S.O.S. Week of Peace Schedule
June 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 10th -
Houses of Worship Focus on Nonviolence
Attend your place of worship for a special service dedicated to spreading the message of nonviolence.

June 4th - Virtual Peace Day
Change your Facebook picture and status in support of ending violence.

June 5th - Peace Games
Play basketball, double-dutch, handball and other games. Free food.
Brower Park 4:30 pm- 7:00 pm

June 6th - Flash Mob
Youth Organizers to Save Our Streets (Y.O.S.O.S.) will lead a creative, fun and meaningful expression of nonviolence. Visit facebook.com/ysos for details.

June 7th - Block Party
School is closed for Brooklyn Queens Day. Join us for safe and fun activities.
Park Place between Kingston Ave and Brooklyn Ave 12:00pm-4:00pm

June 7th - March to End Violence
Meet at 5:30pm at Brower Park. March departs at 6:00pm. Bring your friends.
Register your group at www.soscrownheights.org.

June 8th - Movie Night
Enjoy an outdoor movie and ice cream at The Candy Rush.
733 Franklin Avenue (Park and Sterling Place), 8:00pm

Resources for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence

For a list of resources to help you plan your Nonviolence Weekend, visit www.soscrownheights.org and hit the S.O.S. Clergy Action Network tab.

S.O.S. is compiling a book of nonviolence sermons, poems, songs, stories, and testimonials to give to clergy and houses of worship to support them in their work to end the shootings and killings. Please submit any resources your community generates during nonviolence Sundays for inclusion in the book.

Save Our Streets Crown Heights (S.O.S.) is a community-based effort to end gun violence in our neighborhood. S.O.S. works closely with local organizations, neighborhood churches and pastors, community residents and the individuals most likely to commit a shooting. The staff of S.O.S. Crown Heights prevent gun violence from occurring by mediating conflicts that may end in gun violence and acting as peer counselors to men and women who are at risk of perpetrating or being victimized by violence. S.O.S. Crown Heights works closely with neighborhood leaders and businesses to promote a visible and public message against gun violence, encouraging local voices to articulate that shooting is an unacceptable behavior.

Check the S.O.S. blog at soscrownheights.org for updates and a complete schedule. Call 718-773-6886 ext. 105 or email chorn@soscrownheights.org with further questions.

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Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King Jr.
Statement of Purpose

There is a sound being heard throughout our communities today. That sound continually reverberates all around us. It is a sound of wailing. It is on the lips of every mother, scared child, church leader, politician, police officer, and tragically people of all ages, colors, and creeds. It is a loud and never ending sound which is getting louder with each passing day.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH is the sound being heard everywhere. People are tired and exhausted at the sound of another gun shot. Another child being slain. Another innocent bystander on their way to the morgue. Another child taken from their mother. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE! WHO IS GOING TO STAND UP AND DO SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING?

As GOD said to Isaiah; who will go for us? And who shall I send? People everywhere are wondering; who will stand up and SAVE OUR STREETS? Listen: WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER! It is going to take the collaborative efforts of all concerned community members to make a difference. Clergy, we need to engage you in declaring peace to be the norm.

We are asking every clergy member to engage their congregations by declaring June 3rd and 4th and/or 10th and 11th as NONVIOLENCE WEEKENDS. We need you to lead your congregation in a service against violence; especially gun violence. Together we can send up an S.O.S. to GOD to SAVE OUR STREETS and bring an end to the rising tide of gun violence perpetrated by our youth.

Activities for Your House of Worship

Youth Engagement:
- Make banners, posters, and design antiviolence t-shirts for the S.O.S. Peace March on June 7th, 5:30 pm leaving from Brower Park.
- Lead a skit where nonviolence is used.
- Hold a group discussion about violence and what we can do to make a safer community.

Congregation:
- Read the principles of nonviolence aloud
- Read the statement of peace together and pledge to uphold its values.
- Pastors speak about ending violence in our community.
- Compose and/or collect poems of peace to be read in worship service and displayed.
- Share testimonials and stories of effects of gun violence.
- Sing songs of peace (ex. Down by the Riverside)

Sermon Starters

- “There is no peace in the world today because there is no peace in the minds of men.” (U’Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations)
- “Prayer is the basis of nonviolence... Nonviolence flows from unconditional active love.” (John Dear, American Catholic Priest)
- “Compassion is a pillar of world peace; All world religions are already for world peace in this way.” (the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet)
- “The beloved community is what we are creating and what we are working for.” (preached by Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” (Mother Theresa)
- “Violence is a learned behavior. Religious communities are the bedrock of teaching nonviolence.” (S.O.S. CAN)
- “What has violence ever accomplished? What has it ever created? No martyr’s cause has ever been stilled by his assassin’s bullet...” (Senator Robert F. Kennedy)
- “We seemingly tolerate a rising level of violence that ignores our common humanity and our claims to civilization alike... we glorify killing on movie and television screens and call it entertainment.” (Senator Robert F. Kennedy)

Statement of Peace
(Call and Response)

Reader: We will! All: Proclaim that we will work to END All SHOOTING AND KILLING.
Reader: We will! All: Declare peace to be the norm and make it so.
Reader: We will! All: Assert a strong presence on the streets in response to every shooting in Crown Heights North.
Reader: We will! All: Counsel and support those who seek to change their lives through the provision of positive alternatives.
Reader: We will! All: Adopt, mentor, and open safe havens for members of our community.
Reader: We will! All: Actively rally and work against illegal gun possession, gun use, and gun trafficking.
All: We make this covenant for Peace and Action

The Six Principles of Nonviolence

The fundamental tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s philosophy of nonviolence described in his first book, “Stride Towards Freedom”.

1. Nonviolence is for courageus people. It is a way of life.
2. Build the Beloved Community everywhere you go.
3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil.
4. Accept suffering without retaliation, for the sake of the just cause.
5. Avoid inner violence of the spirit as well as outward physical violence.
6. The universe is on the side of justice.