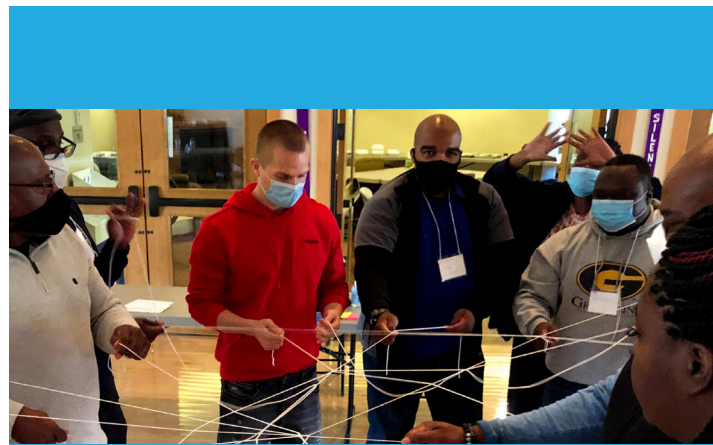


## Rethinking Security Defending Democracy through Nonviolence

This newsletter is going to print six days before the U.S. election. We don't know what we will be facing when it is received, but we want you to know that your support has helped us prepare for election day and potential unrest post-election. NP has trained more than 100 peace captains as a part of a broad-based coalition in the Twin Cities, MN to deescalate and protect civilians at the polls on November 3 and the days and weeks following.

Building unarmed civilian protection (UCP) skills is vital as we look to the future. Like you, we have felt a sense of urgency because of racial injustice and civil unrest around the election, and the skills NP uses in places like South Sudan and Iraq are being implemented in the U.S. to prevent violence.

You should know, our team in the U.S. is organizing and training: 1) unarmed school safety specialists to replace Minneapolis Police in Minneapolis public schools, 2) teams in the Twin Cities, Minnesota and in Washington, D.C., focusing on election and post-election violence, and 3) community members in cities across the U.S., focusing on demonstrations for racial justice and situations involving state-armed actors and state-sanctioned violence.



**“Anticipating, preventing and resisting political violence will be critical to protecting the vote and ensuring a continuation of the democratic experiment in this country. Given the rise in violent attacks committed by far-right and white supremacist groups and the potential for election-related violence, groups like Nonviolent Peaceforce, Cure Violence, DC Peace Team, Portland Peace Team, Mediators Beyond Borders and Pace e Bene are leading trainings in violence de-escalation, active bystander intervention and unarmed civilian protection.”**

*Excerpt from Maria J. Stephan's Waging Nonviolence article, "Here is a proven formula for protecting the vote while keeping the peace."*

*Top: Training session with the new school safety specialists  
Middle left: Vests for election protection work  
Left: School safety specialist trainee*

# ***Old Enough to Be a Bride?***

## ***Child Marriage in South Sudan***

Chol was 16 when she was forced to marry a man 24 years her senior. “I have never wanted to marry the man,” Chol told NP. However, *she was old enough to be a bride*, her father thought, and a dowry or a bride price paid by a husband-to-be would help Chol’s family lift the burden of poverty. Eight months into the marriage, Chol pleaded with her father to allow her to get a divorce, but the father refused to listen.

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***“Our protection officers acted quickly ... to be a part of the solution.”***

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Despite child marriages being illegal in South Sudan, the laws protecting women and girls are not enforced and are overshadowed by traditional and local customs.

But with your support, we had been training the local leader in Chol’s community on gender-based violence prevention and response.

So, when a member of NP’s Women Protection Team in Jonglei, South Sudan informed NP about Chol’s situation, our protection officers acted quickly to work with the local leader to be a part of the solution.

The leader immediately met with Chol’s parents and relatives. During the meeting, he spoke about the negative consequences of child marriage and the benefits of education ... eventually convincing Chol’s father to cancel the marriage. Shortly after the meeting, Chol’s family returned the dowry and authorized a divorce.

Chol’s marriage lasted eight months. While recovery will take time, Chol is happy to be free and determined to continue her education in a local primary school.

Your support helps to safeguard the rights of women and girls like Chol. ➡



Chol on her wedding day, age 16



## You Support Women Protection Teams

Five years ago, when a group of women came and told NP they were looking to create a Women Protection Team (WPT), *we could only imagine where they are today.* With your support, there are close to 2,500 women who form a total of 67 WPTs in South Sudan. The women in these teams are helping women prevent gender-based violence and participate in peacebuilding and the political processes.

“Today I learned that we need to *identify the issue when it has not yet escalated and resolve it as early as we can.* ... We need to sit down and talk in good way to resolve the issue,” from Linda, age 35, WPT member in Bangolo.

## Donor Spotlight: Promoting Love and Nonviolence in Alabama

*“Building on the history of those who came before” with Pastor Carolyn Morton*

When asked about nonviolence, Pastor Carolyn Morton answered: “Once you are in the world of nonviolence, that’s everything! I am proud to say I am a faith leader and an activist for nonviolence!”

Morton, a longtime, regular supporter of NP, is a pastor with Prophetic Outreach Ministries On the Move in Alabama,

USA. She supports and promotes love, nonviolence, peace, justice, and social change in her community.

For Morton, this work is personal. As a gun violence survivor, she believes we have to “teach everyone around us, and teach our youth, that nonviolence will change us and change our community.”

Pastor Carolyn Morton leading the 3rd annual Nonviolence Peace March and Rally in Opelika, AL



Photo by Robert Noles/  
Opelika Observer



Pastor Carolyn Morton (second from the right) with members of the Nonviolence Peace March and Rally

Although a large focus of her work is on ending gun violence, Morton works to end all types of violence and injustice, such as domestic violence and racism, through her ministry and through her community events and marches.

For example, she helps lead the “MLK Youth Nonviolence Community Peace March and Rally for Young People” each year.

“My passion is being a peacemaker: building a strong and active Beloved community. We have to ensure that our people and our communities are safe and are living in unity.” ➡

## ***Your Gift is a Pledge of Nonviolence***

**A gift of just \$25 can cover the cost of keeping our staff connected with emerging women leaders in Myanmar, or a gift of \$112 can cover the cost of a peacekeeper patrolling a displacement camp for one day. Offer your pledge of nonviolence today.**

**And! Get ahead on your holiday shopping: Order Peace Bonds® in advance this year! You can check out our website for more info!**



*For more information on ways to give,  
go to [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) or contact our office at 612-871-0005.*