



DC Peace Team in the Chaos of DC Protests and Clashes

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Dec. 13, 2020: Amid polarization and rising tension, the streets of Washington D.C. were filled with protesters and counter protesters once again. The DC Peace Team joined the local collective safety unit focused on trying to accompany and protect our local DC counter-protestors and re-humanize the situation. We sought to help create space for centering the voices of local Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

On December 12th, 2020, a Pro-MAGA protest and Defend DC counter protest took place starting around 12pm and lasting late into the evening. A nonprofit group of trained civilian accompaniment members from the DC Peace Team assisted in de-escalating a number of incidents including a fist fight and incidents within a large brawl.

The DC Peace Team is a part of a vast network of peace teams across the nation and world that prevent violence. In 2011, DC Peace Team was developed to illuminate the power in ordinary people to transform communities using creative nonviolence skills. DC Peace Team has trained thousands of participants in nonviolent communication (NVC), active bystander intervention (ABI), restorative circles, and unarmed civilian protection (UCP), deploying unarmed civilian accompaniment and protection units to places of potential hostility, such as local neighborhood spaces or events as well as political demonstrations to prevent violence, interrupt dehumanization and, when possible, to generate dialogue and empathy.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the concurrent eruption of violence-provoked demonstrations, the DC Peace Team has offered online sessions 2 to 3 times per week to meet the increased demand for ABI, NVC and UCP skills. Those seeking to get involved with the DC Peace Team and learn about their practices can visit them on their website at <https://dcpeaceteam.com/>.

