

PT'CHANG, THE CHANGE AGENCY AND COMMONGROUND PRESENT:

NONVIOLENCE TRAINERS' SKILLSHARE

2006

24 - 27 FEBRUARY, 2006 ★ COMMONGROUND, VICTORIA

WHY TRAIN FOR NONVIOLENCE?

Training for nonviolence and other social action skills has been key to the success of many social movements around the world, from the US civil rights movement to the popular movement to depose Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosovic. Nonviolence training can help build and sustain radical social movements, transmit skills and experience and help activists prepare for and build resilience to repression.

Nonviolence trainers employ innovative, experiential methods – role-plays, listening exercises, small group discussions and brainstorm – to help participants reflect upon and learn from their own experience and respond powerfully to injustice.

While commonly used to help people prepare for demonstrations, blockades, pickets and other forms of nonviolent action, the skills taught by nonviolence trainers have broad application in fields such as violence prevention, community safety, conflict resolution, protective accompaniment and post-conflict peacebuilding.

In a time of increasing fear and political repression, nonviolence trainers and activist educators have a critical role to play in safeguarding democratic rights and offering powerful, peaceful avenues for action to build a safer, fairer and more just society.

NONVIOLENCE TRAINERS' SKILLSHARE

In February 2006, new and experienced nonviolence trainers and activists from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region will come together at Commonground near Seymour, Victoria for four days of networking and skillsharing.

On the first day of the skillshare, we'll set the scene with introductory workshops exploring three themes:

1. Making better nonviolence trainings
2. Activist education: theory and practice
3. Building resilience to repression

On the second and third days, we'll use "Open Space

Technology" to form an agenda that will match the tools we want to share, the conversations we want to have and the skills we want to learn.

The evenings will feature informal "on the couch" sessions with a mixture of film screenings, guest speakers and panel discussions.

On day four, we'll hold an extended "activist simulation" to practice facilitating safe and effective role-plays. Before we leave, we'll discuss regional training network needs and make some plans for the coming year.

ABOUT OPEN SPACE

In Open Space, the agenda emerges directly from the wishes and needs of the participants.

At the heart of Open Space is a "marketplace" where anyone can announce a topic or skill they would like to discuss or share. Common interests and needs are identified and topics are merged and adapted according to the needs of the group. Then the workshops begin.

Open Space has four principles and one law. The principles are:

1. Whoever comes are the right people
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
3. When it starts is the right time
4. When it's over it's over

The "The Law of Two Feet" says:

If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can.

This way, Open Space engenders maximum freedom of participation – you can choose to stay with one workshop for an entire day, flit from one to another or, if you prefer, go for a walk outside instead!

To find out more about Open Space, visit www.openspaceworld.org.



REGISTRATION CLOSING FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

the change agency The Change Agency's mission is to strengthen community and workplace action for social, ecological and economic justice by providing facilitation, workshops, training resources, research and other learning opportunities. The Change Agency team are committed to building capacity for sustainable and effective environmental and social change: www.thechangeagency.org

Commonground Training Resources, near Seymour in Central Victoria, offers a unique setting for conferences, training and workshops. Established to offer support and skill development for social change, Commonground has a long association with the nonviolence community. Ph: 03 5793 8257



Pt'chang Nonviolent Community Safety Group assists community groups and grassroots organisations to create safety in a wide range of areas and situations. Pt'chang provides training and community education, fields community safety teams at events and festivals and administers the Nonviolence Training Project: home.vicnet.net.au/~ptchang



The organisers would like to acknowledge the generous support of the **Mercy Foundation**. The Mercy Foundation provides financial and moral support for people who want to work together creatively for the elimination of poverty and injustice: www.mercyfoundation.com.au



WWW.NONVIOLENCE.ORG.AU ★ PH: 03 9415 6642

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return with payment to Pt'chang, PO Box 2172MDC, Fitzroy VIC 3065 by Friday 27 January.

Title	Given name	Surname	
Street			
Suburb/Town		State	Postcode
Telephone	(home)	(work)	(mobile)
E-mail		Organisation	

I would like to attend the Nonviolence Trainers' Skillshare at Commonground from Friday 24 - Monday 27 February, 2006. Please find enclosed my cheque or money order made out to **Pt'chang**.

Base fee	Distance discount	Fee payable
<input type="checkbox"/> Employed (full-time): \$395	<input type="checkbox"/> WA or NT: \$150	Base fee: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Employed (part-time): \$295	<input type="checkbox"/> QLD: \$100	Minus discount: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Concession rate: \$195	<input type="checkbox"/> SA, TAS or NSW: \$75	= \$ _____

All meals will be meat-free. Please indicate any other special dietary needs, including allergies: _____

Will you require assistance with childcare (at Commonground) during the Skillshare? Yes No

Are you interested in co-facilitating a nonviolence workshop in your area following the Skillshare? Yes No

Please describe any formal or informal experience you have had in learning and/or helping others to learn about nonviolence: _____

What training skills or knowledge do you hope to gain and/or share with others during the Skillshare? _____

Please note: The Skillshare agenda starts at 9.00am, Friday 24/2 and finishes at 5.00pm, Monday 27/2. ★ All meals and accomodation are provided during workshop hours. Participants will be asked to help to prepare and clean up after meals. ★ Places are limited. In the event of over-subscription, a full refund will be provided to unsuccessful applicants. ★ Daytime childcare available at venue on application. ★ A small number of fully sponsored places are available. Visit www.nonviolence.org.au or call 03 9415 6642 for more information. ★ No refunds available for cancellations after Friday 17/02. ★ To register, please post your form with payment to Pt'chang, PO Box 2172MDC, Fitzroy VIC 3065 by Friday 27/1. ★ **Interstate/overseas guests:** Please allow at least two hours in your itinerary for travel between Commonground and Melbourne. Please contact us prior to registration if you require assistance with billeting in Melbourne on Thursday 23/2 or Monday 27/2.

REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY 27 JANUARY