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Genuine *compassion* flows towards all sentient beings, particularly towards your enemy.

Dalai Lama

If we look deeply into the weapons, we see our own minds – our prejudices, fears, and ignorance. Even if we transported all the bombs to the moon, the roots of war and the reasons for bombs would still be here, in our hearts and minds, and sooner or later we would make new bombs. Seek to become more aware of what causes anger and separation, and what overcomes them. Root out the violence in your life, and learn to live compassionately and mindfully. Seek peace. When you have peace within, real peace with others will be possible.

Thich Nhat Hahn

We do not respond to others as if we were dispassionate reflecting mirrors. We respond as precarious, needy beings, struggling in the world to affirm some reassuring sense of self-identity. It is this that characteristically drives our feelings, perceptions and behaviours, and distorts our mirror view of others.

Ken Jones



www.engagedbuddhists.org.uk

What can Buddhist wisdom offer current world issues?

Effectiveness – How many times have decisions that have adversely affected our communities and our planet been based on rage, revenge and the egotistical craving to be noticed and to make a mark on the world? To understand our deeper motivations and to be realistic about the motivations of others, helps us to get to grips with the action which would really make a difference.

Sustainability – Buddhist based mind trainings encourage calm, balance, patience, energy and courage. Above all, the practices help to address greed, hostility and confusion. In an ever more materialistic society, the relevance of simple living and contentment are evident.

What can practice in the world offer Buddhists?

An expression of interconnectedness - Buddhists believe that life is a web of interconnections, in Thich Nhat Hanh's words, we all "inter-are". This means that every event – near or far, past or present is to do with us. We are connected with it and our response to it can help to heal or perpetuate its dis-ease. Each and every situation – locally and globally is an opportunity for compassion, for generosity, for truth and for equanimity.

The development of compassion – Buddhism is a practice of love and the Mahayana teachings tell the story of the Bodhisattva who suspends her attainment of Enlightenment until she has helped all to find peace. The Karaniya Metta Sutta tell us that we should cultivate loving kindness towards all living beings, just as a mother cares for her only child. How can we best express that care for other humans, our brother and sister species and all life?

What does the Network of Engaged Buddhists do?

- Produces a **newsletter** to keep us connected with each other and let each other in different Sanghas know what it going on. Politics, ethics, letters, book reviews and upcoming events.
- Runs **workshops** at events such as the Buddhafield festival, organises weekend and day **retreats** and workshops in different localities round the country
- Organises **protests, actions and joint projects** on issues of current concern eg anti war demonstrations, arms trade protest
- **Represents** the concerns of Engaged Buddhism at national fora such as the Network of Buddhist Organisations, Faith Based Regeneration Network and the Interfaith Network.