

## International Press Release

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October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 two hundred people will march out of Rajghat (the place where Mahatma Gandhi's remains have been buried) in New Delhi and begin a long 365-day march to Geneva to bring nonviolence (*ahimsa*) to international policy-makers and other stakeholders. This is a historic act and signifies that even today, a nonviolent peace force can be assembled from a motley group of people from various backgrounds -- mostly from India and also outside -- and that they can bring a sobriety and reverence to peace with justice in an effort to call for the survival of our planet, human beings and all living things.

The "white and green" flags swirling in the wind, reminds us of the meaning of Jai Jagat as: "All for the Planet and One Planet for All". It brings forward an ecological consciousness to our common destiny recognizing the fragility of that destiny in the face of many of the conflicts that have been created today. With the current development paradigm today outstripping the earth's resources, it was believed by all governments and civil society that only by adopting 'sustainability' as central to international development by laying out the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), could social inclusion be guaranteed -- "No one left behind".

This combined with the Gandhi perspective of applying nonviolence is the core message of the Jai Jagat Global Peace March. Spelled out in a thirty page document entitled "The Green and White Book: The Jai Jagat Manifesto" this provides the core messages for holding such a huge global action. (See [www.jaijagat2020.org](http://www.jaijagat2020.org).)

This Global Peace March will travel through India four months visiting many important points that forms Gandhi's legacy. The final destination in Seva Gram near Wardha is where many incidents of the Indian Freedom struggle were born and from where the global Gandhi became known. This was in the subsequent struggles of Martin Luther King in the American civil rights movement, and Nelson Mandela's acts of toppling apartheid in South Africa.

In early February 2020, the march would travel to Iran and then proceed through the South Caucasus (Armenia/Georgia) and then after crossing the Black Sea, and marching through four Balkan States would arrive in Italy followed by Switzerland. Friends in the post-Soviet republics and the eastern European states are interested to understand the Indian experience of non-Alignment. In Armenia and Georgia Gandhi Foundations have been set up and they are leading the way to show how *swaraj* or self-reliance is important in areas of the world where geopolitical struggles occur.

One of the main parts of the march will be holding "trainings on the road" on nonviolence (eight in India and sixteen internationally. In the process Gandhi's notion of *sarvodaya* ('well-being to all' or 'social inclusion') will be highlighted and this will help the core walkers to see how effectively the SDGs are being implemented in the countries through which they travel.

There have been many marches in history but few where a core of walkers are speaking about 'peace with justice' and creating a site of learning of nonviolence on the road.

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Inspired by the Gandhian concept of sarvodaya, meaning “well-being of all”, the Campaign promotes a new development path, based on inclusion, social justice and ethical governance. The Jai Jagat Campaign advocates a reversal of the pattern of development, from global to local, to rebuild a society based on “bottom up” cooperation including all people, regardless of their status.

The Jai Jagat 2020 Campaign wants to build an international global movement for peace and justice to promote a new development model, one based on what is ‘ethically correct’ and not what is ‘economically correct’.

We believe genuine change can be achieved if people take action. There are so many actions for peace that occur daily in every part of the globe and when they come together there is a movement that can effect change.

The Jai Jagat 2020 Campaign aims to be a facilitating body to link local nonviolent actions with global change and international actors in order to promote well-being for all.