

On-Partisanship

[\[Audio Link\]](#)

One of the things that peace teams are often questioned, especially when they're on site is who's side are we on? And when you have committed to being on a peace team, there is no right side. You will protect anyone from violence from wherever it's source. And sometimes that's to the chagrin of police officers or military who may be getting too zealous or it could be protecting someone that's identified as that a quote/unquote "good person," like a KKK member. But the responsibility of peace team members is that everyone is to stay safe.

We don't stop conflict because that's how people work things out. But people should be able to do that without hurting each other. So, multi-partisanship could be that, yes, we have people on the peace team have an affinity towards – you know, in the example of a KKK rally, our hearts would go out to the people targeted. Or in people seeking safe affordable housing or unpolluted land to have their homes on, of course, our hearts would probably be there.

But in the instance of the peace team action itself, we would still protect anyone from a source and violence. One example of this kind of happening in a real-life situation was that Meta Peace Team was asked to place a peace team at a very large KKK rally in Ann Harbor, Michigan. And we had about 135 to 150 people trained total. It was the largest peace team deployment we had.

People from all different walks of life who knew that the counterprotests for the planned coming could really result in a clash of these two dichotomous groups really breaking into violence. So, there was an instance where a young man was wearing a jacket. It was very hot, so that was a little suspect. And he walked into the center of the counter-protestors, removed his jacket and was covered with swastikas and white power and much agitation that erupted, recognizing him as a KKK member in their midst.

And so, he began to be attacked. Someone broke a bottle over his head. And immediately, peace team members surrounded him and protected him from the crowd, escorted him and his girlfriend out of the situation to safety so that they could get medical help. And as they arrived at their car, the peace team members revealed themselves to be one African American person, one gay person, and one Jewish person who had just saved this man's life. And at that point, the KKK member's girlfriend said, "Well, maybe we all do bleed the same blood."

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