



**Black Women for Positive Change**  
**"Changing the Culture of Violence in America"**

June 2, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick  
Governor of State Massachusetts  
State House  
Office of the Governor  
Boston, MA 02133

JUN 10 2014

Dear Governor Patrick,

On behalf of Black Women for Positive Change (BW4PC), a volunteer network of men and women of diverse races and faiths, we are requesting your support for a 'National Week of Non-Violence,' August 16-23, 2014. We hope you will place a priority on making citizens in your State aware about the non-violent methods that can safely resolve disputes and conflicts. Last year on August 22, 2013, BW4PC sponsored a "Day of Non-Violence" where 38 elected officials, in 16 States issued Proclamations. (See Proclamations at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/123874452@N06/sets/72157644689843274/>) In 2013, we had support from two Governors—Governor Deval Patrick, MA and Governor Martin O'Malley, MD. This year we hope to have dozens of Governors supporting the 'National Week of Non-Violence' and hope you are one of them.

While we appreciate the role of violence in national security, the military and self-defense, we are alarmed at the useless violence against children, youth, women, elders and innocent adults. We are also concerned about the casual way violence is portrayed in the media, video games and music. As U.S. citizens we believe we have a responsibility to educate citizens about non-violent ways to resolve conflicts so, they can live productive, safe lives. Therefore, we are asking that you issue a Proclamation, Resolution or letter and sponsor Non-Violence/Conflict Resolution educational activities in your State, during August 16-23, 2014 (Draft language attached). As a sponsoring Governor your name will be listed on the website.

Please post up events on the Master National Calendar at [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org) and mail your proclamation, letter, resolution and/or donations to: Black Women for Positive Change, 1220 L. Street, NW, # 181, Washington, DC 20005, with a PDF copy to [Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com](mailto:Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com). We must all work together to "Change the Culture of Violence in America." Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Delegate Daun S. Hester**

Virginia Delegate Daun S. Hester, Nat. Co-Chair  
Black Women for Positive Change

**Representative Rhonda C. Fields**

Representative Rhonda C. Fields  
Colorado State Representative, District 42  
Member, Summit Council on Non-Violence  
Black Women for Positive Change

**Dr. Stephanie E. Myers**

Dr. Stephanie E. Myers, Nat. Co-Chair  
Black Women for Positive Change

Mayor William D. Euille  
City of Alexandria, Virginia,  
Member, Summit Council on Non-Violence  
Black Women for Positive Change

P.O. Box 78211, Washington DC 20013, Fax 202-403-3743  
[Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com](mailto:Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com), [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org)



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**SAMPLE PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, America's problems with violence within our society have escalated during the last decade, affecting families in every walk of life and threatening our national security and the safety of children, youth, adults, seniors and families; and,

WHEREAS, it is in our nation's best interest to increase knowledge and training regarding conflict resolution, mental health, parenting skills and non violence, and to make resources available to contribute to *"Changing the Culture of Violence in America"* and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Ghandi and President Nelson Mandela demonstrated leadership in non-violence and called for peaceful resolution to conflicts and disagreements in order to create more fair and just societies and,

WHEREAS, Black Women for Positive Change (BW4PC), a national civic, volunteer organization is calling for a "National Week of Non Violence," August 16-23, 2014; and urging leaders to organize workshops on non-violence in collaboration with elected officials, faith-based leaders, business leaders, national organizations, educators, musicians, rappers, athletes and community leaders from August 16-23, 2014, and,

WHEREAS, all Americans are encouraged to organize community-based events that teach non-violence, conflict resolution, parenting and promote viewership of the youth violence-prevention film produced by BW4PC called "On 2<sup>nd</sup> Thought" available on the web at [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org)

THEREFORE, be it resolved that \_\_\_\_\_ hereby proclaim  
August 16-23, 2014 as a National Week of Non-Violence





**Black Women for Positive Change**  
*"Changing the Culture of Violence in America"*

**NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE  
GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will issue a Proclamation from my State for the National Week of Non- Violence.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I cannot participate at this time

Governor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE NON-VIOLENCE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE IN YOUR STATE DURING  
WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE, AUGUST 16-23, 2014**

(1) Host Youth Workshop on Non-Violence/Conflict Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ M/B

(2) Host film screening of violence prevention film "On 2<sup>nd</sup> Thought." \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ M/B  
\*\*Film available free at [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org)

(3) Host community workshops on Conflict Resolution/Non-Violence \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ M/B

(4) Attend or send Representative to August 23, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ M/B  
Summit on Non-Violence in Washington, D.C.

Donations appreciated to assist with underwriting expenses. Checks should be made out to Black Women for Positive Change. 1220 L. Street, NW., #181, Washington, DC 20005. For donations by paypal go to [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org) Click donate. Fax response form to 202-403-3743 or email to [Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com](mailto:Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com).

COMMENTS:



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*"Changing the Culture of Violence in America "*

**NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE FACT SHEET**

- What:** National Week of Non-Violence, August 16-23, 2014
- Convened By:** Black Women for Positive Change—Virginia Delegate Daun S. Hester and Dr. Stephanie E. Myers, National Co-Chairs; BW4PC 2014 Charter/Active Members and the National Summit Council on Non-Violence.
- Description:** During the National Week of Non-Violence Elected Officials, Faith Institutions, national organizations, schools, law enforcement, etc. are asked to host local events across America. Goal is to discuss principles of Non-Violence espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King, President Mandela and Mahatma Ghandi and show how those principles can be used to assist violence-prone youth and adults with conflict resolution and peaceful behaviour.
- When:** Saturday, August 16--Saturday, August 23, 2014.
- Where:** Cities Across America
- Non-Violence Speeches** Governors are asked to give Non-Violence Speeches during August 2014:
- Ideas for Activities:**
- (1) Organize Youth Workshops on Non-Violence and Conflict Resolution
  - (2) Order multiple copies of DVDs of "On 2<sup>nd</sup> Thought" – youth violence prevention film, to distribute to schools, juvenile delinquency facilities, recreation centers, etc. to encourage youth to THINK TWICE before committing violent acts. Order form available:  
[www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org).
  - (3) Organize Conflict Resolution Workshops for parents and youth.
  - (4) Attend or send Representative to 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summit on Non-Violence in Washington, DC., at Metropolitan AME Church, August 23, 2014. For updates check: [www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org](http://www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org)
- Contact:** For more information contact [Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com](mailto:Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com);



BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE & NATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL  
P R E S E N T S

# NATIONAL *Week* OF NON-VIOLENCE

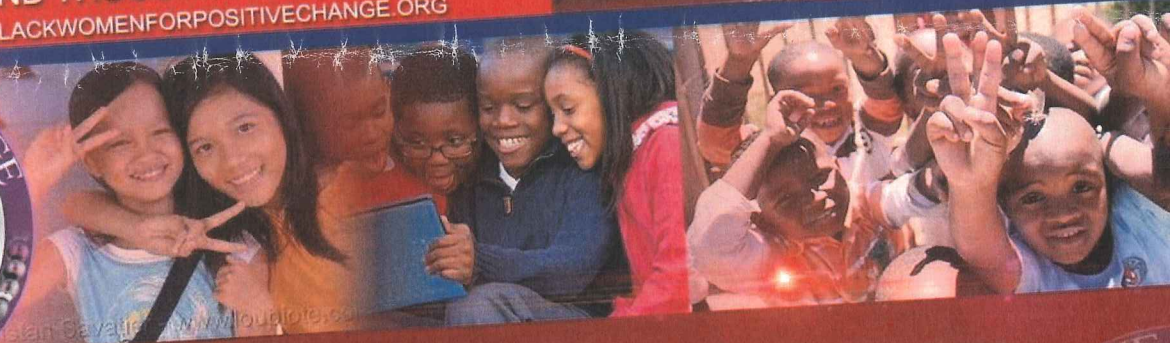
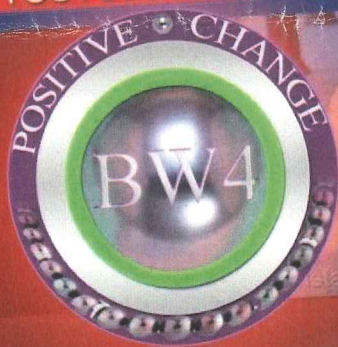
**AUGUST 16-23, 2014**

**BE A LEADER! ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**  
**CALLING ALL**

FAITH LEADERS, LAYMAN LEADERS, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS,  
ELECTED OFFICIALS, NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS, YOUTH LEADERS  
PARENT ORGANIZATIONS, MUSICIANS/RAPPERS  
AND SPORTS LEADERS

**SUMMIT ON NON-VIOLENCE**  
NON-VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION SEMINARS  
SCREENING YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
SHORT-FILM "ON 2ND THOUGHT" AVAILABLE ON  
YOUTUBE AT [WWW.BLACKWOMENFORPOSITIVECHANGE.ORG](http://WWW.BLACKWOMENFORPOSITIVECHANGE.ORG)

ON **SECOND  
THOUGHT**  
ANTI-VIOLENCE FILM



**TO REGISTER & POST YOUR EVENT DETAILS GO TO:**  
**[WWW.BLACKWOMENFORPOSITIVECHANGE.ORG](http://WWW.BLACKWOMENFORPOSITIVECHANGE.ORG)**



FOR MORE INFO ON THE NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE  
EMAIL: [BKWOMEN4POSCHANGE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BKWOMEN4POSCHANGE@GMAIL.COM)

