



Basic Talking Points for Baltimore Peace Promise Weekend Outreach

WHAT ARE PEACE PROMISE WEEKENDS?:

- A motto of the movement is “Peace Is The Promise”. We know that peace is a promise for all of us because peace is naturally within us. Each person can lean into their own peace in order to experience more peace in their lives.
- This movement creates opportunities for Baltimore to notice, uplift, nurture, share, and bask in the peace that already exists within each of us.
- One opportunity to focus on peace is during Baltimore Peace Promise Weekends. This is where Baltimoreans make a decision to do their best to lean into the peace that we all are. During these weekends, people are as peaceful as they can be and they celebrate life for AT LEAST the weekend.
- Baltimore Peace Promise Weekends happen every quarter: February, May, August, & November. The weekend is always the first full Friday-Sunday of those months, EXCEPT in May, when it’s Mother’s Day weekend. In May, we focus on honoring parents whose children have passed away due to violence.
- We encourage people to find ways to celebrate life that weekend. Have coat drives; do neighborhood clean-ups; go to the movies; have big, small, community, or family events... whatever you want to do... big or small.
- If you plan an event that you want people to know about, go to BaltimorePeaceMovement.com, click "Host Peace Promise Event", & fill out the form. Your event will be put on the public Peace Movement calendar on our website.
- **We are also asking each other**, “What do you need in your life that will help make things better for you & your loved ones?” Why? Because we know that when we have the resources we need, we treat each other better,

in general. When peace starts in our own lives, it makes it easier to be peaceful to other people.

- We are listening to the answers to “What do you need...?”, and we're telling each other about resources that can help.

WHO IS HAVING PEACE PROMISE WEEKENDS?

- You, me, and everyone else you talk to about it... that's who's doing it!
- This is NOT led by city government. Not the mayor. Not the police department.
- This is not one particular organization or person.
- The goal is for everyone in Baltimore to tell everyone they know that we are all asking each other to celebrate life and to lean into our inner peace on these weekends in February, May, August, and November.

WHY?

- Since we all have peace inside of us, these weekends are opportunities for all of us to notice, uplift, nurture, share, and bask in the peace that already exists within each of us.
- When we're all, at the same time, focusing on the peace and joy that is in Baltimore, and sharing that peace and joy with each other, that makes Baltimore's peace and joy expand.
- When people are experiencing their own joy and peace, they are more likely to use peaceful strategies when they have conflict with other people.
- The weekends are planned quarterly to give everybody in Baltimore enough time to tell everybody else. The goal is to make sure EVERYBODY hears about it.

SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT INFO

- Point out the social media on the flyer & ask them to follow & share
 - Website: baltimorepeacemovement.com
 - Facebook: Baltimore Peace Movement
 - Instagram: [@baltimorepeacemovement](https://www.instagram.com/baltimorepeacemovement)
 - Twitter: [bmorepeacemvmt](https://twitter.com/bmorepeacemvmt)
 - Email: bmorepeacemovement@gmail.com

TIPS TO HANDLE PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

- **AVOID** getting into an argument or heated debate with people.
- Keep in mind that you **DO NOT** know people's struggles. Each person has the right to refuse to commit to peace, for reasons you may never know, or for reasons that may not make sense to you.
- **AVOID** shaming people's journeys.
- Avoid shaming people for where they are on their journey.
- This is a peace movement... people experience being shamed as an attack. So, in this context, remember that shaming people is an act of violence.
- Remember that a person cannot unhear this message... so, as long as you have given the message with authenticity & love, **YOU HAVE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH.**

Resistance: "In Baltimore?! Yea, right."

Example Responses:

- "Right! It could seem impossible to think of Baltimore as a place filled with peace, because "peace" is not what people say about our city. But, every day, Baltimore is filled with people who are trying their best NOT to be violent. When you go around the city, you will find way more people trying to be peaceful than being violent. Sometimes Baltimore has 4, 5, and 6 days without anyone's family getting a call that their loved one was killed."
- When the movement was called "Baltimore Ceasefire 365", research showed that Baltimore was about 52% more peaceful during Ceasefire weekends, just because so many people were focused on love, joy, and peace. Imagine what could happen if EVERYONE in Baltimore really talked to everybody they know about this? So many more people would be feeling so good during these weekends that, even if they got mad at somebody, they would more likely choose peaceful ways of dealing with it."

Whatever You Say: Keep in mind that people feel hopeless because of their experiences. Do not invalidate their experiences. Simply present the idea that another experience is possible, and that Baltimore has a lot of peace in it that we can uplift together.

Resistance: “Why only 3 days?”

Example Response: “We want everyone to celebrate life and be peaceful every day. But A LOT needs to be changed in our society, before people understand how to be peaceful every day. Asking for 3 days is just a start, so we can show ourselves that we CAN focus on peace and love together.

Resistance: “Why wait every 3 months?”

Example Response: Baltimore has Peace Promise Weekends in February, May, August, and November to give everyone time to hear about it. People also need time to plan and advertise any life-affirming events they want to have.

Resistance: “What happens if there is violence that leads to death during these weekends?”

Example Response: “The movement asks the community to help us reach the person’s family. We then give the family love, support, and money that Baltimore has raised just for them. We also schedule a Sacred Space Ritual to honor the person’s life and light. This means we go to the neighborhood where the incident happened to pour love and light there.