

Participate in a Nonviolent Training Programme in India in October 2018 and be part of a larger global movement for social justice

1. Background

Ekta Parishad is a community-based organisation in India which campaigns on behalf of landless and tribal people. Their work is based on the Gandhian tradition of nonviolence, including organising marches. They have achieved considerable success both at the national and state level in India. Quakers have had a long involvement with their work and their President Rajagopal has been to the UK on several occasions.

In 2020 they are planning a march from Delhi to Geneva where they will hold a Peoples Action Forum and make recommendations to the UN based on the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim is to encourage local action to change society globally. Other marches will take place eg from Belgium and Spain which will end up in Geneva in September 2020. The campaign is called *Jai Jagat* which means '*Victory of the World*'. See the website:

<http://www.ektaparishad.com/en-us/campaigns/jaijagat2020.aspx>

The entire campaign of *Jai Jagat 2020* is built around the notion that "our world can be different if we are not indifferent". Another important notion is that "in a world torn between silence and violence we need to come together to introduce the culture of active nonviolence".

2. Nonviolent Training Programme, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

As part of the preparation for Jai Jagat, Ekta Parishad is organising a Nonviolent Training Programme which will take place at CESC (Centre for Socio-Cultural Interaction) near Madurai in Tamil Nadu, South India from October 23rd to November 3rd 2018. Allowing for 2 days travel time this would mean leaving the UK on the 21st October and returning on the 5th November. The course will teach Gandhian methods of nonviolence as a way of bringing about social change. And will include learning from the experience of Ekta Parishad in India. There will also be a field trip to villages near Bhopal which will include a theatre and media workshops. One of the aims of the programme is to engage the group in planning for Jai Jagat.

The programme will cost £440. Return air fares to India are in the range of £600 to £700. A tourist visa costs £110. There will also be other incidental costs around £100, bringing the total to around £1300. If you wanted to do further travelling in India, that would involve additional costs.

3. Invitation to take part

A working party of Quakers and others has been set up to look at ways in which Quakers and other faith groups in the UK can be involved in and support Jai Jagat. We agreed that sending a small group of young people (5 young people aged 18 – 30 years) to participate in this programme would be one practical step. You do not need to be a Quaker to join this programme, but there will be a request to continue to speak about the programme after the training has been completed.

We are looking for young people, to attend the whole training camp and to become advocates for the aims of Jai Jagat, on their return to the UK. Together with the working group, we will build an awareness campaign, based on some of the issues relevant to the UK. With further research to build awareness around particular issues that affect UK within the global community (post-Brexit), we will look to facilitate attendance at the Geneva Peoples Action Forum in September 2020.

Those interested would be expected to seek sources of funding/ sponsorship themselves. The working group of Quakers (listed below) have been meeting to plan the involvement of UK Quakers and we will approach Quaker Trusts for grants to reduce the overall cost.

If you are interested in going and/or would like further information, please contact:

- Gerald Conyngham at gerald@eclipse.co.uk
- Stuart Morton at stuartm46@gmail.com
- Ginnie Wollaston at ginnie.wollaston@gmail.com

To apply:

Please fill in the application form attached to register your interest. Registrations will need to be completed by Friday 31st August.



Jansatyagraha 2012