



Dear {{FirstName or "Friend"}},

Every January I return to “Beyond Vietnam – A Time to Break Silence,” a speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Riverside Church in New York City on April 4th, 1967. In this speech, Dr. King made clear his opposition to the war in Vietnam and explained how the issues of war and peace were inextricable from civil rights. This speech is a journey into Dr. King’s beliefs, many of which have been sanitized and obscured by mainstream discourse.

At the end of the speech, Dr. King calls for a “true revolution of values,” saying: “We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

Nuclear weapons were a key issue. In 1957, Dr. King told Ebony magazine, “I definitely feel that the development and use of nuclear weapons of war should be banned.”

Today, at Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, we aim to honor Dr. King’s life and work by re-dedicating ourselves to the elimination of nuclear weapons. We must do this work in a way that recognizes the connection between racism, materialism, and militarism, that Dr. King describes.

Many members of our board were at the Massachusetts State House last week, urging representatives to vote for S.1487, a “Back from the Brink” bill that would align Massachusetts with California, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, and Rhode Island in calling for a sane nuclear weapons policy (the campaign can be found at [preventnuclearwar.org](http://preventnuclearwar.org)). We shared with our representatives how the risk of nuclear war threatens our communities, and how the maintenance and construction of nuclear weapons diverts resources from those in need. As Dr. King said in his Beyond Vietnam speech, “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

Greater Boston PSR is your community voice for climate action and nuclear disarmament.

We are engaged in education and policy advocacy. We maintain relationships with allied physicians in other countries, including Russia, and advocate for treaties at the United Nations. A very large part of our work is done by volunteers, with accomplishments disproportionate to our modest budget. Please join us by volunteering or by supporting us with a donation at [gbpsr.org](https://gbpsr.org) or on Venmo [@gbpsr](https://www.venmo.com/gbpsr).

We wish you a peaceful and healthy Martin Luther King Day. As Dr. King says at the end of his speech, "if we will make the right choice, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Warmly,  
Joe



**Joe Hodgkin, MD**

Co-Chair for Nuclear Disarmament

[Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility](https://gbpsr.org)

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