

Dear Martin Luther King,

As you once said, "I had a dream", you were referring to citizens uniting, of all races, colors, religions, or national origins. You once stated that a great American had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, but even 100 years afterwards, the colored America wasn't free, indicating towards segregation and discrimination. Even now, in 2021, 58 years after your speech, there isn't as much visible segregation, but there is still quite a bit of it happening, but I will tell you about that later. People who were born U.S. citizens, like Barack Obama, have been questioned about their rights to be a citizen, or have been questioned about their citizenship. Someone actually faked a birth certificate for the former U.S. president, the first African American president, Barack Obama, to make it seem as though he wasn't really a citizen, just because of his skin color and heritage. (There was evidence that he really is a citizen, his real birth certificate). These types of occurrences can happen very publicly, where everyone hears about it, or it can be something very small that no one seems to notice, but it is those types of things that break people down, and those types of things that go against your dream. Many activists, like yourself, have spoken out, and have tried to get their message through to people, telling them about hardships and that skin color shouldn't decide the worth of someone, or perhaps heartbreaking stories like that of George Floyd. George Floyd had just lost his security job due to the world pandemic (a virus called COVID-19), and had a counterfeit 20\$ bill that he used to try and buy cigarettes, and the store clerk called the police. The police officers arrived, and I am so sorry to say Dr. King, that they stepped on his throat, and killed him, leaving him dead, after he had called out for help. The police officers were charged, because luckily an onlooker had a camera to capture this horrific scene, but these types of things, unnecessary deaths due to skin color, are what you tried to fight against. You brought so many people together to do peaceful protests, to do boycotts, and you showed so many people that through love and peace, we can unite together, and we don't need to be separated. I am sure you would be smiling to hear me say that everyone knows your name, for you made such a huge impact on hundreds

and thousands of people, and you will always be remembered. You taught people how to be heard, to use love, peace, and kindness as power, not hatred or violence. As John Lewis(a former civil rights activist and leader) said, “You must find a way to get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble”, hinting that you can find yourself in jail, or pushed down from speaking up, but as you have showed the world, you can always get back on your feet.

You helped ban discrimination in workforce and public accommodations, you were so important during the Civil Rights Movement, and you were widely responsible for the passage of the Civil Rights act of 1964 and the voting act of 1965. Now, we celebrate a day for you Dr. King, to remember all that you did for us, and your impact on our history. Your work seeked to attain “the dream” by showing how to use kindness, peace, and words to fight back, to change the ways of people, to make a difference. My favorite quote that you ever said is “that one day, right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and little white girls as sisters and brothers.” I am happy to say that this quote has come true in the aspect of people joining hands to fight lingering injustices, mostly through peace. You showed so many others the importance of uniting together, and that the pen is mightier than the sword. So thank you, Dr. King, for guiding us to a kinder, more peaceful world, where we can work together to build a more fair and equal country.

Yours truly,

Ana Bondy