



Empowering Humankind Through Nonviolent Action

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Celebrating 40 years of defending freedom and democracy through the study and use of strategic nonviolent action

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Institution (AEI). Since our establishment in 1983 by Dr. Gene Sharp, we have had a singular mission: to empower humankind by advancing the study and use of strategic nonviolent action in conflicts around the world.

When Dr. Sharp began his foundational work, it was against the backdrop of the Second World War, the Korean War, the McCarthy era, racial and economic inequality, and the looming threat of atomic weapons that shadowed the mid-20th century. Driven by a deep determination to do his part to address the profoundly serious problems that threatened the world, he began searching for practical solutions. It was through his study of Gandhi's campaigns to win

freedom for India that Dr. Sharp discovered a powerful model that offered great hope for the world: strategic nonviolent action.

Later, Dr. Sharp learned that there was a rich history of the use of nonviolent action to resist oppression and injustice, even under the most repressive conditions, such as the successful defiance by Norwegian teachers of Nazi takeover of their education system. Through the study of this example and hundreds of other cases of nonviolent resistance, Dr. Sharp distilled the insights that would become his foundational theories on strategic nonviolent action.

In 1983, Dr. Sharp founded the **Albert Einstein Institution** to promote the study and use of nonviolent action as a realistic alternative to violence and passivity in conflict. Since then, our books and educational workshops have had a significant impact on pro-democracy movements around the world. Translated and distributed globally, our work has influenced and inspired people-powered movements in places like Chile and the Baltics in the 1990's, Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia in the 2000's, Bahrain and Egypt in the early 2010's, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Belarus, and Myanmar, as well as the global climate movement.

The field of strategic nonviolent action has made great progress since Dr. Sharp began his pioneering work. However, in recent years we have witnessed growing authoritarianism and democratic backsliding around the world. While research reveals people are increasingly turning to nonviolent resistance to address crises, the overall effectiveness of these movements has declined in the past decade. Meanwhile, oppressive governments and other entities are becoming more skilled at undermining nonviolent resistance, leaving ad hoc movements increasingly ill-prepared to face and defend against opponents who are deploying extensive resources and capabilities to defeat them. The world needs our work more than ever before.

The Next Phase of Our Work

To address these challenges, the Albert Einstein Institution is embarking on an ambitious mission to innovate the way we develop and share educational resources. This includes building tools and other resources to capture lessons, insights and knowledge from experts and practitioners in the field of nonviolent resistance and then distributing these learnings online in different languages and formats.

Interactive Training Program

With support from the Global Campus of Human Rights and Right Livelihood, we are building the components of our People-Powered Training Program to meet the urgency and demand for high-quality resources and trainings on strategic nonviolent action. This comprehensive learning platform will include a wide range of educational multimedia modules based on AEI's vast library of research

and case studies, as well as new studies for users of all ages, levels of experience and geographic locations.

As part of the People-Powered Training Program, we also hope to connect and highlight youth voices through learning modules featuring young activists from around the world. This will include a K-12 education section in our platform that includes illustrated books and other lessons that can be incorporated into educational curricula.

The Climate Justice Fellowship

Our **Climate Justice Fellowship Program** is now in its second year. This 15-month fellowship, offered by AEI and Right Livelihood, mentors a small group of climate justice activists using the principles of strategic nonviolent action to address global climate justice issues.

Building on AEI's four decades of experience in helping movements develop effective nonviolent action strategies, the Fellowship aims to build strategic planning capacity and encourage solidarity and cooperation among climate activists and organizers across regions.

Our Path Forward

We have launched a new brand and website and are planning a new communication strategy in order to expand our capacity to disseminate resources and information about nonviolent action to the public. Our **team** has grown, too. We now have a full-time operations director and senior communications manager who are bringing fresh ideas to our work.

To make our growing work possible, we are always seeking to expand our network of partners who share our commitment to strengthening our work. If you would like to donate your time and skills to support AEI, we currently need designers, writers, media professionals, social media experts, and translators to help us make our work more accessible and available in more formats.

It has been an extraordinary 40 years and we look forward with passion and commitment to 40 more. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Upcoming Events

Gene Sharp Day



Thursday, April 27 | Boston

In 2015, Mayor Marty Walsh proclaimed April 27th as **Gene Sharp Day** for his contributions in creating a more peaceful and just world and for helping to understand and promote nonviolent action as a powerful alternative to violence and passivity in conflict.

[Learn More](#)



Beyond Vietnam: A Public Reading

**Tuesday, May 2 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm
EST | Boston City Hall Plaza**

Jamila Raqib, AEI's executive director, will speak at the New Democracy Coalition's **Beyond Vietnam: A Public Reading**, the 6th annual public reading of a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., co-sponsored by Massachusetts Peace Action.

[Learn More](#)

Support Our Work

If you would like to support us on our journey, please consider making a donation. Gifts and grants directly support our research, education, publishing and training efforts as we seek to defend freedom and democracy around the world through the study and use of strategic nonviolent action.

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*“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor
is the mind of the oppressed.”*

—Gene Sharp

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Stay connected to the ways AEI is working to advance
freedom through strategic nonviolent action.

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