

HUMAN SYMBOLS of PEACE and NONVIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

'Because putting the body and the intention to show ourselves in favor of peace and nonviolence is not only playful, it is also to record a joint commitment that opens up the future for us'.

The action consists of making **two human symbols, one for peace and the other for nonviolence**, in order to stage in a very visual and experimental way our aspirations not only for peace, but going beyond that, to move towards nonviolence as a way of life.

On the occasion of the various **World Marches for peace and nonviolence**, or to celebrate **2 October, nonviolence international day**, human symbols have been promoted in different parts of the world, the largest being the one in **Lucena in the Philippines with 12,000 students**, held in October 2009. <https://nuevaregion.com/filipinas-el-simbolo-humano-de-la-paz-mas-grande-del-mundo-mas-de-12000-alumnos/>

Another example: in January 2017 in **Madrid (Spain)**, an awareness-raising campaign was launched with the creation of human symbols in the educational sphere, which for one year involved **132 educational centers with more than 35,000 participants**.

<https://www.pressenza.com/es/2018/02/35-mil-alumnos-132-centros-educativos-realizaron-simbolos-humanos-la-campana-paz-noviencia/>

It is difficult nowadays to evaluate the total number of symbols made all over the world.

Depending on the case, they have been adapted to particular situations with posters, colors, music and songs. In many cases, it is complemented by the **Ethical Commitment ceremony**, to be further deepened with other tools such as workshops and seminars that WwWV makes available to educators, trainers and activists.

Given that all these experiences have been very well received, the '**Human Symbols for Peace and Nonviolence**' campaign is moving on to another level.

Indeed, we aim to multiply the configuration of these symbols in different formats and in all the places and countries where we can, to raise awareness of the themes of Peace and Nonviolence among the social base, young people and professionals of culture and education.

It could be argued that this does not solve wars and conflicts, and it is true, but nowadays, when we are submerged in a constant invasion of negative images, which generates more and more fear, it is important to show and make visible what most people aspire to.

It is therefore an invitation to any collective, educational center, community anywhere in the world to join this silent but powerful cry, the cry of those of us who want to live in a peaceful and nonviolent world.

PREPARATIONS

1. Presentation of the project to the possible interested parties (director of the school, head of the sports club, mayor, etc.).
2. Visit the possible spaces where human symbols can be made (courtyards, sports fields, etc.). Contemplate places with an elevated point of view that allows you to take photos from above.
3. Estimate the number of people available to carry out one or both symbols.
4. Make a diagram on distribution paper according to the number of people.
5. Define the day, time and specify the number of people to be mobilized.
6. The same day, an hour before, we draw the symbol(s) on the ground with chalk, a stick and a rope (see drawing material).
7. Once the people have gathered around the symbol, we organize the functions: general manager who coordinates, group managers, music managers, photographer, etc.
8. According to the number of people, we constitute the groups proportionally; we know that for example: 120 people and a circle of 5 m. of radius (we make a double row), then 4 groups of 12 people are needed for each radius of the peace symbol and 2 groups of 35 for the outer double circle (6 groups in short). For the symbol of Nonviolence we need 20% more, that is, 144 people.
9. In the case of schools, it must be clear who is responsible for mobilizing and locating the participants. It is convenient to explain to them beforehand what each of the two symbols means so that they feel really protagonists of this expression, this demand for peace and nonviolence. (See Nonviolence material and its references).

DEVELOPMENT

- It is okay to play some music to set the mood until people are well placed. Once the symbol is well configured and at the signal of the person in charge, we remain silent; then all together, arms raised, we shout *Peace and Nonviolence* or something else (we can do it in different languages)- Drums, music.
- If we continue with the second symbol, we play the music again, not too loudly and we follow the same principle and at the end some slogans.
- Applause and louder music until dispersion.
- **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE PHOTOS DURING THE CONFIGURATION OF THE SYMBOL AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE HEIGHT ONCE THE SYMBOL IS MADE!!!**In addition to the general photos and videos, it is interesting to do short interviews with mobile phones to ask the participants to give their testimonies, their impressions of the experience.

Indeed, the most important thing is to create a model, a memory so that others who see it want to reproduce it, and that this spreads virally via social networks, etc.

PEACE SIMBOL



MEANING OF THE SIGN

"The peace sign" has been conceived in fact, as an emblem of opponents of nuclear weapons. It was created on February 21, 1958 by Gerald Holtom, an artist member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), at the request of Bertrand Russell, organizer and leader of the movement. Today it is always identified as such in Great Britain but, in any other part of the planet, it is the emblem of peace, non-violent action and pacifism. Its designer was based on the British semaphore code to create this symbol, where both branches pointing to the left and to the right stand for "N" and the central bar "D", for "Nuclear Disarmament".



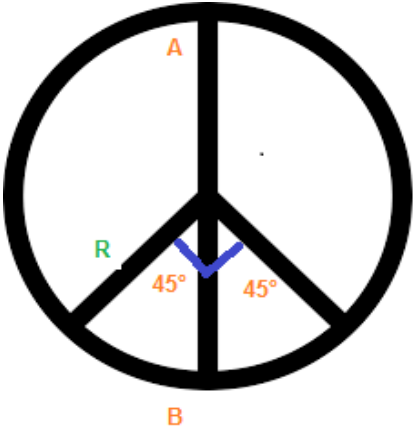
DRAWING OF THE SIGN (2 to 3 people)

We define and mark the center of the circle; we measure and mark on the rope the desired radius R and fix a thick chalk (or several together) to one end. One person holds the center with their foot or a stick while the other draws the circle with the string taut.

We define the main "vertical" axis A-B (in front of where the photos are going to be taken) that passes through the center by tightening the rope, one person standing on the circle and passing through the center, the other on the opposite side. We mark on the ground the line that follows the path of the rope.

We return to the center and supporting ourselves at an angle of 90 degrees (this can be with a sheet of notebook) we straddle the main axis so that each angle of one part and the other will be 45 degrees. We mark on the ground the beginning of these spokes from the center; and another person standing on the outer circle will follow this line with the rope taut; thus we will have the corresponding radii.

HOW TO SET THE SIGN WITH PEOPLE



If we place ourselves in front of the main axis AB, we introduce from the "upper" part each group in a row following the lines on the floor, one after the other it will be placed in each section. Then, according to the outer circle on one side and the other, the last 2 groups are going to be placed, to complete the circle.

NONVIOLENCE SIMBOL



MEANING OF THE SIGN

The circle has many meanings, but most of the time it represents perfection. It can symbolize the human being, or even the universe, as something perfect that contains everything.

These 2 circles are connected with 2 semicircles that have two meanings:

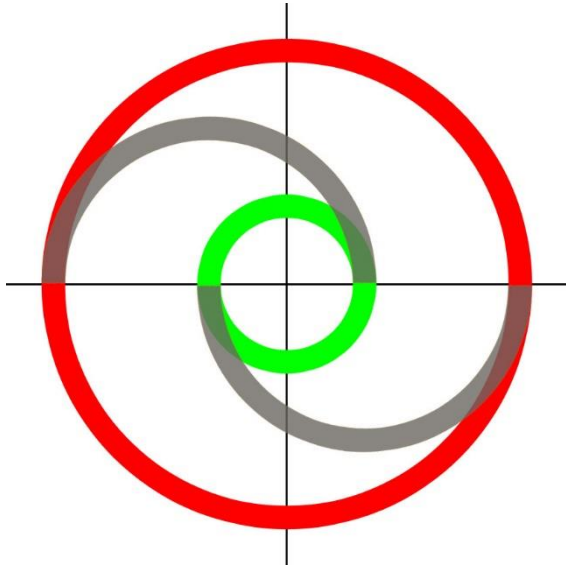
The smaller circle represents the individual (and the internal coherence of it); the larger the universe, society (and external coherence).

They represent the connection between the individual and the society that surrounds him as well as both principles of personal coherence and the humanistic attitude:

- 1. *Treat others how you want to be treated***
- 2. *Think, feel and act in the same direction***

With this attitude we want to be non-violent and build a world without violence.

DRAWING OF THE SIGN



Although it is a simple symbol, at first glance it may seem difficult to see how it can be drawn. The following image and steps will make it a bit easier.

1. Draw a small circle with a radius of unit X (marked green)
2. Draw a great circle with the same center and with a radius 3 times bigger than X (marked in red)
3. Draw an imaginary horizontal line through the center of the circles (marked in black)
4. Where the line touches the small circle on the left and on the right, it will be the

center of the gray semicircles. We draw the upper

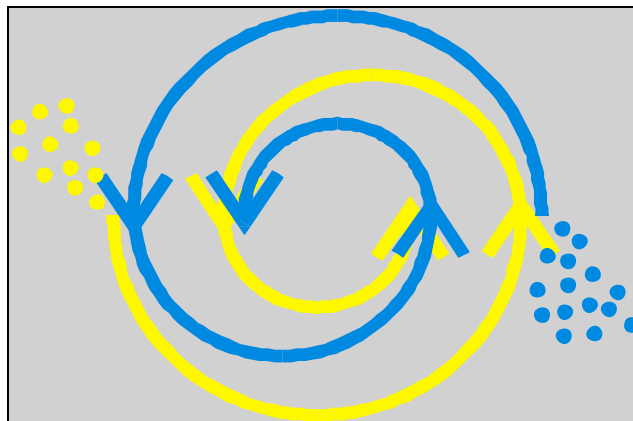
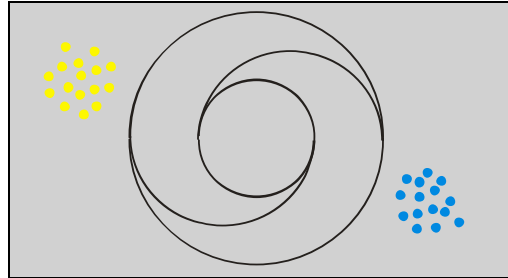
half of a circle of the dimension of two radii and do the equivalent on the other side. Now the semicircles are connected to the small and large circle.

5. Now you can always increase the outline, widen the lines or fill the spaces between the lines or whatever you want.

HOW TO SET THE SIGN WITH PEOPLE

Once the symbol is drawn on the ground, it will serve to guide people who will configure its outline in a very easy and dynamic way, which will give the event a playful tone.

- We establish two call poles and a group of people on each of the two sides of the largest circle. From the outside two human rows will approach to form the symbol in a spiral.
- It is in the two places where they meet that people will take torches or another object (flag, colored cardboard) that the guide will present to them; he will recommend that you simply follow him in a line making a human chain.
- People will move in line following the guide who marks the path.
- We start simultaneously from both poles, at the signal agreed between both guides face to face, the columns will then move in two spiral circles that will not cross



- We arrive at the destination when the guides stand facing the small circle. It will suffice to ask people to distribute themselves evenly on the marked line. Thus the symbol will be configured as soon as the people have also occupied the entire largest perimeter.