

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY IN MALMÖ



Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) was a great man and activist who was the most famous leader of the Civil Rights Movement. King won the Nobel Peace Prize and Presidential Medal of Freedom before being assassinated in 1968.

[Photo: AP 1968] For his promotion of non-violence and racial equality, King is considered a peacemaker and martyr by many people around the world. *Martin Luther King Day* was established in his honor.

Civil Rights: How Far Have We Come?

By Kathy Wilmore

On August 28, 1993, more than 100,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. They went there to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington, led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 1963 march has been called "the most magnificent demonstration of interracial unity that this nation had ever seen." Millions of TV viewers bore witness as the world heard King's electrifying "I Have a Dream" speech for the first time. The marchers — black and white, young and old, rich and poor — held hands and sang a song called "We Shall Overcome." It expressed their hope that "black and white together" would some day live in peace, equality, and understanding. The march was a high point in the U.S. black civil-rights movement.

Civil rights are the freedoms and rights that a person has as a member of a community, state, or nation. In the U.S., these rights are guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution and acts of Congress.

Since the 1960s, many laws have been passed to guarantee civil rights to all Americans. But the struggle continues. Today, not only blacks, but many other groups — including women, Hispanics, Asian-Americans, people with disabilities, homosexuals, the homeless, and other minorities — are waging civil-rights campaigns. The theme of the [See page 4](#)

Milestones in the USA's Civil Rights Movement

by Elissa Haney

1954 (MAY 17): The Supreme Court rules on the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, unanimously agreeing that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The ruling paves the way for large-scale desegregation. The decision overturns the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that sanctioned "separate but equal" segregation of the races, ruling that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." It is a victory for NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall (see photo) who will later return to the Supreme Court as the nation's first black justice.



1955 AUGUST: Fourteen-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is visiting family in Mississippi when he is kidnapped, brutally beaten, shot, and dumped in the Tallahatchie River for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Two white men, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, are arrested for the murder and acquitted by an allwhite jury. They later boast about committing the murder in a *Look* magazine interview. The case becomes a cause célèbre of the civil rights movement.

DECEMBER 1: (Montgomery, Ala.) NAACP member Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of the "colored section" of a bus to a white passenger, defying a southern custom of the time. In response to her arrest the Montgomery black community launches a bus boycott, which will last for more than a year, until the buses are desegregated Dec. 21.



1956: As newly elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), Reverend **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, is instrumental in leading the boycott.

1957 JANUARY – FEBRUARY: **Martin Luther King**, Charles K. Steele, and Fred L.

Shuttlesworth establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which King is made the first president. The SCLC becomes a major force in organizing the civil rights movement and



bases its principles on nonviolence and civil disobedience. According to King, it is essential that the civil rights movement not sink to the level of the racists and hate-mongers who oppose them: "We must

forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline," he urged. In 1964 he received an honorary doctorate from Yale, the Kennedy Peace Prize and the Nobel Peace Prize.

SEPTEMBER : (Little Rock, Ark.) Formerly all-white Central High School learns that integration is easier said than done. Nine black students are blocked from entering the school on the orders of Governor Orval Faubus. President Eisenhower sends federal troops and the National Guard to intervene on behalf of the students, who become known as the "Little Rock Nine."



1960 FEBRUARY 1: (Greensboro, N.C.) Four black students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College begin a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter. Although they are refused service, they are allowed to stay at the counter. The event triggers many similar nonviolent protests throughout the South. Six months later the original four protesters are served lunch at the same Woolworth's counter. Student sit-ins would be effective throughout the Deep South in integrating parks, swimming pools, theaters, libraries, and other public facilities.

APRIL: (Raleigh, N.C.) The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University, providing young blacks with a place in the civil rights movement. The SNCC later grows into a more radical organization, especially under the leadership of Stokely Carmichael (1966–1967).

1961 MAY 4: The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) begins ending student volunteers on bus trips to test the implementation of new laws prohibiting segregation in interstate travel facilities. One of the first two groups of "freedom riders," as they are called, encounters its first

problem two weeks later, when a mob in Alabama sets the riders' bus on fire. The program continues, and by the end of the summer 1,000 volunteers, black and white, have participated.

OCT. 1: James Meredith (see photo) becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence and riots surrounding the incident cause President Kennedy to send 5,000 federal troops.



1963 APRIL 16: **Martin Luther King** is arrested and jailed during anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Ala.; he writes his seminal "Letter From Birmingham City Jail," arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws.

MAY: During civil rights protests in Birmingham, Ala., Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene "Bull" Connor uses fire hoses and police dogs on black demonstrators. These images of brutality, which are televised and published widely, are instrumental in gaining sympathy for the civil rights movement around the world.

JUNE 12: (Jackson, Miss.) Mississippi's NAACP field secretary, 37-year-old Medgar Evers, is murdered outside his home. Byron De La Beckwith is tried twice in 1964, both trials resulting in hung juries. Thirty years later he is convicted for murdering Evers.

AUGUST. 28: (Washington, D.C.) About 200,000 people join the March on Washington. Congregating at the Lincoln Memorial participants listen as **Martin Luther King** delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



SEPTEMBER 15: (Birmingham, Ala.) Four young girls attending Sunday school are killed when a bomb explodes at the Sixteenth Street

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Baptist Church, a popular location for civil rights meetings. Riots erupt in Birmingham, leading to the deaths of two more black youths.

1964 JAN. 23: The 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax, which originally had been instituted in 11 southern states after Reconstruction to make it difficult for poor blacks to vote.

Summer: The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a network of civil rights groups that includes CORE and SNCC, launches a massive effort to register black voters during what becomes known as the Freedom Summer. It also sends delegates to the Democratic National Convention to protest—and attempt to unseat—the official all-white Mississippi contingent.

JULY 2: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The most sweeping civil rights



legislation since Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

AUGUST 4: (Neshoba County, Miss.) The bodies of three civil-rights workers—two white, one black—are found in an earthen dam, six weeks into a federal investigation backed by President Johnson. James E. Chaney, 21; Andrew Goodman, 21; and Michael Schwerner, 24, had been working to register black voters in Mississippi, and, on June 21, had gone to investigate the burning of a black church. They were arrested by the police on speeding charges, incarcerated for several hours, and then released after dark into the hands of the Ku Klux Klan, who murdered them.

FEBRUARY 21, 1965: (Harlem, N.Y.) Malcolm X, black nationalist and founder of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, is shot to death. It is believed the assailants are members of the Black Muslim faith, which Malcolm had recently abandoned in favor of orthodox Islam.



MARCH 7, (SELMA, ALA.): Blacks begin a march to Montgomery in support of voting rights but are stopped at the Pettus Bridge by a police blockade. Fifty marchers are hospitalized after police use tear gas, whips, and clubs against them. The incident is dubbed “Bloody Sunday” by the media.

AUGUST. 10: Congress passes the Voting

Rights Act of 1965, making it easier for Southern blacks to register to vote. Literacy tests and other such requirements that were used to restrict black voting are made illegal.

1965, AUG. 11–17 (WATTS, CALIF.): Race riots erupt in a black section of Los Angeles.

SEPTEMBER. 24: Asserting that civil rights laws alone are not enough to remedy discrimination, President Johnson issues Executive Order 11246, which enforces affirmative action for the first time. It requires government contractors to “take affirmative action” toward prospective minority employees in all aspects of hiring and employment.

1966, OCTOBER (OAKLAND, CALIF.): The militant Black Panthers are founded by Huey Newton (see photo) and Bobby Seale.



1967. APRIL 19: Stokely Carmichael, (photo at left) a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), coins the phrase “black power” in a speech in Seattle. He defines it as an assertion of black pride and “the coming together of black people to fight for their liberation by any means necessary.” The term’s radicalism alarms many who believe the civil rights movement’s effectiveness and moral authority crucially depend on nonviolent civil disobedience.



JUNE 12: In *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional. Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time are forced to revise their laws.

JULY: Major race riots take place in Newark (July 12–16) and Detroit (July 23–30).

1968 APRIL 4 : (Memphis, Tenn.) **Martin Luther King**, at age 39, is shot as he stands on the balcony outside his hotel room. Escaped convict and committed racist James Earl Ray is convicted of the crime.



APRIL 11: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

1971 APRIL 20: The Supreme Court, in *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, upholds busing as a legitimate means for achieving integration of public schools. Although largely unwelcome (and sometimes violently opposed) in local school districts, court-ordered busing plans in cities such as Charlotte, Boston,

and Denver continue until the late 1990s.

1988 MARCH 22: Overriding President Reagan's veto, Congress passes the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which expands the reach of non-discrimination laws within private institutions receiving federal funds.

1991 NOV. 22: After two years of debates, vetoes, and threatened vetoes, President Bush reverses himself and signs the Civil Rights Act of 1991, strengthening existing civil rights laws and providing for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.

1992 APRIL 29 (Los Angeles, Calif.): The first race riots in decades erupt in south-central Los Angeles after a jury acquits four white police officers for the videotaped beating of African American Rodney King.

2003 JUNE 23: In the most important affirmative action decision since the 1978 Bakke case, the Supreme Court (5-4) upholds the University of Michigan Law School's policy, ruling that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."



These are the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States who upheld the University of Michigan Law School's policy.

How far have we come? 1963 March on Washington was "jobs, justice, and peace." The 1993 anniversary march had the same theme — proof that, although African-Americans have made great strides forward, there is still much to be done. Let's take a look at three problem areas — housing, education, and the political arena — where many African-Americans still do not enjoy equality with other Americans. XXXX

English International: Timesheet of Activities

1987-The organisation was founded in Lund, Sweden with the following aims and purposes: to assist immigrants to integrate into Swedish society, to be a source of information about their human rights. **1988-**The organisation contracted with the publishers of The Lundian to jointly publish books and the organisation's news in the newsletter. Started its first seminars in human rights; provided consultative support to other immigrant organisations in Lund. **1989-**The organisation provided consultative support and back-up personnel to the Lund County Refugee Service Centre (Invandrarbyrån) during

the summer. Organised bus outings for asylum-seekers.

1990-The Organisation and The Lundian published a series of country reports on human rights violations, opened a library with human rights information. **1991-**E.I. and The Lundian conducted research and published a survey for the Swedish Department of Immigration (SIV) on voting patterns of immigrants in Lund. **1992-**E.I. and The Lundian published a number of new reports on human rights issues. Initiated attempts to establish liaison offices in other countries.

1993-In a joint research project we researched and published a special report on racial discrimination in employment in Sweden. Affiliation with the UN/DPI approved. **1994-**The Board hosted their first International Conference on Human Rights with invited speakers from Africa, Russia, Guatemala, Tunisia, and North America and Europe. E.I. was granted Observer Status with the African Commission on Human Rights. Presented its first Human Rights Achievement Award to a local human rights activist from Liberia living in Lund.

1995-Two delegates attended the United Nations Prep-com on Social Development in New York, and sent two delegates to the Social Summit in Copenhagen. **1996-**Two delegates attended the PrepCom III for Habitat II at the United Nations in New York. Hosted a second International Human Rights Conference in November. The Lundian Obtains a web-site and E-mail address. **1997-**E.I. actively supported the establishment of the Africana Network and co-sponsored a Conference on the Organisation of African Unity in May. In December we conducted a film festival and workshop titled Workshop on Africa. **1998-**Conducted a seminar series titled: Where is Africa Going? Co-hosted a Regional Conference on the OAU in Malmö (Sweden). Conducted seminars and short courses on human rights and international law; organised its own OAU Day, UN Day, a short list of national holidays, published voter rights information to local immigrant groups, started an Internet Workshop for members.

1999-Conducted ten seminar series on international law and human rights in Africa and Europe. Join in on campaign to encourage governments ratify the Migrant Worker Conventions (of 1990), honours a number of international holidays as in the two previous years. **2000-**Hosted an NGO delegate from Angola, scheduled a seminar series on Human Rights and the UN in Africa, participated in OAU and African Cultural Days activities with Africa Forum (Malmö). Established an Action Group for Positive Integration in Sweden in September and held seminars on equality and human rights during Autumn. Expanded our network to organisations in The Netherlands and other EU countries; made contact with civil rights organisations in the United States; attended the 53rd NGO & DPI Conference at UN headquarters, established an Anti-discrimination Forum in Lund to assist foreign students and researchers file their complaints of racial and other forms of discrimination with lawyers, the DO and others who can help them.

2001-Expanded our anti-discrimination forum information to other institutions of higher education in southern Sweden; participated the annual UN NGO Conference, two PrepComs and the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa; participated in county and national discussions on integration; expanded our networking with other NGOs in Europe; conducted projects with Swedish Board of Integration and the Justice Department. **2002-2006-**Continued expanding our anti-discrimination forum and networking operations with NGOs in Sweden, Europe and the rest of the world; participated in several conferences in the UN, EU, Sweden and other nations on the rights of migrant workers; continued co-operating with human rights institutions on education and book publishing projects that are focused on the promotion of the rights of migrant workers.