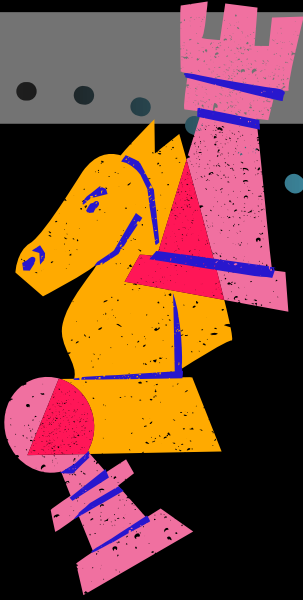


GOOD TROUBLE ALLIANCE

Springfield, IL



Topple the Regime!

Strategic Planning

February, 2026

Issue 8

“We need a strategy that validates alternatives, supports the experience of freedom, and expands the skills of cooperation.

We need a political strategy that is at the same time a community strategy, one that says ‘yes’ to creative innovation...and links today’s creativity to the new society that lies beyond a power shift.”

- George Lakey



Lakey being arrested for climate change activism in 2013



The Behind the Scenes Strategy of the Civil Rights Movement



Civil rights activists organizing voter registration drives.

NOT JUST MARCHES AND ARRESTS

Behind the headlines were years of careful planning. Activists built networks, trained for nonviolence, and educated communities about democracy and human rights.



Civil rights activists meeting in small groups, training to respond nonviolently

Local chapters ran boycotts, sit-ins, and voter drives, quietly fostering solidarity and trust. **The dramatic moments that make the history books worked because of this behind-the-scenes effort,** proving that lasting change comes from both action and preparation.

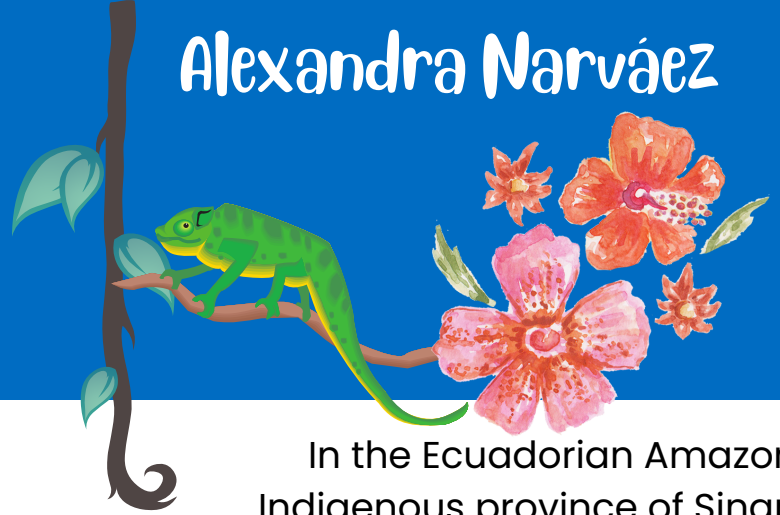
FEBRUARY GOOD TROUBLE STORY



**Strategy
In Action**



Alexandra Narváez



In the Ecuadorian Amazon is the small Indigenous province of Sinangoe where **the A'i Cofán people have lived for centuries.** Their land is sacred. They consider it their calling to protect it.



Unfortunately in 2017, they discovered companies **digging into ancestral land to mine gold.** Rivers were polluted. Forests were destroyed. For a small community, the power imbalance was enormous.

One leader who stepped forward was Alexandra Narváez.



She did not respond with violence.
She did not rely on spontaneous protest alone.

Instead, **she practiced what scholars of nonviolent resistance teach:**

identify the pillar of support you can pressure — and apply force there.



Alexandra and her community realized that companies depended on legal legitimacy.

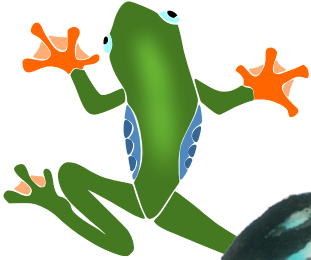
So they attacked that pillar.

They organized internally and spoke with one voice.

They documented environmental damage carefully.

They learned the law.

They **filed a case that exposed how mining concessions violated Ecuador's constitution and Indigenous rights.**



Learning law and documenting damage was **not dramatic, flashy or fast. It was effective.** It was long-term strategy that took years.



This is classic strategic nonviolence:

- Preparation instead of impulse
- Discipline instead of chaos
- Targeted pressure instead of generalized outrage

In 2018, a provincial court ruled in their favor.
In 2019, the decision was upheld at the national level.
Fifty-two mining concessions were canceled.

More than 79,000 acres of rainforest were protected.

**NO ONE WAS HARMED.
NO WEAPONS WERE USED.
NO LEGITIMACY WAS LOST.**



Ecuadorian Rainforest

In fact, the movement gained legitimacy — while its opponents lost it.

Alexandra later became **the first woman to lead her community's land-defense patrol**, but the deeper victory was collective: a small group of people had successfully challenged state power and corporate interests by **thinking strategically and acting nonviolently**.

Though the legal fight was won, **Alexandra and her community continue to fight illegal mining** with nonviolent tactics – using drones, gps, and other technology to enforce the laws they helped create.





CANVAS CORE CURRICULUM

Lessons 7-10



Learn with us!



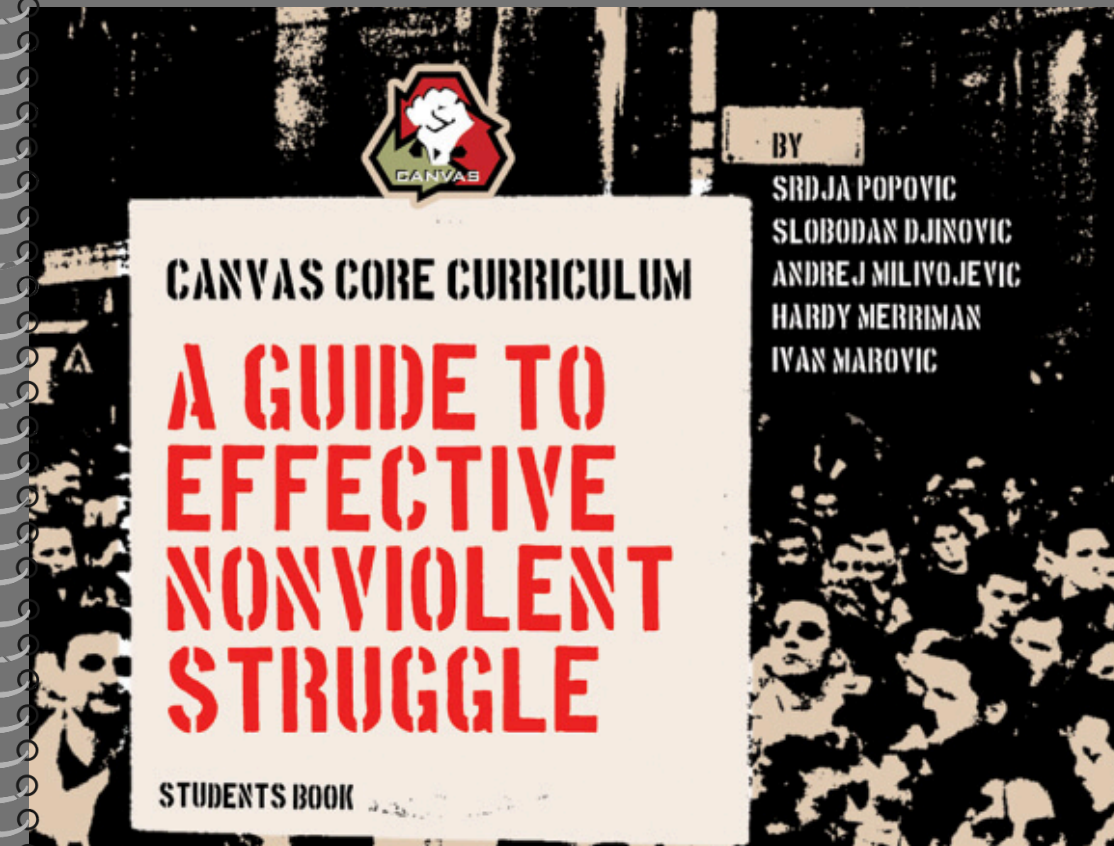
CANVAS CORE CURRICULUM

**A GUIDE TO
EFFECTIVE
NONVIOLENT
STRUGGLE**

STUDENTS BOOK

BY

SRDJA POPOVIC
SLOBODAN DJINOVIC
ANDREJ MILIVOJEVIC
HARDY MERRIMAN
IVAN MAROVIC



INGREDIENTS FOR MOVEMENT STRATEGY



GRAND STRATEGY

The **broadest conception of your objective**. What forms of actions will be used and how resources will be allocated.

CAMPAIGNS

A plan with a specific objective for **each major phase within the grand strategy**.

TACTICS

A plan for using one or more methods to achieve a concrete, **short-term goal in a campaign**.

METHODS

A **specific nonviolent action** you can take, like a march, sit-in, or boycott.



FORMING A STRATEGY

1

First, build a grand strategy from your vision of tomorrow.



2

Identify campaign ideas that support that strategy.

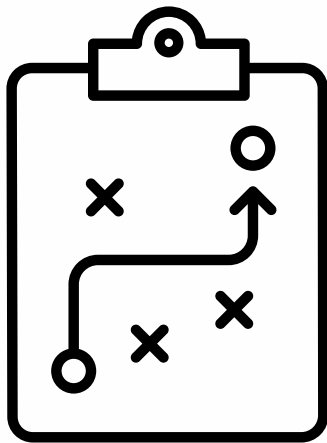


3

Choose tactics and methods that support those campaigns.



NONVIOLENT DISCIPLINE



Sticks to the plan

Forming a strategy is only useful if members have the discipline to carry it out as planned.

Refrains from violence

Remaining nonviolent takes effort. Members should be trained in nonviolence.

Nonviolent training sessions may be held, a code of conduct may be written, or public commitments may be made.



Weighing Risk vs Reward

ACTIONS PICKED. EXAMPLES:	POSSIBLE COST FOR YOUR MOVEMENT	POSSIBLE BENEFIT FOR YOUR MOVEMENT	POSSIBLE COST FOR YOUR OPPONENT
Submitting a petition during mass demonstrations in front of Government headquarters	Violent repression is used against protesters; and/or some protesters become violent and hurt the movement's legitimacy.	A successful demonstration will gain the movement publicity and new recruits.	Increasing public discontent and loss of legitimacy.
Elections boycott	Low public response may damage credibility of the movement. May also lead to opponent's total official control of government structures (if control is not total already).	Complete participation will de-legitimize the election results. However, complete participation may be difficult to achieve.	Loss of legitimacy in case of successful boycott.
Hunger strike	Participants may harm their health.	Participants may bring new attention to the movement.	Public sympathy for the strikers may lead to a loss of legitimacy.

From *CANVAS Core Curriculum*



COMMUNICATION

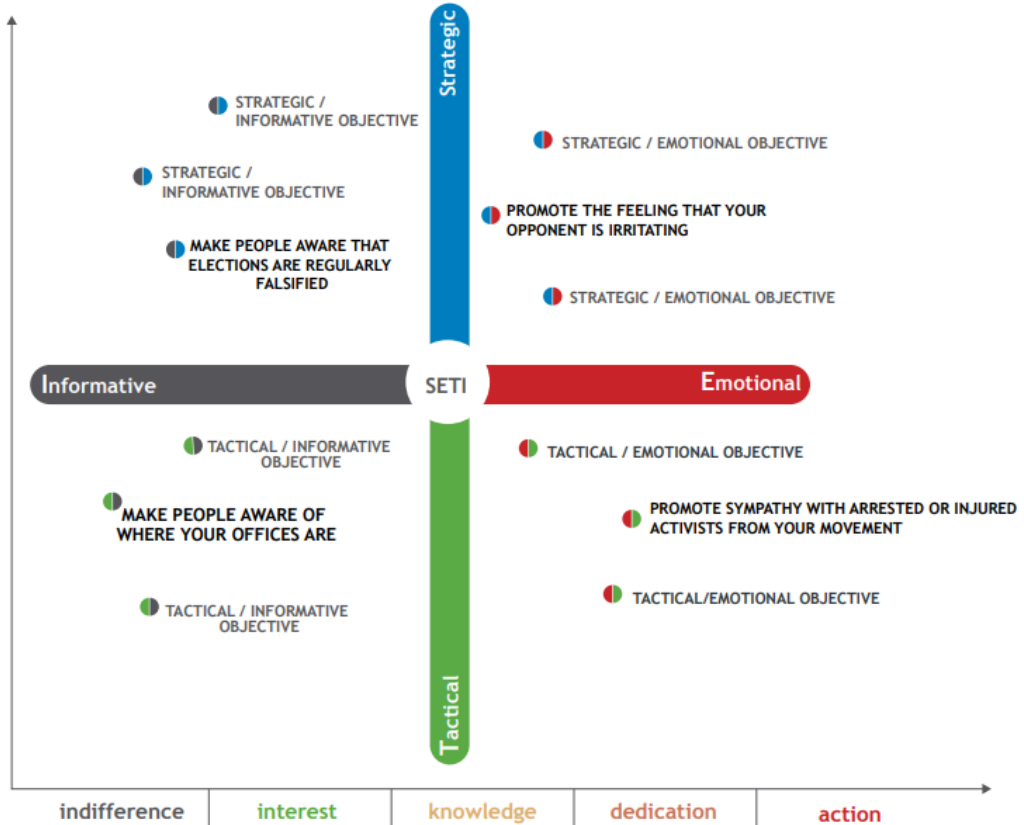
“Communicating messages and **impacting audiences** are essential components of a strategic nonviolent movement.”

– CANVAS Core Curriculum



PRIORITY LEVEL

LONG TERM PRIORITIES



GOAL OF COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

MOVE PEOPLE FROM:

INDIFFERENCE



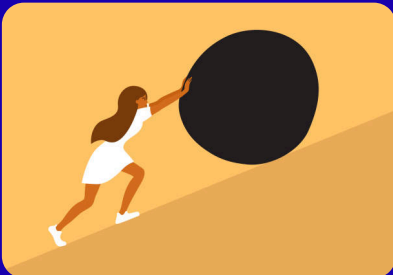
KNOWLEDGE



DEDICATION

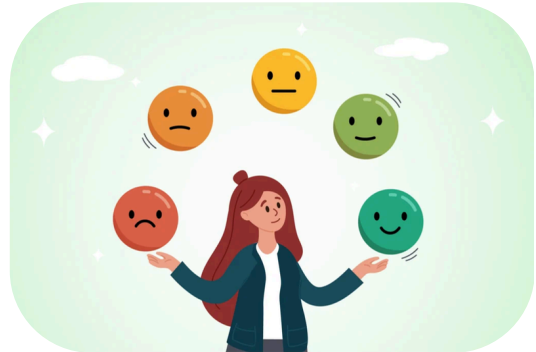


ACTION



**TOWARDS YOUR VISION OF
TOMORROW**

EMOTIONAL COMMUNICATION IS KEY



“It is emotional communications objectives that move people to take **action**, and the effectiveness of your communications campaign in the long-term depends on your capacity to **move people toward Strategic Emotional objectives**, in the upper- right part of the SETI diagram.”

– *CANVAS Core Curriculum*

TWO TYPES OF TARGETED COMMUNICATION



1. Agitation

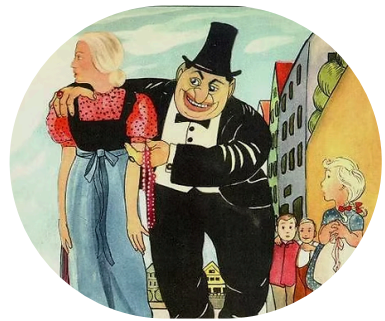
Agitation **mobilizes public dissatisfaction**, urging people to defy the opponent and take part in changing the established order.

Example:

In the US Civil Rights movement activists purposely defied segregation laws and filled jail cells.



Agitation was utilized in the Civil Rights movement to expose cruelty and injustice.



Nazi antisemitic propaganda was an unethical form of agitation.

Pros:

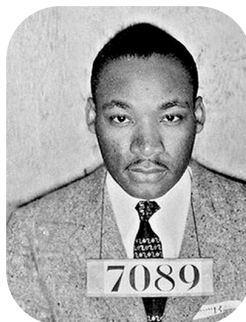
Ethical agitation **forces society to confront injustices** it prefers to ignore, transforming moral discomfort into collective action.

Cons:

Often used by extremist/hate groups. Agitation can bypass complexity and idealism in favor of emotional appeal. Because it sometimes relies on fear and hatred, **it carries an inherent risk of provoking violence.**



Rosa Parks' Mugshot



MLK's Mugshot

NOTE:

Agitation should point to your Vision of Tomorrow, paving the way for integration.

2. Integration

Integration **creates long-term support** by teaching values, reducing social tension, and showing people they benefit from positive change.

Example:

After WWII, Germany worked to eradicate Nazi ideology through schools, civic programs, and public memorials that taught democracy, human rights, and respect for all citizens.



Renaming German streets after the Nazi regime fell.

Pros:

Integration builds lasting support by fostering trust, loyalty, and belief in a fairer, more just system.

Cons:

Integration can be slow and may not generate the immediate urgency needed to confront injustice.

NOTE:

Integration is the ultimate goal of communication campaigns. All campaigns aim to turn engagement into lasting integration.

GOOD TROUBLE ALLIANCE INITIATIVES



HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY

Advocate voting for affordable healthcare in the 2026 midterm elections.

PROJECT DONUT

Help activists and police form healthier relationships by fostering dialogue, reducing conflict, and making protests safer.



CHALK LOVE

Spread hope, love and support for immigrants by chalking up Springfield sidewalks with love! 2nd Friday of every month at 6pm.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, Feb 28

12pm

Multipurpose Room

Lincoln Library



Vision of Tomorrow

The Good Trouble Alliance wants the US to be **promoted from a “flawed democracy” to a “full democracy”** as per the standards established by the EIU’s annual report card on Democracy, including high scores in the following areas:



- Electoral Process and Pluralism
- Functioning of government
- Political Participation
- Political Culture
- Civil Liberties

We strive to live up to the ideals of civil resistance as we **strategically fight authoritarianism and human rights abuses in America**. We aim to be the spark that ignites a revolution of freedom and human decency.

For more information contact goodtrouble.springfield@gmail.com

