



## Day 51

Beloved Peacekeepers,  
Today, our practice is the wholeness of community. We look through the lens of Advocacy --

### **Today's Principle, Today's Practice - ADVOCACY**

"When someone stands up to violence," says Thich Nhat Hanh, "a force for change is released. Every action for peace requires someone to exhibit the courage to challenge violence and inspire love." Today be an ally. Without blaming or judging others, speak out for those who are disrespected.

**Ask yourself:** What is advocacy? Who are your advocates? What advocacy organizations are you familiar and aligned with? What advocacy groups are opposed to your ideas? Have you ever been in a difficult situation and felt as though no one was on your side? What happened? How would an advocate have made a difference to you? Why is it important to advocate for what you believe in?

**Activity** - Recount a time when an advocate came forward and changed the outcome of a situation in your life - what was the changing factor? how did you feel? Contact an advocacy group that supports the philosophy you support, and participated by volunteering with their fundraising campaign, or by writing letters to elected officials. Contact the local newspaper and TV/Radio station and let them know what you are doing to promote nonviolence within your communities.

Check out this website - <http://selfadvocatenet.com>

**Journal Activity:** Journal your thoughts....today, use crayons or color pens - live differently and vibrantly!

### **Consider this Quotes on Equality:**

They came first for the Communist, and I didn't speak up because....I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because ... I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up - Pastor Martin Niemoeller

If we move away from the American tradition of lawyers defending those with whom they vehemently disagree - as we temporarily did during the McCarthy period -- we weaken our commitment to the rule of law... So beware of an approach which limits advocacy to that which is approved by the standards of political correctness. - Alan Dershowitz

**T**he first step in calculating which way to go is to find out where you are. - Margaret Thatcher

But you know, it's about time we start thinking about the common good and the national interest, instead of just individuals, in our country. -Hillary Clinton, 1994 health care speech

As I searched for quotes on advocacy - I was reminded of our forefathers, Gandhi, John F Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr, Bobbie Kennedy.....and many others, those who have lost their life fighting for freedom....our soldiers, our activists....like Viola Liuzzo - those who stood tall for what they believed.....what nonviolent support of advocacy do you bring forth.....

Blessings,

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