

**VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE DISCUSSION MEETINGS
TO BE HELD IN AUGUST
BY RENU JIANDANI, SGI-USA YWD LEADER**

SGI-USA youth are planning to sponsor district discussion meetings next month on how each of us can do something to stop the rampant violence plaguing America and our world.

Toward the 1st SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival, which is to be held this fall in Los Angeles, the SGI-USA youth division will focus on the Victory Over Violence dialogue and pledge drive. The Victory Over Violence campaign was initiated through discussions among the youth on making the 21st century a century of life and peace.

The youth are planning to promote nonviolence through presentations and individual dialogue at the August district discussion meetings, as well as through seminars.

They will also collect signatures for non-violence, where each individual will be able to make his or her own pledge of Victory over Violence. The pledge includes three statements: 1) I will respect my life, 2) I will respect all life, and 3) I will give hope to others.

With the recent high school shooting in Colorado, many people are painstakingly seeking the cause of youth violence and its solution.

SGI President Ikeda sent a message to the Caltech opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition, in which he expressed his concern about Columbine: "The tragedy in Colorado shocked educators, students and parents around the world. But we must not look away from the issue that this painful incident symbolizes. How can we transform disregard for life, which has been deeply rooted in the minds of children through war and violence that plagued the 20th century? This is the most important issue for us as we stand at the threshold of the 21st century." It was also in response to this message that the youth decided to start the Victory Over Violence campaign.

The SGI-USA Youth Peace Committee is in the process of producing an educational video and workbook titled *Quest for Peace: Working Toward a Non-Violent World*, which will contain excerpts from President Ikeda's speeches on non-violence, from Mahatma Gandhi's vision of non-violent civil disobedience and the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr.

The educational materials for nonviolence will be available through the organization to be utilized in individual dialogues, district meetings, and seminars within the community. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and founder of the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, has expressed his support for the SGI-USA youth and helped in the production of the YPC video.

SGI-USA Youth Division Leader Ed Feasel comments: "We cannot solve the violence raging in the minds of youth through violence. Friendship is the only power to win over hearts filled with hatred and violence. President Ikeda, through every available opportunity, has been teaching us the Buddhist philosophy of pacifism and humanism, which we are resolved to spread throughout America and the rest of the world. We ask for and appreciate everyone's support of the youth in this endeavor.

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