



**The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
Announces commemorative and educational events honoring the 58th
Anniversary of the March on Washington, Poor People's Campaign**

**Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosts delegation to attend
2021 Nonviolence Economics Training in Miami, Florida to commemorate to
Poor People's Campaign of 1968, address economic disparities in state**

**The Nonviolence Economics Training promotes empowerment, economic
opportunity, and equity**

**DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director
(501) 683-1300
Dushun.scarbrough@ade.arkansas.gov**

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presents

NONVIOLENCE ECONOMICS 2021

**August 2-4
2021**

For more information, contact DuShun Scarbrough at 888-290-KING

LITTLE ROCK-The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state; and to promote the principles of nonviolence and equality among all citizens. Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history, and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities.

During a sermon in 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. referenced poverty as one of the three “evils.” “Like a monstrous octopus it spreads its nagging prehensile tentacles into cities and hamlets and villages all over our nation. Some forty million of our brothers and sisters are poverty stricken, unable to gain the necessities of life.” There were more African American homeowners in 1968 than 2021.

To commemorate the 58th Anniversary of the Historic March on Washington which took place on August 28, 1963 and the Poor People’s Campaign of 1968, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission has organized a delegation to represent Arkansas in Miami, Florida at the 2021 Nonviolence Economics Training. The Nonviolence Economics Summit will take place on August 2-4, 2021 in Miami, Florida thorough a partnership with the Florida MLK Institute. The Commission has partnered with the MLK Institute in Miami, Florida to provide an opportunity for volunteers to receive technical assistance and intensive training on strategies to address poverty and inspire economic development within communities. Arkansas’s poverty rate of 17.2%, the seventh highest in the nation. The Florida Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence is headquartered in Miami, Florida and works on civil rights issues. They are a grassroots organization. The Florida Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence was founded in 2016.

In working to address the rising poverty in the community, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is exploring the root causes and addressing ways to provide intervention and outreach to highly impacted areas of the state. Arkansas’s poverty rates vary considerably by county. The counties with the highest poverty rates are Phillips, Desha, Chicot, Nevada, and Lee. According to the USDA, Arkansas has a poverty rate of 18.9 percent and a child poverty rate of 26 percent, with poverty levels continuing to rise throughout the state (Talk Poverty.Org).

This educational and information excursion helps the Commission continue in its effort to encourage Arkansans to reflect on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. through educational endeavors, cultural performances, exhibitions, and public community outreach projects that are multiethnic, and family-oriented. In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated (A.C.A.) § 25-24-102, it is one of many duties of the Commission to promote among the people of Arkansas, by appropriate activities, both the awareness and the appreciation of the civil rights movement as well as enable the people of Arkansas to reflect on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the donations and contributions from individuals as well as public and private organizations in order to carry out these statutory responsibilities.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s mission and philosophy of love, tolerance, and nonviolence guide the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as the Commission strives for social improvement in Arkansas, helping communities and organizations achieve new levels of leadership and public service. The Commission works directly with youth and others, encouraging them to embrace alternatives to violence and discover their common humanity. Through activities that stress racial and cultural diversity, the Commission offers Arkansas a new understanding of the important roles they play in our communities, now and in the future. The Commission has collaborated with various agencies and organizations in its efforts to provide community services across the state of Arkansas.

“This training is timely as we are looking for more strategic ways to target economically disadvantaged citizens throughout the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the urgent needs of low income, at-risk individuals, says DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director.

“We are proud to partner with the Florida MLK Institute. As a Commission we are making an investment in education to better equip our corps of volunteers and trainers to enact programming to broaden this outreach throughout the state. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in the process of implementing the Poor People's Campaign during the March on Washington before he was assassinated in 1968 and it is our goal to honor his legacy by carrying out his work throughout Arkansas.”

The Florida Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence, Inc.

Presents

Kingian Nonviolence Leadership
FOR
Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

INTRODUCTION: Violence has been lauded as the supreme solution and consistently has been excused as accepted behavior for human beings. The tentacles of violence stretch into almost every aspect of our lives, our homes, work places, recreation, sports and music, just to mention a few. Even children's toys and television programs express our unconscious acceptance and clear admiration for violence, reinforced by our educational and corporate systems, technical processes and institutional patterns. In almost every aspect of our lives, we have been trained to respond to conflict with violence.*

The Training Course is designed to explore how the philosophy of Kingian Nonviolence Reconciliation has been used to prevent violence and identify violent prone situations. The training is interactive, relevant and meets the needs of the community. The training process enhances personal development, is realistic based and builds on prior knowledge and needs of the group. Daily reflection and process time is built in groups, and assist in determining what personal changes are necessary.

GOALS: Introduce skills to:

- Methodical study of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. analytical process in identifying and responding effectively to "root" causes of all types of physical, verbal and psychological violence;
- Examine global effective examples of nonviolence in managing reconciling conflicts;
- Employ the proficiency of "Framing the Issue" in conflicts and violence so energy is directed toward "causes" not "symptoms;"
- Develop the skills of community building, "Top-Down, Bottom-Up" through "**Kingian Nonviolence**" methodologies and strategies;
- Identify personal attitudes and behavior in conflicts and assist in determining what personal changes are necessary; and
- Focus on violence prevention and violent prone situations.

*The Leaders Manual: A structured Guide and Introduction to "Kingian Nonviolence": The Philosophy and Methodology," 1995, Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. and David C. Jehnsen, All Rights Reserved.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The King Nonviolence Training Program is designed to provide skills to:

1. De-escalate conflicts in inter-personal disputes;
2. Mobilize the six basic community leadership groups to help personnel respond to conflicts;
3. Acquire skills to distinguish between constructive confrontation and destructive conflict that can lead to forms of violence;
4. Address positive resources in the system to assist personnel in their professional duties;
5. Incorporate the Kingian Philosophy of Nonviolence as an additional professional tool in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School.
6. Apply Dr. King's methodology and strategy to build effective coalitions to reduce crime and violence;
7. Examine the major types and levels of conflicts and their characteristics in relative to corrections issues;
8. Examine how to make a nonviolent analysis through examination of the five factors in a conflict;
9. Examine the Kingian Philosophy of Nonviolence, in order, to apply these universal concepts to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary.
10. Examine the six elements of the nonviolent strategy to identify their interrelationship when applied to issues from the Survey;
11. Explain the application of nonviolent organization and mobilization strategies;
12. Recognize how leadership can focus on involving potential supporters rather than reacting to the opposition and process of nonviolent mobilization; and
13. Identify opportunities of experiences that participants see for use of this methodology in their personal and professional lives.

RATIONALE: If a personnel appreciate the different kinds of conflict in society, the roles that conflict plays in the life of an individual, group or larger society, how that conflict can be managed and the importance of conflict in bringing about change, then what might be ordinarily considered a totally negative experience can be transformed into positive outcomes. The perception, interpretation and persuasion of the leadership determine the role conflict might play in a particular situation and its positive or negative consequences. The program is designed to help personnel to both know the difference and to make a difference in the outcome of conflicts.

A greater understanding of the Six Principles that Dr. King outlined in "Stride Toward Freedom" in 1958, can assist personnel in developing their own philosophical foundations for interpreting the goals, methods, thinking, dynamics, and process involved in nonviolence as a system of thought.

