

# Educational Programs

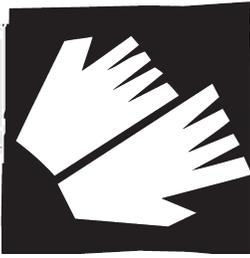


Peace & Justice Center • Burlington, Vermont

**peace**  **justice center**

research • policy • action

The Peace & Justice Center is a Vermont-based non-profit, membership organization. Our mission is to create a just and peaceful world. To this end, we work on the interconnected issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights through education, advocacy, training, non-violent activism and community organizing.



## **Fair Trade & Economic Justice**

These program promote positive change through the economic justice lens. Fostering discussion on free trade vs. fair trade, the cocoa industry, the implications of globalization and trade policies and what livable wage really is.

### **Cocoa Campaign**

*A single event, 1hr, 1.5hrs, or 2hrs.*

This presentation focuses on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. It is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps that fit within the comfort zone of each participant. It is also adaptable for elementary age kids (ages 7-12) to learn about the cocoa industry through activities and games without over stating the trauma of the situation. It can inspire and support kids in taking action.

### **Fair Trade vs. Free Trade Presentation**

*A single event, 45min, 1hr, or 1.5hrs.*

This presentation includes basic information about globalization and how policies and practices of globalization have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. It also shows how the Fair Trade movement and principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities.

### **Understanding Free Trade Agreements**

*A single event, 45 min, 1hr, 1.5hrs.*

U.S. Free Trade Agreements were intended to ease trade and boost economies. However, with the combination of corporate greed and developmental inequality, it has had a devastating effects on the Global South.

### **Understanding Fair Trade Labels**

*A single event, 1hr, 1.5 hrs.*

This presentation brakes down the differences between Fair Trade Certifications, Fair Trade Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help us better understand the Fair Trade Movement.

## **Livable Wage**

*A single event, 1hr, 1.5hrs, or 2hrs.*

This interactive workshop is designed to give participants a working knowledge of livable wage figures, definitions, and research about VT's economy and jobs. It highlights research and analysis found in Phase 8 of the Vermont Job Gap Study, including statistics on how race and gender disproportionately affect income.



## **Documentary Film Screenings**

Films can be a great way to start a conversation and/or absorb powerful stories and truths. Each screening can be accompanied by a presentation, facilitated discussion, and/or Q&A session.

### **Banana Land: Blood, Bullets & Poison (2014)**

The conventional production of bananas has caused exploitation, social upheaval, violence, and pesticide poisoning for millions of residents in Central America. This documentary reveals why the banana is the cheapest fruit on the market for consumers. 71min.

### **Spies of Mississippi (2014)**

It is the spring of 1964 and a long, hot Mississippi summer is about to explode. The civil rights community is gearing up for Freedom Summer. But the most powerful men in the state have another even more powerful weapon in their arsenal: Mississippi has entered the spy business. 53min.

***Taxi to the Dark Side (2007):*** 106min

***The Combatants for Peace and the Billboard from Bethlehem (2008):*** 62min

***The Dark Side of Chocolate (2010):*** 46min

***Hell and Back Again (2011):*** 88min

***Where Soldiers Come From (2011):*** 92min

***Shady Chocolate (2012):*** 46min

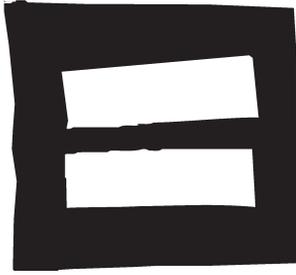
***Shadows of Liberty (2012):*** 93min

***American Promise (2013):*** 135min. Note: license only allows for film screenings at the PJC, 60 Lake St, Burlington

***Gasland (2010) & Part 2 (2013):*** 107min & 125min

***Unmanned: America's Drone Wars (2013):*** 63min

***Wounds of Waziristan (2013):*** 27min



## **Racial Justice**

Programs in this series seeks to spread awareness about the inequality people of color face in VT to build understanding and collaborations in undoing racism here. Challenging the practices and behaviors of people and institutions that support white people while simultaneously hurting everyone else. Each is designed to be facilitated by two people of different races.

### **“The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” Book Discussion**

*Two 2hr sessions or four 2hr sessions*

This book examines institutional racism in the United States and how it relates to and has evolved from previous oppressive laws, such as slavery and Jim Crow policies. This program relates themes of the book to Vermont, criminal justice reform, and more.

### **White Fragility Discussion**

*One session that can be as short as a 15min talk and as long as 1.5hrs discussion.*

White Fragility is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. Being able to name and recognize White Fragility can be a helpful way to stay engaged in discussions about racism, even when they become uncomfortable.

### **Building Empathy and Addressing Racism**

*Three 2hr sessions.*

This program gives participants the opportunity to build skills and knowledge to engage in undoing racism. The three sessions focus on racism within self, community, and institutions/organizations. This program is designed to specifically support people who appear and/or identify as white to actively participate in racial justice work within white communities in an ongoing way. Workshop content varies but the concepts of White Fragility and White Supremacy Culture will likely be a part of the work no matter the facilitators, location, or partners/sponsors.

### **How to Talk to Kids about Racism**

*Two 3hr sessions or four 2hr sessions.*

Talking about race and racism can be difficult -- especially with children. But that does not mean that we shouldn't be having these conversations. This series of discussions addresses the impact of racism and white privilege on our children. It is designed to train adults (and young adults) in how to discuss these issues with children in a meaningful and age appropriate way. It includes resources, information, age-appropriate guidelines, and role playing.

### **Privilege & Accountability: Becoming an Ally**

*Four 2hr sessions.*

This workshop is designed for participants to increase their skills as allies who can effectively build support among colleagues who may be experiencing racism routinely. Participants will explore personal and social identities; practice new vocabulary; develop skills to be a better aspiring ally; and leave with an understanding of what it means to honor our responsibilities as conscience members of society.



## **Pro-Peace & Anti-War**

These programs seek to address the problems with our country's current militaristic approach to conflict and provide meaningful tools to engage in conflict and oppression using nonviolence.

### **Nonviolent Activism 101**

*Two 2hr sessions or four 2hr sessions.*

Nonviolence has been proven to be incredibly effective in addressing oppression even though our culture may not embrace or encourage this truth. Nonviolent activists employ a wide variety of strategies, such as rallies, marches, hunger strikes, boycotts, and much more. Participants will explore personal and social identities; learn aspects of Kingian Nonviolence, and engaging in role play. This program is designed to help unlock meaningful ways to work towards social justice and peace without

### **Nonviolent Action for Youth**

*One 3hr session or two 2hr sessions. Ages 13-23.*  
Students may know a bit about Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Cesar Chavez but what about the movements they were a part of? How are nonviolent movements build and carried out? This program introduces participants to unpacking systems of oppression, redefining terms, and offers tools and practice in addressing conflict through active nonviolence.

### **Nonviolent Engagement in Conflict**

*One 3hr session or two 2hr sessions.*  
Conflict is something that many people go to great lengths to avoid. Yet, if not addressed conflict persist. This program explores the idea that addressing conflict nonviolently can be an exciting and effective way of making change and grow as individuals and even as a culture, society, and community.

### **Conflict and Nonviolence for Kids**

*Four 1hr sessions. Best for kids ages 7-12.*  
This program includes games and activities that help kids explore conflict, empathy, compassion and nonviolence. It includes roleplaying, singing, a visual art project and discussions. Participants will explore their collective power and share ways they want to change the world and how they plan to do it.

### **Learning about Nonviolence: Children's March**

*One 1hr session. Best for kids ages 5-10.*  
Explore the planning and implementation of the Children's March of 1963 in Birmingham, AL. In between watching age appropriate excerpts from *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, participants of all ages will explore parts of Kingian Nonviolence (and more) through discussion and song.

### **Mindfulness for Activists**

*Two 2hr sessions or four 2hr sessions.*  
This workshop focuses both on ways to cultivate mindfulness in our personal lives and on ways to utilize mindfulness for nonviolent social justice and peace work. Emphasis is on developing skills in meditation, deep listening, and what Gandhi called "soul force". Exploring possible ways to both see and act on a sense of common humanity that lies deeper than conflict and on the need for self-care as activists.

### **Counter Recruiting/Recruiting for Peace**

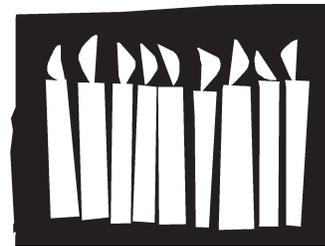
*One 2hr session.*  
This training explores strategies for engaging high school students in conversations to help them think critically about enlisting in the military, and/or how to encourage young people to fight for social justice.

### **Drone Presentations**

*A single 30-45min event for each or a series of all presentations can be arranged.*  
Our presentations include Drones 101, Surveillance Drones, and Experience of Drone Pilots. Presentations are updated each time we offer them, contact us for more detailed information and plan to allow time for us to sufficiently update the content of the program.

### **Community Reading of Testimony from Survivors of Drone Strikes**

*Three 2hr sessions or a single 1.5hr (including discussion).*  
This activity uses adapted testimony from the survivors of drone strikes and news stories about drone strikes in various countries in recent history. We recommend a minimum enrollment requirement.



## **General Information**

We offer this work intermittently around Vermont. We work with community members to bring programming to libraries, schools, offices, activist groups, etc. Ideally events are public, offered at no cost to participants, and are hosted in partnership with local people, groups, and/or a venue. Keeping enrollment free is often made possible through a financial contribution by local partners. For the most part, all of these programs are adaptable, can be combined, and updated.

### **Contact us for more information**

**program@pjcv.org**  
**802-863-2345 x6**  
**www.pjcv.org**