

SCENARIOS FOR THREE APPLICATIONS RELAY RACE

The following six scenarios will support a fairly short relay race that enables people to explore different applications of nonviolent action/people power. The scenarios' orientation is to the U.S. political scene.

There are two scenarios for each application. You can print these out and photocopy the set – one set for each team – then use scissors to cut the set into individual scenarios. Put the set together as you would a pack of cards.

The scenarios are intended to fit the three applications in the following way, but it's fine if there's debate about where they fit – it brings out the point that we sometimes have strategic flexibility about how to frame a struggle. The six fit the framework as follows: Social defense; Third party nonviolent intervention; Social change; Third party nonviolent intervention; Social change; Social defense.

For instructions on running relay races, see Training for Change website: Tools. For explanation and examples of the Three Applications theory, see the Training for Change website: Articles: "Pushing Our Thinking on People Power."

- George Lakey, TFC, 9/05

An African American family has just moved into an all European American neighborhood and windows were broken last night by unknown persons. You are a neighbor and several others on your street are outraged. What kind of action will you take?

A recreation center in a neighborhood in transition lies on the temporary boundary between blacks and recent Asian immigrants. Increasingly violent fights are breaking out on the basketball court between the teens of those groups. You are in a multi-racial city-wide clergy association. What kind of action will you take?

The elementary school in the heart of the low-income Puerto Rican community is run down, with broken toilets, obsolete textbooks, and no computers. The city's school board releases its new budget with no plan for remedying that situation. You are a Latino neighborhood association. What kind of action will you take?

Fights are breaking out between white commercial fishermen and the Indian tribe over fishing. The Indians refuse to get licenses and insist on fishing out of season. You are a white environmental group that recently took an anti-racism workshop. What kind of action will you take?

Your city has no provision for employee benefits for domestic partners. You are a civil rights groups for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered people, and queers. What kind of action will you take?

Your town lies in a valley next to the side of a mountain. The mountainside has so far not been developed, and much of it is state forest. A developer decides to build 40 trophy homes on the mountainside. You are a member of town council and your colleagues agree that the mountain should be saved. What kind of action will you take?