

September 11, 2006  
Church Center, NY

Cora Weiss  
Peaceful Tomorrows

Welcome dear friends, family members of victims of terrorism;  
Welcome dear friends, who have come to mark this anniversary with an act of peace.

All over the world, there are children without parents, parents without children, wives without husbands, families grieving due to the angry, humiliated, excluded, those in the prison of poverty, those living in resource wanted countries, those who express their rage with violence. The terrorism that brings us together tonight, the "new wars", the leaderless insurgencies are creating a new culture of fear, and a mistaken war on terror. Just as we called for a ceasefire for the war in Lebanon, we must call for a ceasefire for the war on terror. We will learn tonight of other ways to deal with anger and violence.

The response of loved ones and political leaders to acts of violence, from the subway in Japan to the trains in Gujarat, India, and Madrid, the buses of London, the cafes in Israel, the streets of Iraq, the World Trade Center and so many other places- has ranged from acts of violent revenge including war, to tear-filled efforts to reach out and meet the families of the perpetrators and the families of the victims.

We gather in this building, a monument to peaceful initiatives of civil society, on the anniversary of but one of those acts of violence. We gather to understand why and how some people seek understanding and reconciliation so we can teach others who seek revenge.

Ironically, tonight is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gandhi's Satyagraha, his call for a truth force, for love and non-violent action, for peace by peaceful means, as the UN Charter says.

Tonight we welcome extraordinary people who have refused an eye for an eye, and instead have extended a hand for a hand, even a hug. We are here to hear what one thing happened that made them choose this road to reconciliation, and not the road to revenge.

We are here to carry their messages so that people will realize that it is the policies that lead some to hatred and violence, and that in order to change those policies we need to change the policy makers and build a culture of peace.