



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 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. 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

Dr. Stephanie E. Myers

Dr. Stephanie E. Myers, 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

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, www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org



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“Changing the Culture of Violence in America “

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 2nd Thought”* available on the web at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

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



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**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 2nd Thought." _____ YES _____ NO _____ M/B
**Film available free at 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 Click donate. Fax response form to 202-403-3743 or email to Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com.

COMMENTS:



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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 2nd 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.
- (3) Organize Conflict Resolution Workshops for parents and youth.
- (4) Attend or send Representative to 2nd Annual Summit on Non-Violence in Washington, DC., at Metropolitan AME Church, August 23, 2014. For updates check: www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org
- Contact:** For more information contact Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com;

BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE & NATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL

P R E S E N T S

NATIONAL *Week* OF NON-VIOLENCE

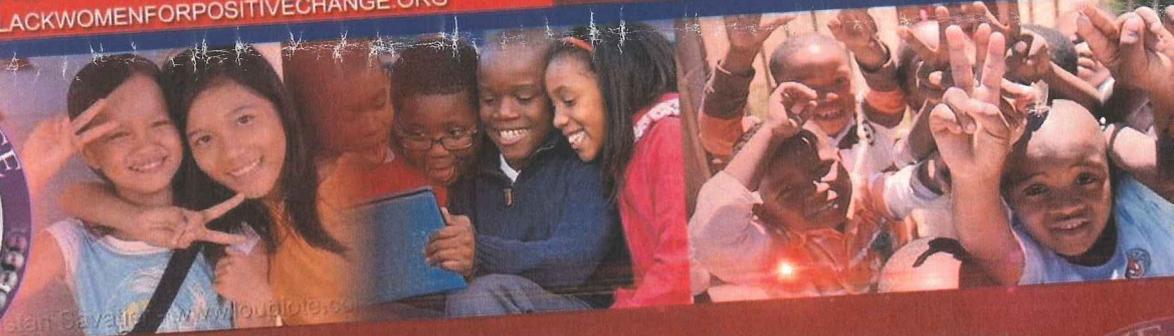
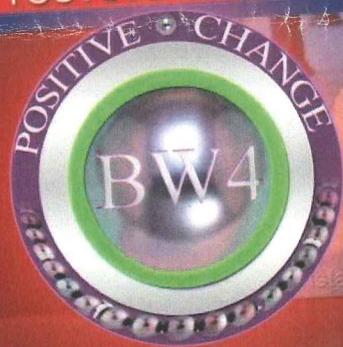
AUGUST 16-23, 2014

**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

ON **SECOND**
THOUGHT
ANTI-VIOLENCE FILM



**TO REGISTER & POST YOUR EVENT DETAILS GO TO:
WWW.BLACKWOMENFORPOSITIVECHANGE.ORG**



FOR MORE INFO ON THE NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE
EMAIL: BKWOMEN4POSCHANGE@GMAIL.COM

