



## **DC Peace Team De-Escalates Knife Altercation and Provides Protective Accompaniment**

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*Jan. 6, 2020:* As the Capitol was stormed and a woman was killed, the DC Peace Team offered protective accompaniment to local grassroots groups and individuals at risk in the streets of DC. In one incident a white Pro-Trump man in camouflage pulled a knife at a black man during a heated verbal exchange. A DC Peace Team member who was walking alongside the parties, moved closer to about 3-4 feet from the armed person. The DCPT member engaged him with short de-escalatory phrases, such as “let’s slow down, you don’t need that weapon, you can put that away, this is not going to help anything.” The armed person backed off a couple steps and others from his side came to pull him back. After some more verbal exchanges and walking up the street, the situation was defused. The DC Peace Team also helped provide accompaniment to individuals trying to get out of the area and worked with other local groups, particularly centering voices of Black leaders, in setting up a network of such activity for that evening. In addition, some of our members engaged in various empathy generating conversations.

It is urgent our country turns away from violence and toward creative, bold, nonviolent strategies to deal with our conflicts.

The DC Peace Team is a part of a network of peace teams across the nation and world that prevent violence. In 2011, DC Peace Team was developed to help unleash the power in ordinary people to transform communities using creative nonviolence skills. DC Peace Team has trained thousands of participants in nonviolent communication (NVC), active bystander intervention (ABI), restorative circles, and unarmed civilian protection (UCP), deploying unarmed civilian accompaniment and protection units to places of potential hostility, such as local neighborhood spaces or events as well as political demonstrations to prevent violence, interrupt dehumanization and, when possible, to generate dialogue. Those seeking to get involved with the DC Peace Team and learn our practices can visit us on our website at <https://dcpeaceteam.com/> to sign up for the e-list, or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.



