliese Stoever

In watching hours of coverage of the murder of George Floyd and then protests, I heard one woman quoted as saying, “We cannot be expected to peacefully protest against our own genocide.” During the night, my husband turned to me and said he could be George Floyd. He is an African American man who is 6’6” and weighs over 200 pounds. His presence in the world makes some people feel threatened.

White people have no idea of the threat that police are to black people, of the racism that black people face on a daily basis, or of the stress that being targeted places on your health. We do not have that same lived experience. With that in mind, white people have no right to tell black people how they should respond to these assaults on their human rights.

During the 7 years we have lived in our house, my husband has been:

a). Stopped by two police for raking our front yard and asked, “Do the owners know you’re here?” When John said he lived here, the Officers demanded to see ID. b). Stopped for running a stop sign that does not exist. When John told the Officer that there was no stop sign, the Officer asked to search John’s car. John refused and the Officer told John he could be arrested. John replied that he wanted to speak to the Officer’s supervisor because he didn’t understand why he had been stopped. The Officer went back to his car to run John’s ID. John called me & told me he might be arrested. The Officer returned

Active on racial issues

Showing Up for Racial Justice, SURJ, is dedicated to educating and organizing white people for racial justice: surj_kc@riseup.net.

One Struggle KC is a Black-led coalition of Kansas City activists seeking to connect the struggles of oppressed communities, locally and globally: https://www.facebook.com/1strugglekc.

CARE-a-vans, rallies seek ‘Human Care, Not Warfare’ on Memorial Day

PeaceWorks-KC led “Human Care, Not Warfare” rallies and CARE-a-vans on Memorial Day, May 25, with other peace-and-justice groups participating. Mindful of COVID-19, participants mourned deaths from illness, war, and weapons, and sought a “pandemic pivot” to a healthier, kinder world.

The first CARE-a-van of about 15 cars traveled from Harrison and 30th Street to 3800 Troost, the parking lot of St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church, to be met at the lot by another 16 cars. Forty-five participants joined in chants as 12 speakers shared their messages.

PeaceWorks Co-Chair Sunny Hamrick said PeaceWorks’ Memorial Day actions began 8 years ago, focusing on 154-plus deaths from contaminants at the old nuclear weapon parts plant at Bannister Federal Complex. Hamrick explained, “We’re memorializing all the lives lost in war and producing weapons.” PeaceWorks Co-Chair Henry Stoever insisted, “All money allocated for weapons and military projects should be frozen and transferred to research on COVID-19 and other viruses, to full testing of the entire world, to treatment of all who are ill, to a vaccine for all viruses.”

After the rally at St. Mark’s, five cars CARE-a-vanned through the Plaza and around the University of Kansas Medical Center (with a bow to health care workers). Some 15 cars made it to the entry road to the new nuclear weapon parts plant, the National Security Campus, in south KC MO. (See more photos, pp. 4–5.)
“Human Care, Not Warfare”

Clockwise from top left:
Leigh Woody and Sunny Hamrick belt out Holly Near’s “I Am Willing.”
Trinidad Molina says 89 percent of immigrants lose their bid for asylum if they come to the KC Immigration Court.
Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, M.D., calls for eliminating funds for nuclear weapons, asserting, “As a physician, I can tell you, the only cure for a nuclear war is prevention.”
Charles Carney holds out hope, saying, “We’re all part of this world-wide yearning for peace!”
“The United States of America spends over a trillion dollars a year on war, but lacks the political will to save the lives of its own citizens,” says Christopher Overfelt.
Cris Mann, a just-retired special-education teacher, urges, “We should cancel college debt and eliminate the warfare budgets.”
Kimberly Hunter calls out, “We need child-care, not warfare!”
—Photos by Jim Hannah
To the KC peace community

Tom and Kim Hoa Fox, who were at most of PeaceWorks-KC’s Memorial Day gatherings since 2012, sent this message after attending this year’s rallies in midtown and at the National Security Campus.

There is something to be said that a group nestled in the heartland of the US is maintaining an anti-nuke vigil through these mindless years. This message of protest goes out to all the world, to all nations.

Looking in, they know the US conscience is not dead. Not buried.

It is alive—and remember, it only takes a dozen souls to maintain truth and love and beauty.

Onward!!! 🙏

Clockwise from left:

PeaceWorks-KC Treasurer Dave Pack adorns his car with the sign Bennette Dibben designed for the CARE-a-vans.

John Pajor brought his grandson Jack and their sidekick Arlo to the midtown rally.

Bennette Dibben puts a “Human Care, Not Warfare” sign on Sharon Hannah’s mask.

Ann Suellentrop dressed up her car with a peace flag—perfect for our CARE-a-vans!

—Photos by Jim Hannah; videos by Mark and Jenny Semet at http://peaceworkskc.org

Cancer survivor Bob Ludlow, a worker at the old nuclear weapon parts plant at Bannister Federal Complex, says the contaminants there caused his cancer.

—Photo by Tom Fox

Claiming nuclear weapon protesters to be patriots, Tom Fox holds the US flag given to him at the funeral of his uncle, Federal Judge Henry Fox.
Ponderings during a pandemic — continued from p. 1

Just how have we acted badly?
Well, let’s see.

We’ve acted as though the Good Earth is an object separate from ourselves, to be controlled and exploited, rather than a living organism of which we are but one unique but not all-important manifestation, completely interdependent.

We’ve acted as though our species is vastly superior and solely entitled, with other animals valued largely for their utility as food, recreation, labor, entertainment, adornment, and other exploitations as varied as leather products and aphrodisiacs.

We’ve acted as though consumerism is a mark of the good life that distinguishes self-proclaimed “first-world” nations—that is, those nations who in large part achieved their wealth by extracting cheap resources and labor, from so-called second- and third-world nations.

We’ve acted as though the “seventh generation” reverence granted by indigenous peoples to those who will follow has been annulled by this generation’s “right” to immediate gratification. (My second favorite pandemic quote from a novel I wish we’d all been assigned as homework: “We’re cashing in on a billion years of planetary savings bonds and blowing it on assorted bling.” (The Overstory, Richard Powers, p. 386)

And we’ve acted as though technology will ultimately save us from all our ills, when just the existence, and growing threat, of weapons of mass destruction capable of omnicide is clear evidence that our technology has outpaced our ethics, morality, and common sense.

This has been a lot to think about during our forced stay-at-home. I hope we’ve learned our lesson, because the last thing we would want is a good spanking from Mother Nature!

—Jim Hannah, of the PeaceWorks-KC Communications Team, plays horse-shoes, as he did as a child.

Here is my annual membership for PeaceWorks

- Membership.............................$40
- Donor........................................$50+
- Major Donor..............................$100+
- Family Membership......................$60
- Group Membership.....................$75
- Limited-Income Membership............$5+
- Newsletter Subscription...............$10
- Lifetime Membership.....................$1,000
- Sustaining Membership.................$5+/mo.

- Send newsletter electronically

Mail to:
PeaceWorks
4509 Walnut St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Make check to:
PeaceWorks
or, for tax deductibility, to Missouri Peace Foundation

KC commemorates 75th anniversary of Hiroshima / Nagasaki bombings Sun., 8/9

PeaceWorks-KC is planning a peace witness the afternoon/evening of Sunday, Aug. 9, to mark the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Please mark your calendar for that date.

Details to be announced soon at PeaceWorksKC.org and on Facebook at PeaceWorksKC.
Being targeted — continued from p. 3

to the car and told John he would “just give him a warning this time.” A warning for not running a stop sign? Ridiculous.
c). Handcuffed in the parking lot at Schnucks because a white woman with two kids said John stole her purse. The Police were called. John’s car was searched and they found nothing. John asked them to review the surveillance cameras. The woman left her purse in the magazine aisle. She left without offering an apology.

White people: Have you experienced being targeted by police and community because of the color of your skin? NO—YOU HAVE NOT.

I strongly suggest that you not tell black people the correct way that they should respond to being hunted and killed. Instead, educate yourselves about racism and be a true Ally. If black people choose to share their experiences with you, listen and trust black people’s lived experiences. Stand up for people. Value human rights over property rights. And stop watching biased news sources that vilify black people.

White people: We have got to do better. My husband and our son deserve better.

—Anneliese Stoever of St. Louis was encouraged by her husband to share his story.

Campaign Nonviolence National Conference: August 6-8, online

Everyone is invited to attend the 2020 Campaign Nonviolence National Conference, Aug. 6-8, online: https://paceebene.org/cnvconference2020. This gathering commemorates the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima, Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki, three days later, Aug. 9. Exact times will be announced soon; check online.


Fri., Aug. 7: Online nonviolence training led by Pace e Bene nonviolence trainers. $20.

Sat., Aug. 8: Online conference featuring:
- Rev. Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation;
- Dr. Erica Chenoweth of Harvard University, a leading scholar on nonviolence;

This online conference is being convened by Pace e Bene (Peace and Goodness); its staff includes the Rev. John Dear, who spoke in KC March 7-8. *

Contact elected officials

Mayor Quinton Lucas:
816-513-3500
City Council: 816-513-1368
President Donald Trump
202-456-1111 comments
202-456-1414 switchboard
Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.): 202-224-6154
Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.): 202-224-5721
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-5th dist, Mo.): 202-225-4535
Rep. Sam Graves (R-6th district, Mo.): 202-225-7041
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4th district, Mo.): 202-225-2876
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.): 202-224-4774
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.): 202-224-6521
Rep. Sharice Davids (D-3rd district, Kan.): 913-621-0832
Thanks to artists in our online art auction

Thank you to all the artists who participated in PeaceWorks-KC’s first online auction. Our event was highly successful, bringing in about $1,200 to help support our hoped-for live fair (see below).

Anyone may contact these artists for custom orders; they donated their beautiful art to our online auction.

Daniel Fager-George, 561-512-5159
Gabby Geiger, gabbygeigerart@gmail.com
Cindy Heller, cindyh3571@yahoo.com
Vern Linscott, 816-453-6383
Carl Richardson, richcat2013@hotmail.com
Tarris Rosell, tarris.rosell@gmail.com
Joy Simpson, joymountenay@yahoo.com

Tori Simpson, vmsimpson17@gmail.com
Betsy Thomas, www.betsyroocreations.etsy.com
Lauren Wright, on Facebook, go to Lauren’s Ltd. Editions
Plus our Three Anonymous Artists. ♦

PeaceWorks KC Local Art Fair 9/26-27

Please mark your calendar for the planned PeaceWorks KC Local Art Fair Sept. 26-27.

For many years our art fair has been called the “UNplaza Art Fair,” playing off of the fact that it is normally held the same weekend as the Plaza Art Fair. It will still normally be held on that weekend, but we want to give more visibility to the sponsoring organization PeaceWorks, Kansas City. In addition, the art fair has grown into a celebration of local art and diversity within the local art community.

We recognize that, given COVID-19, we may not be able to have the art fair as we have in the past, if at all. We will seek to make a decision about the conduct of the art fair by late July. If we are forced to cancel it, we will need people to step up with increased memberships and donations to offset at least some of the approximately $10,000 we hope to clear from the art fair with good weather. ♦

—By Dave Pack, PeaceWorks-KC treasurer