



# JAI JAGAT 2020-30

ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Dear friends,

From Jai Jagat we wish you a great beginning of the year! We hope that 2022 will be full of hope and commitment to continue walking together towards peace and justice through nonviolence.

Below you will find a summary of the actions carried out last year, which we hope will serve as inspiration for the next steps of this campaign.



## 12 DAYS OF ACTION: IN TRANSITION TO A NONVIOLENT ECONOMY

From the **Peace Day - 21st September to the Nonviolence Day - 2nd of October**, 2021, many groups, movements, and organizations from twenty countries of South Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, and North America, converged around a common program of celebrating 12 Days of joint actions.

The larger issue of peace and justice was amplified and the 12 Days offered an opportunity to promote a discussion on the possibilities of the nonviolent economy in various local contexts. Young people who were particularly interested in halting the climate crisis were encouraged to find solutions in an alternative economic model that is sustainable and nonviolent. This campaign, propelled by Jai Jagat associates, has helped those keen to get out of the Covid Blues, to reengage with the social, ecological, and economic issues locally and internationally.

Social movements, land and water defenders, peacebuilders, indigenous communities, and civil society representatives met monthly prior to the 12 Days to prepare small daily actions. **This led to one hundred and six yatras being carried out in India in 10 states involving 50,000 persons.** Other country groups took up a variety of activities involving meetings, relay fasts, workshops, art projects, and webinars. Attention was given by these groups to the six common priority areas that are elaborated on below.

Considering the impact on people's lives during the period of the Corona pandemic, the 12 Days of Action was an unprecedented demonstration of people's engagement. In many of these actions, people were awakened to Gandhi's nonviolence and the revaluation of peace and simplicity free from overconsumption and uncontrolled wealth creation.

Each of the 12 Days carried a message on a daily broadcast which can be found on the button below:

[Watch the 12 days broadcasts](#)



## Climate Mitigation and Adaption

Throughout the 12 Days, one of the most prevalent concerns was how to address the climate crisis and the threat to the planet, which includes rampant inequality. In advance, there was a virtual meeting between young environmental activists, who shared their critical views of COP26, as well as laid out the work that was needed to be done in the future.

On the first day, people were meant to fast for change. This included a wide variety of messages of change by those involved in the fasting. Important among these messages was the notion of lowering consumption as necessary for reestablishing an economic model that is based on the inclusion and not simply on growth.

On the second day (September 22nd), it was International Car Free Day, where **fossil fuels were brought to the fore and the international treaty on the nonproliferation of fossil fuels was promoted:** <https://fossilfuelstreaty.org/> This became an important topic in the discussion by civil society at the Climate Summit. In fact, this was seen as central to the success of climate mitigation and maintaining carbon emissions to ensure temperatures would not rise above 1.5 degrees. Unfortunately oil and gas did not figure in the final text of the UN Glasgow Agreement and coal was left as “phase down” as opposed to “phase out”. This was due to the powerful vested interests of the fossil fuel companies, that levied immense pressure on many governments.

On the third day (September 23rd), **planting of trees was taken up as the activity people saw as geared to climate adaptation and environmental reconstruction.** This was met by a whole range of activities related to indigenous people’s nonviolent relationship to mother earth and native tree protection in Uganda, India, and Chile. What transpired at COP26 was that reforestation became a huge priority of climate mitigation by many Governments because it is a way to capture carbon in the vegetation and soil. If this were to be coupled with forest-dwelling and indigenous people’s control over local forest resources which would enable them to achieve a measure of self-reliance, then this priority given to reforestation would be seen as an achievement by communities in the global south.

On the fourth of the 12 Days (September 24th), attention was given to **mobilization for climate justice and carrying out different kinds of nonviolent actions.** The Friday for Future strikes, started by Greta Thunberg, and which was taken up in the middle of the COP 26, was an important reminder of the fate of future generations of action does not begin immediately on a war-footing to stop temperature rise.

On the fifth day of the 12 Days (September 25th) it involved sharing a meal with others, while on the sixth day (September 26th) it was boycotting non-local consumer items; on the seventh day (September 27th) planning a community garden; on the eighth day (September 28th) revaluing water; on the ninth day (September 29th) educating children on indigenous water practices; on the tenth day (September 30th) connecting with migrant people; on the 11th day (October 1st) restating all these nonviolent economic practices; and **on the 12th day (October 2nd) celebrating the Day of Nonviolence with the flag-off of Indian born Pushpanath Krishnamurthy -an environmental activist and economic justice campaigner in the UK. Krishnamurthy led a foot march (*padyatra*) from London to Glasgow (400 miles) over thirty days.** This was meant to raise awareness of the views of common ordinary people at the COP-26, especially those that suffer first and the most and who are the last to get any attention. Pushpanath along with Jai Jagat representatives from India Janmejay Singh and Dhira gave inspiration to many people that climate change can be tackled through nonviolent engagement.





## Supporting Land and Defenders of the Territories

In México, a socio-cultural program for the nonviolent defense of the Sierra de San Miguelito, a protected natural area in San Luis Potosí, was taken up. In addition, the Mahatma Gandhi Chair in collaboration with many other groups throughout the country organized a series of workshops and webinars highlighting the role of women as well as dialogues on other land defense movements. In the Putaendo Valley in Chile, a group of women called “Las Huillas” prepared a beautiful virtual art exhibition -- a “Textile Cartography”, which was a collection of natural materials and memories from their territories to record it on the textile. They also organized a “March for Life” for the defense of the territory from the mega-mining projects, where many artists and activists had taken part. The Asian NGO Coalition organized a series of 12 webinars on different topics, all threading the different aspects of land and livelihood, with the issue of the poorest and most marginalized. This was also linked to the 106 *yatras* that took place in India.



## Developing Greater Access to Water by Regenerating Water Bodies

The panel discussion that focused on the main challenges faced by communities in India and West Africa in accessing water laid out some examples of how these challenges have been addressed and how communities are organizing themselves to develop alternative water regeneration systems. This was followed by a discussion between educators and water protectors from North America. Linking children's education with indigenous water practices, in order to vindicate the non-utilitarian value of water, illustrated the importance that water plays in the life of people.

## Stabilizing Food Security & Biodiversity

Another aspect of the campaign for a nonviolent economy was food security and sovereignty. The Asian NGO Coalition held a webinar on “Women as key to food security and peace”; in Spain, there was an exchange of local initiatives called “Building up a utopia-another economy already exists”; in Mexico, there was an online workshop on the role of consumers in the search for a sustainable society, with an introduction to fair trade and responsible consumption, focused mainly in food consumption. In celebration of the last day of the campaign, it was held an international lecture on “Building Economy of Nurturance (BEN)” by Dr. Ela Bhatt, Founder of the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA).

In addition to the interesting debates, The Meal from Geneva promoted a great gathering of people online on the same day in nine African countries and in India and Nepal. This sharing of food was meant to support farmers, food sovereignty, and the right for local populations to access food from their own lands.



## Reducing Forced Migration

A parallel process that is generated from the climate crisis and the lack of access to land, water, food, and basic resources for life, is the forced migration that hundreds of thousands of people are part of each year. Within the Jai Jagat network, there was an opportunity to hear testimony from refugees and workers from shelters and pro-migrant organizations from Spain, France, and Mexico-US border.

The Asian NGO Coalition also organized a couple of interesting webinars; one on the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar: resource conflict and international cooperation; and another one on combatting racial inequality, discrimination, and xenophobia, a parallel problem faced by migrants upon arrival in countries in which

\*Photo by Heather Cumming, Zambia.

they are seeking refuge.



## Enhancing Peace & Justice

The 12 Days program highlighted the intrinsic relationship between peace and nonviolent economy. In order to enhance peace and justice through nonviolence, the dominant economic system must be changed at the grassroots level in order for people to effect systemic change.

Throughout the 12 Days, we learned from several peace demonstrations and actions such as the series of fasts in India, Nepal, Uganda, Mexico, and Canada. In the latter, the fast continued throughout in the form of a relay with members and friends of the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation. In Geneva, there was also a Meditation for Peace around the statue of Gandhi in Geneva, and Peace discussions in Nepal organized by the Community Self-Reliance Centre.

During these days we also got to learn from various experiences of peace. In Italy, a group organized a webinar on the interesting and unique Peace Community of San José de Apartado in Colombia, where people had faced armed forces through nonviolence. The Asian NGO Coalition held a couple of webinars on Peace and prosperity, in which it was shared nonviolent forms of protests (hunger strikes, marches, fasts) from social movement experiences in India and the Philippines.

Finally, on October 2nd in Lyon, France was carried out a march for peace and nonviolence to celebrate the closure of the campaign. Some of the international walkers from the Global Peace March came together after 18 months to show their support and commitment to continue building peace and justice.



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[www.jaijagatinternational.org](http://www.jaijagatinternational.org)

To get in touch, contact us at:  
[jaijagatinternational@gmail.com](mailto:jaijagatinternational@gmail.com)

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