**Nonviolent Skills Applied to Global Problems**

During recent decades as many as third full-scale wars have been going on simultaneously all over the Earth. But unless our nation is involved, none of these wars are reported well in our media. If we do not read about them or see reports on T.V., we perceive of them as not even taking place.

In every one of those trouble spots we will find that some group or nation is being oppressed and/or excluded from decisionmaking which vitally effects their lives.

The oppression can come from within, as with a dictatorial elite exploiting their own people, or from without, as one more affluent or more aggressive nation seeks to gain improved conditions for itself through use of physical, armed force. Seldom have they seemed to know how to use persuasion and diplomacy in a collaborative way whereby a win/win situation might result. Often, the tragic exploitation of suffering people is both from within and without as the inside leadership and outside nation cooperate for, supposedly, mutual gain.

**So the prerequisites for a nonviolent globe really are the same as for a nonviolent community. But because of language, cultural and other barriers, the challenges to overcome existing global violence are greater. Still, the principles, skills, techniques, strategies, philosophy and value system required to solve global problems are no different as you will see in this session.**

Furthermore, many of us have limited our thoughts of peace and international conflict resolution to war and military tension. Yet all of the other world problems involve conflict too. In many situations, human suffering and loss can compare to or exceed that from war.

Exploitation, economic competition, environmental and ecological destruction, discrimination, exclusion, inadequate health care and disease, poverty are all spreading at rapid rates, even in highly “developed” countries. In every case, conflict between people is involved. These problems, too, require peaceful, fair resolution using the same skills we learned about at personal and community levels. Yet those skills either have been unknown or unused, while powerful minorities have tried to control and preserve existing conditions which are usually to their short-term benefit.

Hopefully, what we learn in this course will open our minds and our hearts to some new and badly-needed ways of going.

This article was written by John Looney.