



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

60 YEARS AGO TODAY

On this day in 1963, an extraordinary event took place: The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The March on Washington drew a quarter of a million people to the nation's capital to protest racial discrimination and advocate for equal rights and opportunities for America's African American citizens. It is rightly considered a milestone in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and remains a perpetual source of inspiration and courage. It also led to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which the U. S. Department of Labor describes as prohibiting "discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

A consortium of activists, labor unions, and community leaders organized the March, which culminated at the Lincoln Memorial. Speeches were given by, among others, future Congressman John Lewis, Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers, and – most memorably – the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's words ring out through the decades:

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice...

In the course of Dr. King's remarks, gospel Singer Mahalia Jackson called out, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" Dr. King put aside his prepared text and, speaking informally and directly from the heart, did just that.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

60 years have passed since that day. America has made great strides toward realizing Dr. King's dream – but has also signally failed to live up to its potential as a haven for all. The current state of the Body Politic, wracked with hatred and ignorance, is proof positive that his work (and ours) is not yet done. It is more important than ever that we raise our voices against bigotry and stand up to racism wherever we find it. One very important means of doing this is by exercising our right to vote. We see just how powerful a tool that is by the many ways the enemies of freedom attempt to steal it from us.

Hostos is proud to assert its solidarity with all those who believe in Dr. King's dream and work to make that dream a reality. We can do no less.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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