

A Note for Facilitators

Thank you for volunteering to facilitate this discussion. We thought it might be useful to give participants in this event a chance to wrestle with some of the issues presented in a small group format and bring the resource and wisdom of the different organizations present together to think about these topics. The basic job of the facilitator will be to help initiate and guide discussion and be sure all members of your group have an opportunity to be heard. As a facilitator, you have 3 responsibilities:

1. To facilitate a discussion for about 45 minutes. The discussion can be focused around one or more of the provided queries or it can evolve from the speakers and the desires of the group. The queries are there as a back-up to get the discussion moving if needed, they are not meant to dictate the conversation. One suggestion is to begin by going around the table and letting people briefly introduce themselves: say their name and what organization (if any) they are coming from. Be sure the introductions are less than a minute, so there will be time for the meatier topics. The first query might also be an ice-breaker.
2. To dash off a quick (two sentence) summary of the topic discussed and the sense of your group at the end of the discussion to be shared at the closing gathering.
3. To write a longer (paragraph to page) summary of the discussion in your group for publication on the web page within 1-2 after the event. You might find it useful to nominate someone in your group to act as a recorder for that purpose. These paragraphs are for the benefit of those who could not attend and so attenders can get a feel for what went on in other groups.

Please email paragraphs to: dilip@ivu.org, or mail them to:
Chris Kaman, NC Society for Ethical Culture
PO Box 3132
Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

Peace and Justice Queries

- Did you particularly identify with any of the speakers?
Particularly disagree with any of them?
- Is there such a thing as a “just war”? If so, what criteria would it have to meet?
- Is a war on global terrorism a just war?
- Is violence ever justified?
- Is violence the best way to deal with terrorism or other forms of violence?
- What is justice?
- Do you believe the UN and International Courts are viable instruments to address terrorism? Why or Why not?
- What would a viable non-military justice look like? How could it be arrived at?
- When proposing a non-violent solution, how can we address the popular sentiment that to be non-violent is to do nothing?
- Why is a critical discussion of our foreign policy seen as an attempt to justify the terrorist attacks on September 11?
- As peace loving people, we should strive to remove the causes of war from our lives and culture. What are the root causes of the current war? What are the root causes of terrorism?
- How does the foreign policy of the US create an environment conducive of violence? Are the events of Sept. 11 blowbacks to earlier US foreign policies?
- In our ideal world, how should the US have responded to 9/11? Given the current situation, what is the best course of action for the US now?
- How do you think people abroad viewed the U.S. before and after Sept. 11 and Oct. 7 (when military strikes began in Afghanistan)?
- What would true security for Israel and Palestine mean?
- What is a terrorist?
- What is political terrorism? What are its causes? Its effects? what is the best way or ways to deal with? Is a solution for terrorism in an unjust-absurd world possible?