



Three Day International Conference

On

**Gandhi, Conflict Resolution and Peace:
Emerging Dynamics in Twenty-First Century**

To

Commemorate

150th Birth Anniversary of M. K. Gandhi

Date: September 30 - October 2, 2019

Organized by

Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies

School of Social Sciences

Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar

Call for Paper

Conflicts have been an inseparable component of human civilization. The ubiquity and many-sidedness of conflict makes it very complex to have enduring resolutions of conflicts. There may be many reasons for conflicts. So, conflicts can be resolved by various means. In situations of conflict, there can be two broad strategies to achieve peace: peace by violent means, and peace by non-violent means. Non-violence and peaceful methods were successfully used in anticolonial movement in India. M. K. Gandhi becomes very important when we discuss non-violence. His method and struggles epitomize the emphasis on non-violent means to resolve problems such as imperialism, racism and colonialism. Gandhi's logic favouring nonviolent means argues that nonviolent solutions are sustainable to retain. If violence is used to achieve any objective, violence will be needed to retain it. On the other hand, if nonviolence means are

used to achieve anything, violence will never be needed to maintain the achieved goal. The sustainability of nonviolence makes it appealing for problems still facing the world in the twenty-first century. In the realm of conflict resolution, Gandhi's ideas of means such as *satyagraha*, civil disobedience, non-cooperation with the evil, hate the sin not the sinner, *ahimsa*, non-teleological method have not been explored substantively. Concerning peace, various Gandhian methods have been reduced to mere interpretative endeavours.

Discussion on Gandhi, conflict resolution and peace becomes significant due to not only the ubiquitous presence of violence, but also legitimacy and power attached to violence in twenty-first century. Evidently, today's world is experiencing the functioning of destructive forces where multiple actors are striving for incompatible goals through all available means. The predominant feature of conduct of international politics are founded on narrowly defined national interests ignoring the larger good of the globe. Along with the prevalence of structural violence (such as discrimination, exploitation, exclusiveness, injustice and so on), the direct violence (such as inter-state war, proxy war, cross border terrorism, militant extremism, insurgency, sectarian violence, civil war etc.) have posed severe threats to peace and security of this globalized world.

Further, the cross-border linkages of non-state entities facilitate the emergence of radical extremism (religious and ideological) which actually pose an existential threat to the very idea of modern nation-state system in the international political structure. In this context, the major challenge for the world community and the international organizations like the United Nations, is to enforce the ideas and the methods for amicable conflict resolution that can establish lasting peace. Unlike the power-centric approach based on zero sum solution, conflict resolution attempts to provide an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. Gandhi is often interpreted in terms of peace and non-violence. Significantly, Gandhi's non-violent methods for conflict resolution becomes unique because it not only internalises the purity of means and ends but it also recognises peaceful and harmonious existence of diverse entities. Further, Gandhi's contribution in influencing the philosophy of deep ecology has been instrumental in peaceful environmental movement for resolving the conflict between human and nature.

With this outline, it is worth interrogating the emerging dynamics of conflict, methods of conflict resolution and peace while exploring Gandhi's relevance in resolving the ongoing multilevel crises of the twenty-first century. The 150th birth year of M. K. Gandhi makes it very

timely to delve into the eternal ideas of non-violence and peace and their necessity for the twenty-first century. The vantage points of this interrogation are multidimensional and multi-layered conflicts and violence in present context ranging from human, state to nature such as extremism, arms race, inter-state conflict, regional conflicts, conflict on natural resources, conflict over land, water bodies and open space, civil wars, ethnic and religious issues, environmental etc. The main objective of this conference will be to deliberate on various dimensions of conflicts, methods to conflict resolution where the focal point would be Gandhi's contribution in providing ideas and methods in resolving the same to have global peace.

The major themes of the International Conference include:

The Conference invites papers with innovative and novel ideas from social scientists drawn from different disciplines such as Gandhian Thought, Peace and Conflict Studies and International Relations, History, and Political science based on following sub-themes.

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| ❖ Gandhi, Conflict Resolution and Peace | ❖ Regional Conflicts, Conflict Resolution and Peace |
| ❖ Gandhi and Global Peace Movement | ❖ Emerging facets of conflicts and relevance of Gandhi in conflict resolution |
| ❖ Gandhi and Social Movement | ❖ Gandhi's relevance in resolving the emerging conflicts over Natural resources |
| ❖ Gandhi, International Relations and Peace | ❖ Peace, Human Security and Environment movement |
| ❖ Gandhi, International Organizations and pacific settlement of disputes | ❖ Movements for Nuclear and non-nuclear disarmament. |
| ❖ Gandhi, International politics and Disarmament | ❖ Opportunities and Challenges in Conflict Resolution and building Peace in Twenty-First Century |
| ❖ Gandhi, Peace and Development | |
| ❖ Approaches to Conflict Resolution and Peace. | |
| ❖ Nonviolence: Theoretical Debates and Practical Approaches | |

About the Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies

The Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies was established in 2011. The Centre offers M.Phil.-PhD Integrated Programme in Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies and M.A. in Political Science. M.Phil.-PhD Integrated Programme in Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies promotes interdisciplinary research. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi remains a critical reference point to discern plurality of ideas like Satyagraha, Ahimsa and the doctrine of means and ends. The contemporary relevance of the ideas of Gandhi provides a foundation to the discipline of peace studies. Students in the research programme explore a variety of topics which include peacebuilding through reconciliation, social movements to ensure justice, religion and conflict, violence and its manifestation in different forms. MPhil-PhD programme aims at equipping the students with theoretical and empirical knowledge of Gandhian

philosophy and peace studies. Students are taught original writings of Gandhi's writings along with courses on modern Indian thinkers in comparative method along with philosophy of science and social sciences.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- All participants are required to submit abstract in 500 words including a brief c.v. (maximum 150 words) to the following email address:
cgtpsconference2019@gmail.com
- The selection of final papers will be done after receiving full original papers from the candidates.
- The selected papers may be published in a journal/edited book/ conference proceeding from the reputed publishing house.

| Conference Registration Fees* | | |
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| Types | Indian (INR) | Foreign Participants (INR) |
| Research Scholars/Students | 800 | 2000 |
| Academician/Professionals/Faculty | 1500 | 3000 |

- *1) Registration Fees includes conference kit, breakfast, lunch, dinner during conference day
2) No Travel allowances and accommodation will be provided to the selected participants

Important Dates

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| Last Date for receiving short abstract | 6th September 2019 |
| Intimation about selection of abstracts | 10th September 2019 |
| Last Date for receiving full paper | 20th September 2019 |
| Dates of International Conference | 30th September-2nd October 2019 |
| Venue of International Conference | Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Sector-29 |

For any further information or query please contact:

Dr. Priya Ranjan Kumar

(Convener of International Conference & Assistant Professor)

Email: cgtpsconference2019@gmail.com

Mob.: (+91) 09958534302