



## **STATEMENT FROM CT CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE- FERGUSON 2014**

December 1, 2014

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We at Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN) stand in solidarity with Michael Brown's family in a call for a strategic nonviolent response to the announcement of no indictment for Police Officer, Daren Wilson. CTCN holds that the injustice which is prevalent in lives of so many young people and was highlighted in the recent events in Ferguson MO is only one critical incident in a long chain of historic and current events that continue to perpetuate systemic injustice in our country.

At the core of this nation is a system created by unearned advantage that marginalizes Black Americans and all people of color – built on the erroneous belief that one group is superior to another, and is therefore able to maintain an imbalance that harms all. Such falsehoods corrode community and leave a bleak social reality that damages humanity. These untruths are woven into the fabric of our society in blatant and insidious and oftentimes subtle ways. We must work without ceasing in order to insure that the laws that uphold injustice be changed and that police are held accountable to the highest standards of respect for human life when engaging with marginalized communities and all young people.

The Connecticut Center for Nonviolence conducts year-round trainings developing Nonviolence leadership for youth and adults in some of the most vulnerable communities impacted by violence in Connecticut. Through applied Kingian Nonviolence, a proven philosophy and methodology for social change, based on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., people learn how to recognize and address the root causes of violence, become active participants in local issues, and implement the vital and creative process of reconciliation. With these tools, citizens from every walk of life have the potential to experience personal transformation and are empowered to change unjust conditions that prevent the “Beloved Community” from flourishing.

In order to achieve these goals, it is imperative that we commit to the shared task of taking up this work together. We can envision a future when positive results are built by myriad individuals, organizations, elected officials, schools, universities, law enforcement, the business community, clergy and governmental agencies work in tandem to institutionalize Kingian Nonviolence as way of life for building social justice. We can do it, in fact we must.

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