



War Resisters League

## LEARNING FROM THE NASHVILLE CAMPAIGN

- 15 INTROS** Welcome, intro to facilitators, intro of group (do a go around or intro in pairs depending on factors such as size of group and time), workshop agenda (facilitators can adjust the agenda and time for the needs of the group) review the [Strategy Chart](#)<sup>1</sup> and encourage people to note things as they see them in the film.
- 30 FILM** “Nashville: We Were Warriors,” from “A Force More Powerful”( [watch here](#)). Facilitators can find the “A Force More Powerful Study Guide” [here](#).
- 10 FILM DISCUSSION** Share reactions to the film.
- 25 STRATEGY CHART SHARE** Ask participants to share what they wrote on their observations. What do they think are the goals, who are the constituents, allies and opponents, what are the tactics and targets (do you agree with the Midwest Academy that they are always a person or persons or can they be institutions?). What changed over the period of the campaign? How did they use the tactics of demonstrations and nonviolent action?
- 15 SPECTRUM OF ALLIES DISCUSSION** Did the constituents, allies and opponents change their positions during the Nashville campaign? Where were people at beginning of the sit-in, and then at the end of the campaign? More on spectrum of allies [here](#).
- 35 LEARNING TO DEVELOP NONVIOLENT CAMPAIGNS**  
(Facilitator note: For this section the facilitator needs to determine the best approach depending on the needs of the group.)
- o If this is an introductory session that brings together a wide group of people, the facilitator can draw out lessons learned from the film, strategy chart and spectrum of allies exercises. To deepen the discussion, begin in groups of 4 to 6 people to discuss what was learned and then in the large group bring their learnings together. This can include filling in a large Strategy Chart and spectrum of allies that brings together the ideas and thoughts of the whole group. There may be some contradictory perspectives which can be either noted or discussed.
  - o If this is a group working together to plan a campaign, the facilitator could draw out lessons learned from the film, strategy chart and spectrum of allies, and then proceed to use the strategy chart and spectrum of allies exercises towards helping the group develop its own strategy. This may take more time.
  - o To inspire people and help them deal with their fears, share “[Activism in oppressive regimes](#)”, including a story of how people used nonviolence to stand up against Chile's dictatorship: [more here](#). Show a 3:18 video of James Lawson speaking on the lessons from Nashville and overcoming fears: [here](#).
  - o Introduce [Steps in a Campaign](#), which could be the basis of follow-up sessions.
- 5 CLOSING** Wrap-up, next steps and announcements.

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<sup>1</sup> Before making copies of the Strategy Chart handout, handwrite: "A target can also be an institution" under Targets, and "demonstrations" and "nonviolent action" under Tactics.