**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net) and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 This document includes a few facts and web links that we had not said orally on the TV program.** These flesh out and support some statements that we did say during the interview. More information sources are added near the end (pages 11-12 below).

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**: “TV Programs,” “Peace,” and “Nonviolence.”**

**“Proposing a Bold New Global Peace Movement Led by Women”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

November 2021

**Glen introduced this month’s topic and our guest, Andre Sheldon:**

Glen said the November 2021 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” proposes a bold, new worldwide peace movement – and it will be much more successful if women lead it.

The world is stuck in violence, militarism, systemic injustices, and ecocide. The status quo is dominated by top-down systems of war and other kinds of injustices. Wars do not work. Nuclear war could instantly destroy us all. Instead of top-down dysfunction, the world needs a **very bold grassroots movement** grounded in profound nonviolence. The movement can succeed, especially if women to lead it on behalf of children and all of humanity.

**The time is ripe in at least three ways:**

1. The world’s strongest military superpowers (Britain decades ago, then the USSR, and then the U.S. for 20 years) could not dominate Afghanistan (one of the world’s poorest nations). This proves – yet again – the inherent weakness of militarism.
2. In March 2020 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently called for “an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world.”
3. Bold grassroots movements for a Green New Deal, for racial justice, and other goals show the power of nonviolent grassroots organizing for truly bold goals.

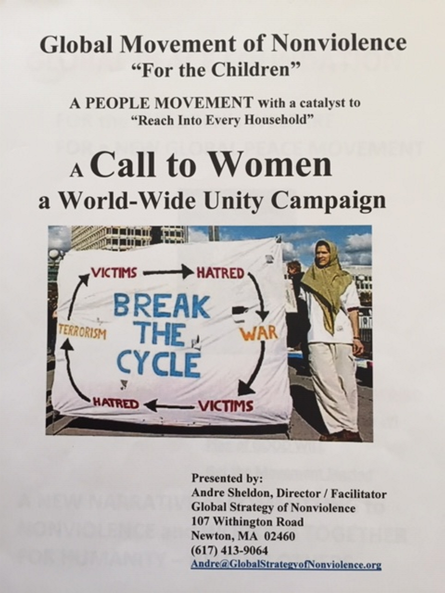
Glen welcomed his guest, Andre Sheldon, who lives in Boston.

Andre is proposing a bold, new global movement to abolish war, with women leading this movement. He is reaching out widely to invite many kinds of people to join together for this.

**The world is stuck in dysfunctional status quo: war, environmental degradation, climate disruption, social and economic injustices, and other “TOP-DOWN” power abuses. We need TRULY BOLD GRASSROOTS remedies for all of these!**

Glen said his brief introduction summarized the problem and one of the solutions we need. He said many systems are dysfunctional because they were caused by top-down power abuses. The remedy we need is bottom-up solutions based on nonviolent people-power.

Before we explored Andre’s bold proposal, Glen invited Andre to share more insights into the multiple crises that plague us now – and to briefly identify his proposal. Glen showed on the TV screen this image that Andre had devised for the cover of the booklet he wrote about his Global Movement of Nonviolence.



Andre said the world’s crises are getting worse. Climate disruption is escalating. Military spending is escalating. A new nuclear arms race is escalating in several nations. The United Kingdom announced they will add 30% to 40% more nuclear weapons to their arsenal. The world is experiencing nationalism, racism and xenophobia. More and more people are forced to become refugees.

He said we need a movement of people organizing from the bottom up to solve these problems. He is calling this a “Global Movement of Nonviolence for the Children.” He said the world’s children can be the motivation for everyone to unite. The campaign would be grounded in nonviolence.

He added that the stimulus is “A Call to Women” – “A World-Wide Unity Campaign.” This worldwide campaign could unite all of the movements, all of the religions, all of the local mayors and communities worldwide.

He said suppose the world’s scientists agreed that this kind of “fusion” is better than nuclear fission. Nuclear fission is dangerous and generates waste. He is proposing this global “fusion” of women and nonviolence.

He pointed out that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has called for a total ceasefire all over the world. He said this is amazingly profound, so this worldwide movement can build upon that call.

Glen added that Andre’s strategic insight of doing this “for the children” makes good sense. We are experiencing a powerful movement of young people taking strong actions to protect the climate and other efforts of young people for other crucial issues. Young people worldwide are experiencing very serious stresses about the climate and other problems. He said earlier in 2021 he produced a program in this TV series in which he interviewed two high school students who talked about what young people are feeling – and doing – about the climate. One 16-year-old said teenagers are feeling “existential angst” about the climate. That is a very heavy burden on young people. Andre’s proposal is smart to focus on building a global peace movement “for the children.”

He added that one of the signs we hold at our weekly peace vigils in Olympia that attracts especially positive response says, “Peace for our children.” All kinds of people driving by or walking by resonate with this because everybody wants a better world for their kids.

**Andre summarized his proposal:**

Next Glen brought up for the screen a list of these goals that Andre is proposing and invited Andre to summarize them:

* Unite the People of the World
* Create Trust, Respect, and Good Will Among Nations and People
* Stop War – Disarm – Stop the Rhetoric – and Reduce the Threat
* Change Military Spending to Humanitarian Spending
* Teach and Practice Nonviolence
* Socialize the CHILDREN

Andre said one goal is to unite the world. Also, we need to create trust among nations and people. This will reduce the sense of threat, so it will become possible to reduce militarism. Then we can practice nonviolence for all people, and especially with children in mind, so we can show them that we can resolve conflicts nonviolently. This proposal is about educating and socializing the children so we can build a peaceful future.

Glen said that all of the people watching this TV interview know that war and militarism are based on fear, so Andre’s proposal for uniting the world would eliminate the fear that leads to war. Let’s recognize that we need unity and collaboration worldwide for our human survival. Reduce the fear, cut military budgets, and use the money to meet human needs.

Next Glen showed on the screen a Political Objective that Andre is proposing:

Motivate people in every country to influence

their own government to **RENOUNCE WAR**

Andre said this Political Objective encourages people of EVERY country to demand that THEIR OWN respective governments RENOUNCE WAR. He said this must come from people within each country. It can’t come from the outside.

Glen said this reminded him of the insight that there is no spiritual value in confessing your neighbor’s sins. He said people in every country must make their own governments accountable to them. This makes sense because people all over the world want peace. But they are trapped in allowing militarism to persist because they are afraid that people in some other country might be a danger to them. We need to overcome the fear and promote peace within each country.

Then Glen showed Andre’s contact information on the screen because Andre invites people to contact him.

Andre Sheldon

[**Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org**](mailto:Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org)

(617) 964-5267

[**www.GSofNV.org**](http://www.GSofNV.org)

Andre will be creating a new website to replace the one shown here with newer information, but this current website does explain the basic information. He said we are at a crucial point in history, so we need to begin immediately to implement his proposal.

Glen added that – just like anything else we do – we must start now from where we are now, and then build more progress toward our goals. Many people are recognizing that we are at a pivotal moment in history where we could flip either one way or another, so we must organize strategically and boldly now so we will flip in a good direction.

Glen said that when he posts our interview video to his blog, he will also post Andre’s contact information. Right now you are seeing this on Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Please invite your friends to watch the interview video and read the thorough summary you are reading now. Visit the blog, click the **“TV Programs”** category, and look for this program’s title, **“Proposing a Bold New Global Peace Movement Led by Women.”**

**Andre fleshed out some aspects of his proposal, including:**

* **Boldly breaking the cycle of violence and stop war**
* **Building grassroots power and building support from United Nations, etc.**

Next we explored some interesting and important aspects of Andre’s proposal.

Andre has said we must break the cycle of violence – and stop war. Now he explained that “wars derail all the good efforts.” For example, President Johnson’s Great Society was derailed by the war in Vietnam. Andre said he sees many good grassroots movements organizing everywhere to solve a variety of different problems. He recognized that we would make much more progress if we could join these movements together around common denominators. Glen agreed with Andre and said Martin Luther King had also agreed and said explicitly that the Vietnam war was wasting the money that we needed to solve poverty and other problems in the U.S. Glen said that “the war machine was on such a track that we could not derail that,” and nowadays we still must derail the war machine.

Glen agreed with Andre’s insight that in order to reverse the very long “top-down” history of war and oppression, we need to solve problems from the “bottom up” with a bold nonviolent grassroots movement. Andre said, “The people everywhere are waiting for something good to happen, so this is much more than just an anti-war movement. It is a movement of good will.” He said people can work together, and “the new narrative is nonviolence.” He said both Gandhi and King grounded their movements firmly in nonviolence and taught their people to commit themselves to nonviolence. He said people must also commit themselves to working together to helping others – working together to serve humanity. He said his proposal includes a whole section about philanthropic efforts to help the whole world to work together.

Glen affirmed that in addition to Andre’s “bottom-up” grassroots approach, he also is urging the United Nations to help. The U.N. actually has a long history of promoting peace, so they are a natural ally. Andre said this highlights the importance of Secretary-General Guterres’ recent call for a global ceasefire. Andre said the U.N. has an invested interest in building a worldwide peace movement. A global movement of nonviolence can be a powerful support and promotion for Guterres’ call for a global ceasefire. This can involve everyone. The U.N. can become a central organizing point for publicity and action. The U.N. already has a well-developed worldwide network for communicating and organizing. That’s already in place. Now is the time to act.

Glen added that the political pressure already exists in the U.N. General Assembly, where each nation has one vote. He said in July 2017 the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly (122 of the 193 nations) to support the historically powerful Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This moved the Treaty out to the world’s nations for ratification. As of October 14, 2021, when we produced this TV interview, 56 nations had ratified the Treaty, so now they are incorporating its radically powerful provisions into their respective national bodies of law. The overwhelming vote in the General Assembly showed that a big majority of the world’s nations want to abolish nuclear weapons. Andre’s proposal for a worldwide nonviolent movement for peace seems practical and do-able in this time in history.

Andre said he has networked with leaders of many organizations in the anti-nuclear movement. He said when they see the Global Movement of Nonviolence start to take off, they will join in with it.

Glen agreed and said there is a huge potential for this, and the time is right for people and movements to get connected. He said when it gets rolling, people will connect – connect – connect – connect – connect. Andre agreed, and Glen said we share that vision, and that’s why we are producing this TV interview.

**Andre explained the timeliness of this proposal – and the movement to bring people together to organize a powerful global peace movement:**

Glen said historians and other people who analyze the historical big picture recognize some points in time as “Kairos” moments – points in time where we are at a crossroads and can go either one way or another. [*Kairos* is a Greek word.] Many people – including people working on global issues – recognize that we are at such a moment now. He invited Andre to further discuss his proposal’s timeliness and urgency.

Andre said we could really start this in 2022. He said many people are already saying that the climate crisis is an emergency. He said Greta Thunberg speaks boldly about the urgency, and the Extinction Rebellion takes strong actions for the climate crisis, the Sunrise Movement is mobilizing young people to take strong immediate actions for the climate.

He said now we need this kind of emergency uprising for world peace. He said his proposal is very large-scale and very bold. It can start right now. No other proposal like this is pending, so let’s start now with this, because “it’s ready to go.”

Glen said he is very well connected with both the peace movement and the climate movement. People in both movements recognize that the climate and nuclear weapons are the two existential crises that require immediate bold action in order to save humanity and our world from destruction. These two crises have a lot in common – including the extreme seriousness and the urgency – and both movements have the potential to mobilize grassroots power so we can pivot toward a livable future.

Andre agreed and said this “Global Movement of Nonviolence” could bring both movements together – and include the labor movement, youth power, and other movements together. Currently the peace movement is not cohesive enough, so this has the potential to bring all of us together.

**Andre explained why women should lead:**

Glen said that one of the fresh, important aspects about Andre’s proposal that he especially likes is that women should lead this bold nonviolent grassroots movement for peace. He invited Andre to share his insights about why this is important.

Andre said that women have already been uniting and have already been mobilizing. Women do this not only for the issues of special concern to them, but also for other issues because they really care. This is happening worldwide in India, in Jerusalem, and many other places. They have proven that women strongly want to save the world.

Also, he said that because women have been socialized to be the least physically violent, they have an advantage. If we want to stop war and violence the combination of women and nonviolence are a natural team.

When we were preparing for this interview Andre said movements and organizations – not limited to those led by women – could come together and start a chain reaction all around the world. He envisioned bringing together many kinds of grassroots movements with a comprehensive formula for nonviolence and women to pull it all together.

Also, while preparing for this interview, Andre provided quotations from 3 women who lead. Glen showed these on the TV screen:

**Sister Joan Chittister** said this on September 11, 2004:

“The lives of our children, the protection of millions, the hopes of all humankind, wait again now for women, from opposite cultures, opposite tradition, to step over the line of political hatred to save them.”

**Naomi Klein** wrote this:

“Sensible people are always telling us that change needs to come in small increments, that politics is the art of the possible, and that we can’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Well, we rejected all of that.”

**Beatrice Fihn**, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)), which won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, wrote this:

“It is time to counter the old vision of the world with a new one based on reason and cooperation; it is time for a truly feminist foreign policy. The fate of the earth depends on it.”

Andre said that Sister Joan Chittister’s quotation is his very favorite quotation. Glen appreciated the persistent relevance of its message, now 17 years after its 2004 date.

Andre said he agrees with Naomi Klein, who urged us to think big, even though many people want us to scale back to only small increments. He also agrees with Beatrice Fihn, who emphasized a new, feminist worldview, because the world’s fate is at stake.

Andre clarified that these quotations do not mean that women have all of the answers or that women are better than anyone else. But, he affirmed, women must be the first and must rise up and unite, and invite men to join with them.

**We did not have time to add these two points:**

1. The 1961 “Women Strike for Peace” event was a huge mobilization of women vigorously opposing nuclear weapons. See information at [**https://duckduckgo.com/?q=1961+%22women+strike+for+peace%22&t=newext&atb=v1-1&ia=web**](https://duckduckgo.com/?q=1961+%22women+strike+for+peace%22&t=newext&atb=v1-1&ia=web)
2. When Ban Ki Moon was the U.N.’s Secretary-General, he had called for investment in women for peace and development. In recognizing the potential of women to lead, he said, “The world has at its disposal the most significant and yet largely untapped potential for development and peace.” See his statement here: [**https://news.un.org/en/story/2008/03/251572-secretary-general-calls-investment-women-peace-and-development**](https://news.un.org/en/story/2008/03/251572-secretary-general-calls-investment-women-peace-and-development)

**Examples of women’s leadership in various places for various issues:**

Glen said he recently saw a list of which nations allowed the COVID pandemic to spread uncontrolled – and which nations took prompt, strong, effective actions. All of the nations with the WORST performance about COVID were led by men: Trump in the U.S., Bolsonaro in Brazil, Modi in India, and some others. Now he showed on the screen the images of the national leaders who showed bold and effective leadership in stopping COVID in their nations.



Andre pointed out that these women are leaders of entire nations. His proposal for a Global Movement of Nonviolence would bring NON-governmental women leaders together into the forefront of a new NON-governmental movement by issuing a call to women all over the world.

He shared some examples of women who have shown leadership in various ways, sometimes uniting people and constituencies, and sometimes transcending sectors.

For example, he said, in the U.S., Marianne Williamson is a spiritual leader who transcended into the political realm. He said this is exactly what we need.

Also Malala Yousafzai earned worldwide respect as a teenaged girl in Pakistan who showed leadership in promoting education for girls. [She is the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize.] Greta Thunberg from Sweden earned worldwide respect for her bold climate leadership. He said young women such as these can mobilize worldwide constituencies and build worldwide movements.

Glen added that Wangari Maathai, a woman from Kenya, organized a massive movement in Africa that inspired and organized many women and other people to plant countless trees throughout Africa. She was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Andre said that because of our current global crises, now is the time for women to become global leaders as the world’s peacemakers. They must be peace makers – and make peace happen. They must be very overt, he said.

Glen agreed with the need for this vigorous making of peace. He mentioned the organization Waging Nonviolence ([**www.wagingnonviolence.org**](http://www.wagingnonviolence.org)), which asserts that we must actively wage nonviolence – actively organize to make nonviolence happen. [Likewise, [**www.wagepeace.org**](http://www.wagepeace.org) is the website of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, which asserts, “Peace is more than the absence of war.” We must actively wage peace.] Nonviolence and peace will not occur on their own; we must actively and strategically wage them to bring them into being.

Andre said many other examples prove that women can organize and conduct bold and effective movements for peace, nonviolence and social justice. He said women in Jerusalem have done this, and so have women who nonviolently crossed Korea’s Demilitarized Zone (DMZ between South and North. CODEPINK ([**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)) is a nationwide peace organization led by women.

He said women leaders are everywhere. They are doing amazing things. If women leaders would join together and announce the new movement, women (and other people) everywhere would join them.

Glen said that he has been promoting and financially supporting the global nonviolence organization Nonviolent Peaceforce ([**www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org**](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)) since its founding in 2002. He produced two TV programs about it while it was being formed. Nonviolent Peaceforce works to reduce violence in some of the world’s most dangerous conflict areas. Over the years they kept discovering that women are extremely important in helping people in violently conflicted areas around the world communicate with each other, build cooperative working relationships among groups in conflict, and help them actually solve problems and reduce violence.

**We did not have time to add these points:**

* Women have been strong and effective leaders in the Movement for Black Lives.
* In the Middle East, Israeli and Palestinian women created the Women in Black movement that has spread worldwide and used silent peace vigils to call for an end to violence and divisions.
* Beatrice Fihn has been the powerfully effective leader of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) the worldwide non-profit organization that shepherded the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) through an overwhelming majority victory (122 of 193 nations) in the United Nations General Assembly and helped 56 nations ratify the Treaty.
* Women are the real leaders in churches and schools in many places.
* Women provided much leadership in the Civil Rights Movement – and now in the Climate Movement.
* Teenager Greta Thunberg has been modeling the boldness that we need by telling the world’s top political and economic leaders – right to their faces – the hard realities that they need to understand and act upon. She has been doing what Quakers have traditionally called “speaking truth to power.”

**Women’s leadership would make this very fresh, different, powerful compared to other kinds of projects and campaigns. Andre also welcomes active participation by men and other supporters from various sectors of world society.**

Women’s leadership could make this grassroots movement very fresh, different, and powerful compared to other kinds of projects and campaigns. Also, of course, Andre’s proposal seeks widespread participation that includes men, children, and all kinds of diversity. He is seeking supporters from various sectors of society from all over the world.

Andre confirmed that this proposal needs help from all kinds of people – men and everybody else – for various aspects of this proposal. He said many roles need to be filled. There’s a global funding plan, a global philanthropic foundation, and new global peace negotiations led by women. He said women have been underrepresented in global negotiations.

He mentioned UN Security Council resolution 1325, which passed in 2000. We did not have time to discuss this landmark resolution on women, peace and security. The UN’s website says: “This landmark resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.” See [**https://www.unwomen.org/en/docs/2000/10/un-security-council-resolution-1325**](https://www.unwomen.org/en/docs/2000/10/un-security-council-resolution-1325)

He mentioned that natural allies could include the Charter for Compassion ([**www.charterforcompassion.org**](http://www.charterforcompassion.org)) and Global Citizen ([**www.globalcitizen.org**](http://www.globalcitizen.org)).

We did not have time for Glen to mention that the Charter for Compassion was the topic for his June 2014 TV interview program. He titled that episode, “Igniting a Grassroots Compassion Movement.” You can watch the video and/or read what we discussed through this link on Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-igniting-a-grassroots-compassion-movement**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-igniting-a-grassroots-compassion-movement)

Andre said the United Nations already has the consciousness that’s necessary for what he is proposing. The U,N, urges a “Decade of Action” to solve serious problems by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ending poverty, rescuing the planet, and building a peaceful world: [**https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/**](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/)

He said just a few days before we taped our interview, U.N. Secretary-General Guterres urged people to unite around “Our Common Agenda.” See information here: [**https://www.unep.org/resources/report/our-common-agenda-report-secretary-general**](https://www.unep.org/resources/report/our-common-agenda-report-secretary-general)

He also mentioned organizations “We, the World” ([**www.we.net**](http://www.we.net)) and Avaaz ([**www.avaaz.org**](http://www.avaaz.org)), which are doing great work for good issues and global unity.

He affirmed the powerful and effective women’s groups such as CODEPINK ([**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)), Women’s International League for Peace and Justice ([**www.wilpf.org**](http://www.wilpf.org)), Moms Demand Action ([**www.momsdemandaction.org**](http://www.momsdemandaction.org)), Moms Rising ([**www.momsrising.org**](http://www.momsrising.org)), Mothers Out Front ([**www.mothersoutfront.org**](http://www.mothersoutfront.org)), MADRE ([**www.madre.org**](http://www.madre.org)), and World March of Women ([**www.marchemondiale.org**](http://www.marchemondiale.org)). He said women’s groups are active everywhere.

He also highlighted some of the most brilliant women leaders, such as Medea Benjamin, who has a positive reputation worldwide as an excellent organizer and coordinator.

He praised men such as David Swanson, who has been doing outstanding work for peace, and the economist Jeffrey Sachs, who knows that war is derailing all of the good work. He also expressed appreciation for John Dear, Rivera Sun and Michael Nagler, who are doing great work for peace.

Andre said now is the time for these people and organizations to come together. Glen said they really are already cooperating and communicating in a number of ways. He said Andre’s proposal could be a unifying force to strengthen and coordinate their efforts, so people can connect the dots and practice synergy so we can move the whole agenda forward. Andre agreed that a lot of this collaboration is already happening.

He said that many people and religions are already promoting nonviolence. This proposal would have political goals. Glen agreed that we need to bridge the gap between holding spiritual values and following through to make changes in the real world, so spirituality is acted upon and not merely held within.

Glen said he has done a lot of work on peace issues and interfaith organizing with people of various faiths. He said that the people with the most profound spiritual depths recognize that the various faiths have some core values in common. They all affirm love, compassion, the unity of the human family, the unity of people with the environment, the need for peace, and the commonalities that connect across faiths at the deepest levels.

Andre agreed that these spiritual people are already there. Now we need to reach into every household to help ordinary people understand and connect with this movement. The organizations and the savviest leaders are already doing this work, so now we must bring other people into it.

**What will be the outreach?**

Glen said this TV program provides useful outreach and asked Andre what other outreach he is planning.

Andre said that when funding is announced, this will generate news, and when leaders join together, this also will generate news.

Andre said that when people learn about this movement, they will want to get involved. This is a global proposal, so outreach must include people in all other countries. He said this is an opportunity for people worldwide to arise together under one umbrella.

Glen said he has seen the list of the 56 nations that have already ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons ([**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)). He said most of those nations are in the global South. He said the nine nations that have nuclear weapons oppose the treaty because those nations feel that their nuclear weapons give them power. “But the rest of the world says, ‘Oh, no, no, no! You’re holding us hostage!’” Nations in the global South are rising up and telling the nine nuclear nations they must stop.

He added that public opinion is shifting against nuclear weapons even in the NATO nations that allow the U.S. to deploy nuclear weapons in their countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey. (The UK also has its own nuclear weapons, including Trident submarines provided by the U.S.). In some of those countries, the presence of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons has become a hot political issue. Many local governments and regional governments – and many elected officials – now want the U.S. to remove our nuclear weapons from their nations. Glen said it is significant that even the citizens of NATO nations are rising up to oppose nuclear weapons. More and more people around the world are opposing nuclear weapons and supporting the global Treaty. He said world public opinion has been shifting toward demanding peace – even in the global North.

Andre said his proposal is consistent with this global shift. We need to unite worldwide now. We need an awareness campaign. We need a catalyst that will shock the world into recognizing the need for this powerful new movement. We need to create curiosity, excitement, and people’s desire to be part of something bigger than they are.

He said women can make this happen. He can’t make it happen, but he is happy to facilitate the vision, parameters and growth of the movement in which women will be the main organizers and leaders. He said now is the time for women to take this as their own and lead the global grassroots movement of nonviolence for children and for peace.

He offered the analogy of an author writing a book and a movie producer turning it into a blockbuster film. He said the women can take what he has begun and own it and make it happen boldly worldwide.

We did not have time to discuss his website, [**www.GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org**](http://www.GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org), which is more easily typed and accessed as [**www.gsofnv.org**](http://www.gsofnv.org). He created the website ten years ago, and it is somewhat out-of-date, but all of the main concepts are there. He will create a new and updated website, but it’s not ready yet.

**Incrementalism keeps failing to solve problems (climate, economic inequality, criminal justice system, etc.). Andre’s proposal is TRULY BOLD instead of incremental. It CHANGES THE ASSUMPTION of what is “politically possible.”**

Glen said that progress toward bold goals is seriously constrained by the “conventional wisdom,” which says “Politics is the art of the possible.” That assumption causes politicians to be far too timid. They allow the status quo to persist and merely tinker around the edges of big problems instead of enacting the bold solutions that we need.

Glen said the conventional “leaders” are too timid. The world urgently needs NEW LEADERS and VERY BOLD PROPOSALS, such as Green New Deal and Andre’s proposal. We must organize from the grassroots up to build strategically savvy movements that help people rise up to replace the status quo and BOLDLY CHANGE what is “politically feasible.” We need to move the goal posts.

Glen said the status quo keeps disempowering people and preventing the VERY BOLD changes that we need. The “conventional wisdom” tells people who want significant progress to sit down and shut up and let Congress handle it. He said one of the things he likes about Andre’s proposal is that it is VERY BOLD instead of the timid, tiny incremental steps that are necessary in order to solve the huge problems caused by the horribly dysfunctional status quo. Andre is proposing a bold nonviolent grassroots movement to create a new reality. Glen said he agrees with Andre that progress requires leadership from ordinary people – especially from women, with men and children helping in various ways.

Glen said Andre’s proposal totally flips our understanding of how we must make significant change. Congress will not save us. Big business will not save us.

Andre agreed. He said, “We need to think big and be bold. That’s for sure.” He said the reason why he calls it a “Global Movement of Nonviolence” is because it tells people what we are doing. He said the call to women is a crucial part of it. He said the hard part is that – in addition to the good elements of nonviolence such as kindness, generosity and compassion – we also need to practice the courageous kinds of nonviolent direct actions that Gandhi and King organized, because governments will not simply roll over and let us have world peace. This new “Movement of Nonviolence” relates directly to the methods of Gandhi and King.

He said the people around the world are not enemies of each other. The people need to join together to create peace.

He said he is reaching out to Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He arranged with Federico Mayor, who worked as UNESCO’s director-general from 1987 to 1999. Frederico Mayor chairs the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and is a member of the Honorary Board of the International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. Andre said that in 2018 – before Guterres had called for a global ceasefire – Andre presented his proposal to Mr. Guterres’ staff. He wants to go back and ask Guterres to support this and be the stimulus that will inspire more people to promote Andre’s proposal. He asked people to contact him to help with this specific effort: Andre Sheldon at (617) 964-5267 [**Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org**](mailto:Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org)

A prompt step is to show the women leaders that we can provide the means for them to organize this effort. These means include funding and philanthropy, media support, and experts from various sectors (such as the economist Jeffrey Sachs). When women see they have support from funders, media, experts, etc., they will feel more confident in proceeding to create the political will to generate political clout.

Glen agreed that this is strategic movement building – connecting the dots and mobilizing the resources. He said when a nation goes to war, it mobilizes resources (troops, weapons, governmental funding, propaganda, etc.). We need to do this when we build movements for peace, human rights, sustainable ecosystems, and other positive goals.

He invited people to take the free online workshops he conducts in a series titled, “Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing.” These workshops can significantly strengthen people’s abilities to organize nonviolent grassroots movements for any kind of issue they care about (peace, social justice, economics, environment, etc.). He said the basic principles of nonviolent grassroots organizing are the same, regardless of what issues you’re working on. They’re transferable across issues. Contact Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 or [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net). He offers the series of six free online workshops several times each year.

**How would this fit into (not replace) other efforts within the peace movement?**

Glen said the peace movement is doing many good things already. He said he sees Andre’s proposal as a unifying plan that strengthens the overall peace movement rather than replacing any of our current efforts.

Andre agreed and added some additional information. He said the excellent peace organization World Beyond War ([**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)) has developed a very smart proposal for **“A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.”** Glen held up his copy of the booklet and showed it on the TV screen.

Andre said we need to reach out more effectively to the people. He said “the grassroots are everywhere,” so we need to reach the people everywhere. He said his career before becoming a peace activist was managing businesses in the hospitality industry (hotels, restaurants, country clubs, etc.). He said when people enter, they are welcome, no matter who they are, and “the customer is always right.” He said he is trying now to use all of his knowledge and abilities to design his proposal as a kind of “business plan.” He is planning for the administration, funding, marketing, and implementation.

He added that follow-up is especially important. He is planning for a 3-year plan with 24 to 36 major events. The first event will occur when the plan starts, and he is setting the dates for another event each month that will unite the whole world. But even that is not enough. Other events will occur every day for every movement that is participating in this overall Global Movement of Nonviolence. These events will be so newsworthy that peace will become a hot news item for every day’s news. This movement will “capture and keep the attention of the media,” he said.

Glen said we need this positive plan to make the news and “displace the crap that’s out there now, where the media focus on some celebrity marital scandal or some other baloney stuff.” He said we need the kind of “people power” that Andre is promoting in order to get the media’s attention to report on peace and nonviolence and women’s empowerment. Glen said that our outreach must include getting people to talk at the grassroots level with other grassroots people, because this is how new ideas spread, just like the pandemic has spread from person to person across entire populations. “We need to have positive things like this spread across populations, so this becomes a ‘happening’ thing!”

Glen said social and cultural changes really can occur, so we can make peace and nonviolence much more culturally alive in our society. He said that decades ago when people watched network TV variety programs (the Ed Sullivan Show, etc.), stand-up comics would tell jokes that were really cruel to their wives. These sexist jokes are no longer acceptable – especially on nationwide TV. “Society has moved beyond that.”

He said that decades ago people used to smoke in college classrooms and everywhere else, but that’s no longer acceptable. He said the movies from the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s portrayed smoking as cool and sexy, but now our society sees smoking as gross and disgusting, because our culture has advanced. We have changed the public consciousness about smoking and about sexist jokes.

He said now we need to change the public consciousness about war, peace, nonviolence, and women’s leadership on global issues. Instead of seeing militarism and violence as the ways to become strong, we need the public consciousness to see militarism and violence as evidence that a society is dysfunctional and is avoiding solving the real problems.

He added that now we need to make peace a publicly held dominant value, so if you’re a politician who is not actively promoting peace, we will vote you out of office and replace you with a candidate who will actively work for peace.

He summarized and concluded that the momentum needs to “come from the bottom up – from the people!”

Andre agreed and said “this is all about power – and all about change.” There will be contention as some people organize and gain power and other people who have power now will lose their power. He said his proposal would accomplish “a nonviolent transition of power.”

He said the transition to peace will not occur all at once. We need to plan steps in this transition of power. Step-by-step proposals occur elsewhere in the political realm. Raising the minimum wage to $15/hour nationwide will likely require steps in the next few years. The $3.5 trillion legislation for major solutions to our nation’s problems is scheduled to occur over ten years. We need a transition and a process toward achieving world peace. Gandhi and King taught us how to build long-term movements to achieve bold goals. A smart nonviolent movement can get us there.

He said right now “everything is out of balance.” Big obstacles are weighing us down. Obstacles include the military, corporations, economic systems, and people’s mind-sets. All of those obstacles are weighting us down on one side – like one end of a teeter-totter – causing society and the world to get out of balance. We need people power to join together on the other end of a teeter-totter with a nonviolent grassroots movement led by women and including men, so we can apply positive values and restore balance and achieve world peace.

Glen said when he conducts workshops on nonviolent grassroots organizing, he tells the workshop participants that nonviolence allows for creativity, and nonviolence allows us to rewrite the script about how the conflict will play out. He said, “Conflict has always existed, and conflict will always exist, but it need not be dealt with by violence. We can use nonviolent methods to resolve conflict. Nonviolence rewrites the script about what the conflict is about and how it will play out. Nonviolence welcomes people to join in so we can create nonviolent solutions – creative new alternatives.” He said this power is embedded in Andre’s proposal, and this power was a driving force in the movements organized by Gandhi, King, and other strategically savvy organizers who have accomplished bold, positive goals.

Glen said that Gandhi developed what he called the “constructive program,” which went far beyond national independence from the British Empire. The “constructive program focused on practical changes people could make at the very local level, including better nutrition for families, village-level small-scale economic projects, women’s equality, and other social, cultural and economic reforms. He sometimes said that the “constructive program” was even more profound and more important than national political independence. He used the term ***swaraj*** to refer to this more profound independence so people could be free from British business corporations and empower themselves for local village-level economics with simple technology. Hence the importance of the spinning wheel, which even appears now in the center of India’s flag. Instead of being subservient to British clothing companies, people could grow their own cotton, keep it in India, spin their own thread, weave their own cloth, and make their own clothing. India’s rural people could practice profound independence. India had thousands of villages, so this profound independence could be organized and practiced in a radically decentralized way with simple appropriate technology and free themselves from subservience to British business corporations.

Gandhi’s “constructive program” and ***swaraj*** proposed a major shift in India’s consciousness and culture. Glen said he sees this potential in Andre’s proposal.

**How could people help? Here are Andre’s website, cell phone, e-mail:**

Andre said accomplishing what he is proposing will be hard, and it will require sacrifice and perhaps suffering. He said it is hard to create change – even to change ourselves – let along change the world.

But he said he knows it will be successful. One reason for this is that when we promote nonviolence, this makes us feel good – and it makes us smile.

Glen said that if we do our organizing right, it is a lot of fun. He said he got active in the 1960s and never stopped. He said he never earned any money from this; it’s always been vigorous volunteer work. It is fun and satisfying.

He brought onto the TV screen again the ways people cold contact Andre if they want more information or if they are interested in helping.

Andre Sheldon

[**Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org**](mailto:Andre@GlobalStrategyofNonviolence.org)

(617) 964-5267

[**www.GSofNV.org**](http://www.GSofNV.org)

The current website, [**www.GSofNV.org**](http://www.GSofNV.org), is out-of-date, so Andre will be creating a new website.

Andre’s movement includes goals such as:

* Unite the People of the World
* Create Trust, Respect, and Good Will Among Nations and People
* Stop War – Disarm – Stop the Rhetoric – Reduce the Threat
* Change Military Spending to Humanitarian Spending
* Teach and Practice Nonviolence
* Socialize the Children

Glen invited people to invite their friends to watch this interview on Glen’s blog, where he will also post a thorough summary of what we said during the interview. (You are reading it now.) Invite your friends to visit Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click the “TV Programs” category, and look for this Program’s title, “Proposing a Bold New Global Peace Movement Led by Women.”

**Many sources of information, including women leading peace efforts:**

In addition to contacting Andre, both Andre and Glen encourage people to connect with any of the excellent peace organizations that are active at local, regional, national, and global levels. Glen said he will list some on his blog when he posts the video of this interview. Some organizations and other resources are linked above staring on page 5, and some are listed below.

Again, please publicize to your friends that people can watch the video and read this thorough summary document at Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Click the “TV Programs” category, and look for this episode’s title, “Proposing a Bold New Global Peace Movement Led by Women.”

**Many great peace organizations rely upon women’s leadership. See these links:**

* CODEPINK ([**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)) is an organization led by women, including Medea Benjamin. They have been organizing truly bold and effective work since 2002
* The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom ([**www.wilpf.org**](http://www.wilpf.org)) was founded more than a century ago in 1915.
* The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) includes all kinds of people, but its leader has been a woman, Beatrice Fihn, whom we mentioned and quoted on page 5 above.
* The 1961 “Women Strike for Peace” event was a huge mobilization of women vigorously opposing nuclear weapons. See information at [**https://duckduckgo.com/?q=1961+%22women+strike+for+peace%22&t=newext&atb=v1-1&ia=web**](https://duckduckgo.com/?q=1961+%22women+strike+for+peace%22&t=newext&atb=v1-1&ia=web)
* Korean women organized themselves and crossed the de-militarized zone (DMZ) as a nonviolent effort for peace. See [**https://www.womencrossdmz.org**/](https://www.womencrossdmz.org/)
* Pakistani women are leading the struggle for human rights in one of the most patriarchal countries in the world. See this: [**https://www.thenation.com/article/world/pakistan-women-human-rights/**](https://www.thenation.com/article/world/pakistan-women-human-rights/)
* Since 1976 in Spokane, Washington, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS, [**www.pjals.org**](http://www.pjals.org)) includes all kinds of people, but throughout most of its history it has been led by women.
* Glen has a friend in Toronto, an older woman who has been reaching out worldwide to engage people in working globally for peace and related issues. Metta Spencer interviews people worldwide for a video series and saves the interviews, so now you can watch interview program #317 about “Feminist Peace Work” at this link: [**https://tosavetheworld.ca/317-feminist-peace-work/**](https://tosavetheworld.ca/317-feminist-peace-work/) This interview features   Cora Weiss has been a prominent peace activist since leading a delegation to Hanoi during the Vietnam War. She recalls her career, including as International Peace Bureau president.
* Nonviolent Peaceforce ([**www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org**](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)) has been discovering that women are extremely important in helping people in violently conflicted areas around the world communicate with each other, build cooperative working relationships among groups in conflict, and help them actually solve problems and reduce violence. You can see how useful women are in this peacemaking process in light of how Nonviolent Peaceforce recently summarized their work: “We protect civilians in violent conflict through unarmed strategies. We identify community strengths and build on them. We work at the grassroots level. We create trust. We make space for peaceful dialogue. We make room at the peace table for all. We are the Nonviolent Peaceforce.”

**Individual women have been strong leaders as individuals and in various organizations:**

* Retired Colonel Ann Wright is a powerful woman organizing against war and writing extensively. She resigned her commission in protest of the second U.S. invasion of Iraq. You can listen to a recent podcast at this link: [**https://couragetoresist.org/podcast-ann-wright/**](https://couragetoresist.org/podcast-ann-wright/)
* Phyllis Bennis has been one of our nation’s savviest analysts and writers about foreign policy. She has been working especially for the Institute for Policy Studies ([**www.ips-dc.org**](http://www.ips-dc.org)).
* Kathy Kelly is certainly one of the most courageous and insightful and powerful women in the peace movement. Search the web for information about her and links to her extensive writings.

**Some men also have been thinking, writing and organizing for a bold new world of peace. See these:**

* George Lakey recently wrote, “As the US empire declines, what openings exist for progressive movements?” Read it at [**https://www.juancole.com/2021/08/openings-progressive-movements.html**](https://www.juancole.com/2021/08/openings-progressive-movements.html)
* Jeffrey Sachs is a highly respected economist who has been urging bold new public policies. Look for his writings, which are publicized widely. Also with so many world crises, people wonder what we should do. Please see this recent short video interview with Jeffrey Sachs [**https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=q9pjNOM53aE**](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=q9pjNOM53aE). Sachs profoundly states (*Fast-forward to 2:30*) when asked what he would recommend to the leaders of the world to prioritize, he stated, “first peace and cooperation, and dialogue, and avoid arms races.”
* In September 2021 on the global day urging the total elimination of nuclear weapons, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke at the U.N. to express extremely serious concern about nuclear weapons and call for their elimination. See these two articles: [**https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/26/un-chief-warns-humanity-unacceptably-close-nuclear-annihilation**](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/26/un-chief-warns-humanity-unacceptably-close-nuclear-annihilation) and [**https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/un-chief-antonio-guterres-calls-for-comprehensive-elimination-of-nuclear-weapons.html**](https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/un-chief-antonio-guterres-calls-for-comprehensive-elimination-of-nuclear-weapons.html) Guterres had already spoken in strong support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021 when the Treaty went into effect: See this: [**https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082702**](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082702)
* Rob Kall is the author of ***The Bottom-Up Revolution***, an inspiring book that shows how every element of society is erupting from the bottom up. This 2019 book inspires grassroots organization and other bottom-up alternatives to the dysfunctional top-down systems. Rob Kall also founded [**www.OpEdnews.com**](http://www.OpEdnews.com), which publishes 500-1000 articles a month, including whistle-blowers and important news missed by the mainstream press.
* The kind of bold vision for peace that we want was developed by the non-profit organization **World Beyond War**. They published a 95-page booklet that lays out alternatives to war: ***A Global Security System An Alternative to War***. It pulls together some of the smartest insights and practical proposals for achieving world peace – real security without the militarism. The Executive Summary is: [**https://worldbeyondwar.org/executive-summary-global-security-system-alternative-war/**](https://worldbeyondwar.org/executive-summary-global-security-system-alternative-war/)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Andre Sheldon for the bold nonviolent movement he is organizing – and for being the guest for this TV interview.

Glen said he agrees with what Andre told him when we were preparing for this interview. Andre had said many elders, Nobel Peace Prize winners, United Nations Secretaries General (including our current one, Antonio Guterres), and other very knowledgeable people are saying we are experiencing an emergency, so we need bold goals and a bold action plan. In 2020, U.N. Secretary General Guterres called for a global ceasefire.

More and more people are supporting his call. Every person of good will can help. Women can lead the way and create peace!

Glen said everybody who knows him knows he is always urging ordinary people to act upon their best values and join together with other ordinary people to create ever-growing nonviolent grassroots movements to achieve bold goals that include peace, social justice, a fair economy, a sustainable environment, a nonviolent society, a profound democracy, and much more. All of these issues and movements are inter-connected.

He said Andre’s proposal is a great way to apply leverage to help us all create all of the good things we want, so we can save the world from catastrophe.

Andre said the world is in an emergency, and now we have this new opportunity to unite the world. At this moment of history, women can step forward and be the leaders that the world needs.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at   
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

Glen ends each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**