



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Guide

2023 Theme - It Starts with me:  
Cultivating A Beloved Community  
Mindset to Transform Unjust Systems

# ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 16, 2023, is the 38th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DX5pyvAXz0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DX5pyvAXz0&feature=emb_logo)



# DEPARTMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION PRESENTS



Monday, January 16, 2022  
10:00am-11:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81681459137?pwd=MGJ0cmdmdVdiUnVFK0pGQmtwUDJXQT09#success>



# 2023 KING (ENTER FOR NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE) EVENTS



[thekingcenter.org](http://thekingcenter.org)

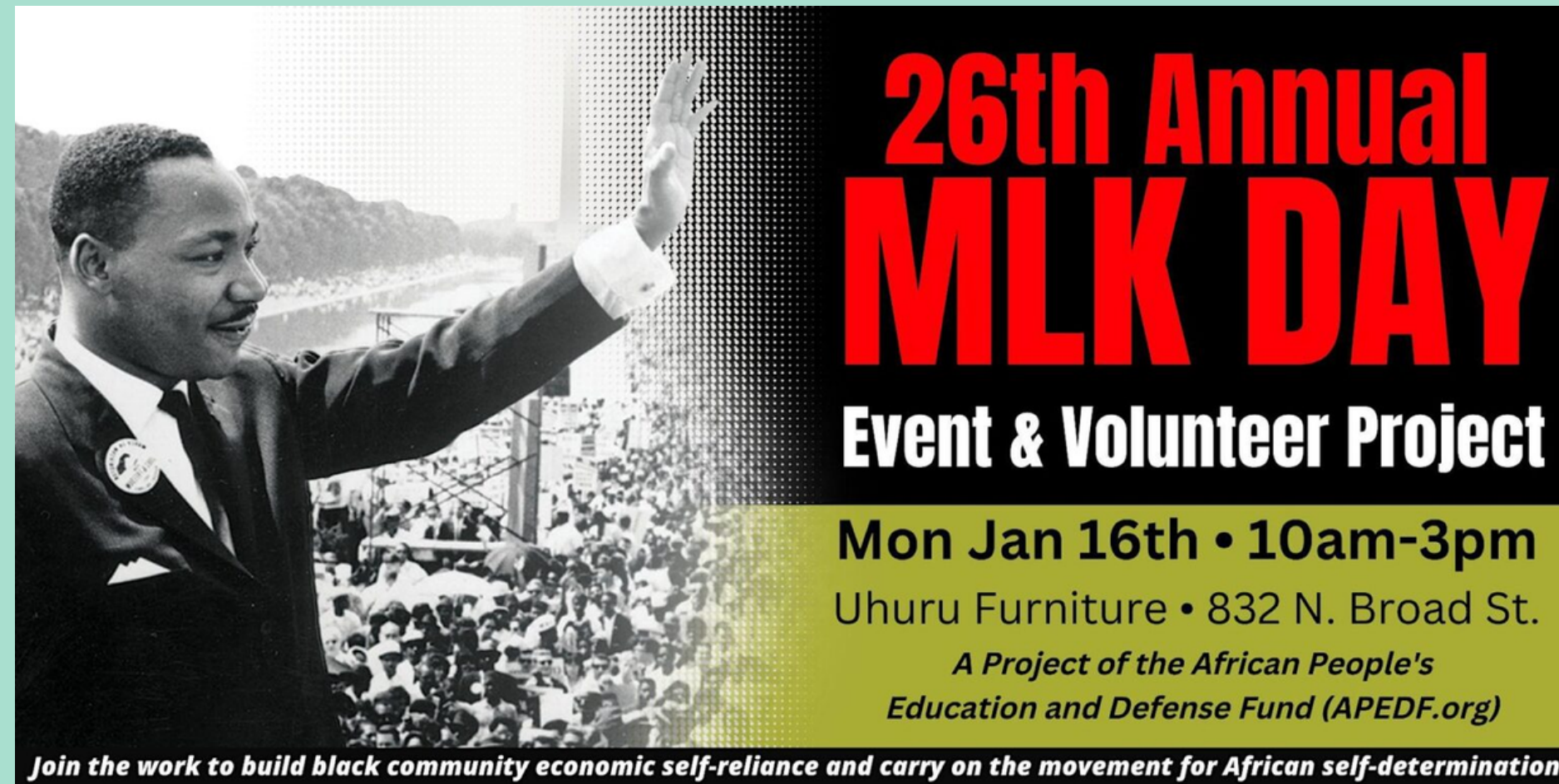


# 2023 KING CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE EVENTS





# Lo(AL EVENTS (PHILADELPHIA)



## Program Schedule

**10-11:30am**

**Watch historic films of MLK, Malcolm X, Civil Rights and Black Power Movements**

**Videos and presentation on the work of APEDF and the movement for African self-determination today. Live drums and spoken word with Karen Smith & Rahnda Rize**

**11:30am-2:30pm**

**Volunteer Project – outdoor postering and door hanging to spread the word about Uhuru Furniture and APEDF**

**2:30-3pm**

**Pizza and vegan lunch for volunteers**



# Lo(AL EVENTS (PHILADELPHIA)



Monday, January 16, 2023 - 3:00 p.m.

Join Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra as they return to Girard College and honor the life and work of the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrating our Philadelphia community and the uniting power of music.

Tickets to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concert are free and available to everyone starting today!

Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concert

Monday, January 16, 3:00PM

Girard College

# Lo(AL EVENTS (ALLENTOWN)

## The Allentown Art Museum

Sunday, January 15, 2023

The Allentown Art Museum celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day 11 a.m.-5 p.m. . Focusing on Dr. King's "How Long? Not Long" speech and selected works in the galleries with events including music by Maxamilly, storytelling by Evan Mosley, spoken word by Basement Poetry, song by Bekah Elaine, dance students from the Fine Feather Foundation and art making inspiring empathy, activism and community building. Admission is free. 31 N. Fifth St., Allentown. 610-432-4333, [allentownartmuseum.org](http://allentownartmuseum.org).





# Lo(AL EVENTS (ALLENTOWN)

Monday, January 16, 2023



## **Cinematic Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**

Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas, ArtsQuest Center, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem.

Documentary films include:

- “King: A Filmed Record ... Montgomery to Memphis,” follows Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from 1955 to 1968 in his rise from regional activist to world-renowned leader of the civil rights movement (noon);
- “Nationtime,” report on the National Black Political Convention held in Gary, Indiana in 1972 (4 p.m.);
- “Selma,” chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965 when King led a campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition (6 p.m.).

Karen Britt, professor of business and economics at Northampton Community College and president of Juneteenth Lehigh Valley leads a discussion on King’s legacy and how it applies to today’s society at 3:15 p.m.

All events are free, tickets required. 610-297-7100, [steelstacks.org](http://steelstacks.org)

# VISIT DR. AND MRS. KING'S MEMORIAL IN ALLENTOWN



Martin Luther King Birthday Candlelight Vigil 6 p.m.

Freedom Memorial, Fourth and Martin Luther King Drive,  
Allentown. [freedommemoriallv.org](http://freedommemoriallv.org)

The memorial honors the King Family and addresses issues of civil rights, world peace, and economic equity for all. The organization unveiled the Martin Luther & Coretta Scott King Memorial on January 17, 2011. The statue makes this memorial site the only in the world to have a statue memorial dedicated to both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, marching together.

The memorial is located at the Harry A. Roberts Plaza on Union Street and Martin Luther King Drive in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

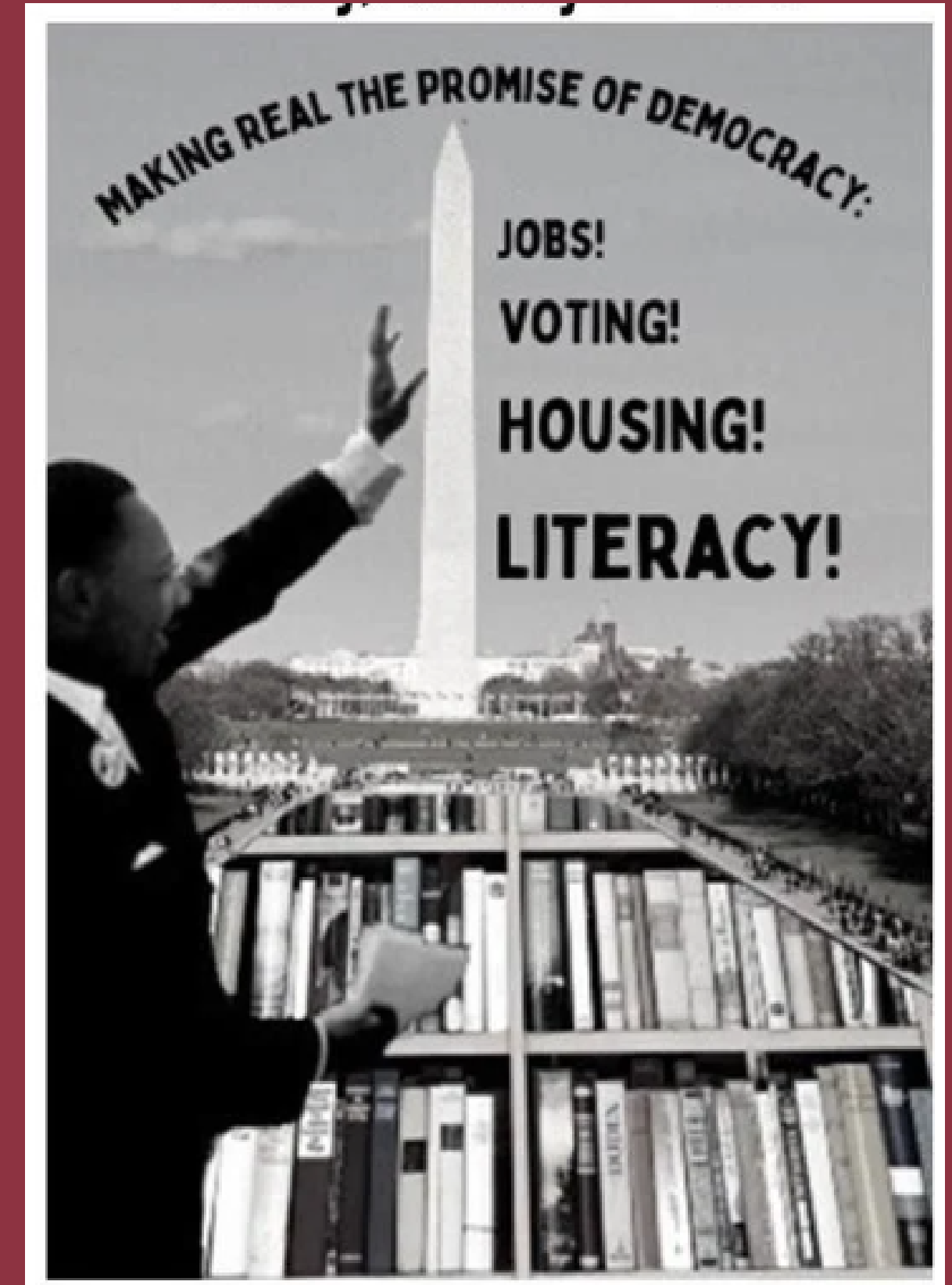


# Lo(AL EVENTS (HARRISBURG)

## MLK Day of Service Opening Ceremony and Volunteer Projects

The 14th Annual Central PA MLK Day of Service will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington by focusing on Dr. King's call to "make real the promise of democracy" with an emphasis on jobs, housing, literacy and voting. The day begins with an opening ceremony at the Alexander Grass Campus for Jewish Life at 9:00 am, followed by numerous volunteer activities and a Jobs and Housing Fair from 10-1:30PM. Eight organizations, including Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recruiters, will provide information to those seeking employment and better housing opportunities.

Rev. Earl Harris will lead a discussion on civic engagement from the 1960's to today, and moderate a dialogue on the history of the relationship between the African-American and Jewish communities. A special showing of the film RACE to be Human will also take place.



# Lo(AL EVENTS (HARRISBURG)

## MLK Day of Service 3rd Street Clean Up

Friends of Midtown would like to invite you to join us for the Central PA MLK Day of Service! Volunteers will work together with organizations and businesses up and down the 3rd Street Corridor in Midtown, from Reily to Forster, to pick up trash, tidy, and beautify our streets. Volunteers will meet in front of the Broad Street Market (1233 N. 3rd Street) at 9am for supplies and instructions. And end at Midtown Juice Lab (1426 N. 3rd Street) by 12pm to return supplies.

Volunteers interested can sign up on the MLK Day of Service Website:

<https://centralpamlk.partnershipplanners.org/projectlist/index.php?ece041bbdae901>





# TEXT TO READ WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

A picture Book of Martin Luther King Jr. by David A. Alder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6orRByAzBc>

I am Martin Luther King Jr. by Brad Meltzer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xajQz49mRU>

Martin Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc39Ka8ut6k>

Same Difference by Calida Rawles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpSLtVXF0Mc&t=11s>

Peaceful fights for equal rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLORhMi8ksY>

# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: GROUP DISCUSSIONS

## Prepared conversation starters on Dr. King's Life and lessons

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” To honor Dr. King's impact on not just his own community but also our wider national community, find an organization and/or cause that your students feel passionate about and encourage them to volunteer. Visit [VolunteerMatch.Org](https://www.volunteermatch.org) to check out opportunities that fit their interests and availability. Then, have them take time to reflect on the experience and think about ways to continue helping others.

“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.” It is important to set aside time to talk with your children about concepts that may seem complicated, like forgiveness. Read your kids the above quote and use the following questions to start conversations around forgiveness. Share some of your own experiences as well—your children will appreciate the chance to connect your stories to their own. Why do you think Martin Luther King Jr. thought it was important to forgive? When was the last time someone hurt your feelings? What happened, and why were your feelings hurt? Can you forgive that person for what they did? Why do you think it’s important to forgive the people who have hurt your feelings? What does forgiveness achieve?

“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.” This quote is one of the most powerful in the American lexicon. It offers excellent entry points for discussion with kids about the impact of Martin Luther King Jr. on the civil rights movement—and where we are as a nation more than 50 years later. Ask your kids: If Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today: What do you think he would be most proud to see? What do you think he would be most disappointed by? Do you think he would approve of the way we treat one another today? Why or why not?



# SONGS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

“Strange Fruit” by Abel Meeropol Originally written as a poem by Abel Meeropol, he added music. The most famous version is performed by Billie Holiday. The song describes black victims of lynchings as “strange fruit” hanging from the trees. During the 1930s, lynchings were common but rarely talked about in public and certainly not sung about. Many consider “Strange Fruit” to be the first significant civil rights song. Famous cover artists include Nina Simone and Jeff Buckley. In 2002, the Library of Congress chose Holiday’s version for the National Recording Registry.

“We Shall Overcome” by Pete Seeger This song has a fascinating history. It’s based on an old hymn sung by members of a union striking against the American Tobacco company in 1945. In 1947, the union’s version of the song appeared as “We Will Overcome” in a songbook. Folk singer Pete Seeger learned the song, changing the “will” to “shall.” In the 1960s, “We Shall Overcome” became tied to the Civil Rights movement, standing in as the unofficial anthem. In 1963, Joan Baez led a sing-along with a crowd of 300,000 during the March on Washington. At Dr. King’s funeral, over 50,000 sang the song. “We Shall Overcome” has since transcended the United States, appearing at protests around the world. During a copyright conflict in 2018, the song entered the public domain.

“Blowin’ In The Wind” by Bob Dylan A classic example of a protest song, “Blowin’ In the Wind” asks a series of questions such as, “How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?” The answer is mysterious: it’s blowin’ in the wind. Dylan explains this line by saying that the answer isn’t found in a book, movie, TV show, or discussion group. It’s all around us, but if you aren’t paying attention, it flies away. “Blowin’ In The Wind” is considered an anti-war song and Civil Rights anthem. It played a role in inspiring Sam Cooke to write “A Change Is Gonna Come.”

# SONGS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE (CONT')

“A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke “A Change is Gonna Come” didn’t have a straight line to success. When a whites-only hotel rejected Sam Cooke and his group, he took that experience and wrote a song. It was more political than any of Cooke’s previous work. The chorus includes lyrics like, “It’s been a long, long time coming, but I know, but I know a change is gonna come.” Two weeks before the song’s release, the 33-year old Cooke was killed. The Civil Rights movement picked up the song immediately. It’s considered Cooke’s best work and in 2007, it was added to the Library of Congress for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically important.”

“Imagine” by John Lennon/Yoko Ono Killed in 1980, John Lennon is one of the world’s most popular artists. “Imagine” is the best-selling single of his solo career. Released during the Vietnam War, Lennon asks the listener to imagine a utopia without borders, religions, or even possessions. He acknowledges that people will see him as a “dreamer,” but that “he’s not the only one.” Like many of Lennon’s songs, the music and lyrics are simple and impactful. When Lennon died, “Imagine” shot to #1. Dozens of artists have covered the song, including Elton John, Joan Baez, and Lady Gaga. Though world peace seems impossible, there’s something about this song that gives people hope.

“Redemption Song” by Bob Marley & the Wailers “Redemption Song” borrows lines from Marcus Garvey, an African orator who promoted the “Back to Africa” movement. These lines include, “Emancipate yourself from mental slavery.” It acknowledges the reality of physical slavery, but while a person might be technically “free,” there’s a mental aspect that needs dealing with, as well. Many singers have covered the song, including Rihanna at the “Hope For Haiti” telethon after the earthquake and Alicia Keys at Nelson Mandela’s 91st birthday.



# SONGS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE (CONT')

“Fight the Power” by Director Spike Lee wanted a song for his film “Do the Right Thing” and contacted hip-hop group Public Enemy. They wrote “Fight the Power,” a song that describes the struggles of being black in America and the slow progress of society. It contains references to African-American culture, including James Brown’s distinct grunts and a vocal sample of civil rights lawyer Thomas “TNT” Todd. In contrast to many social justice songs that somewhat vaguely ask for peace, “Fight the Power” calls for its listeners to fight back.

“Changes” by Tupac Shakur Released two years after the rapper’s death at age 25, “Changes” covers a spectrum of issues. It references the war on drugs, police brutality, black-and-white relations, and life in the ghetto. Through all of it, Tupac wishes for reconciliation, rapping, “I got love for my brother, but we can never go nowhere unless we share with each other.” The song samples “The Way It Is” by Bruce Hornsby. “Changes” expresses the complexity of social justice and issues that are still prevalent years later.



# SONGS ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE (CONT')

“Same Love” by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis The third single from the duo’s debut album, “Same Love” promotes marriage equality. It features a hook from Mary Lambert, who also sings the outro, “Love is patient, love is kind,” and “Not crying on Sundays.” “Same Love” became the first Top 40 song in the United States to explicitly support same-sex marriage. At the Grammy performance of the song, Queen Latifah officiated the weddings of 33 couples (both gay and straight couples) on stage.

“Alright” by Kendrick Lamar/Pharrell Williams/Mark Spears It took Kendrick Lamar a while to get this song put together. When it appeared on his groundbreaking album “To Pimp A Butterfly,” it quickly became an anthem for the Black Lives Matter movement. During the year before the song’s release, police killed Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and 12-year old Tamir Rice. At a Black Lives Matter gathering in Cleveland, the protestors sang the “Alright” chorus: “We gon’ be alright. Do you hear me, do you feel me? We gon be alright.” The song expresses an unshakeable hope.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GQh\\_p4mFyE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GQh_p4mFyE)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ25-U3jNWM>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnJFhuOWgXg>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxWTDcP9Y5E>



# WATCH DR. KING'S SPEECHES

## Love Your Enemies



<https://youtu.be/522wcqUIS0Y>

## The other America



<https://youtu.be/dOWDtDUKz-U>

## I Have A Dream



<https://youtu.be/ARrvvJV4th4>

## Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution



<https://youtu.be/SLsXZXJAURk>

## I have been to the Mountaintop



<https://youtu.be/DKWCxKq0i1k>

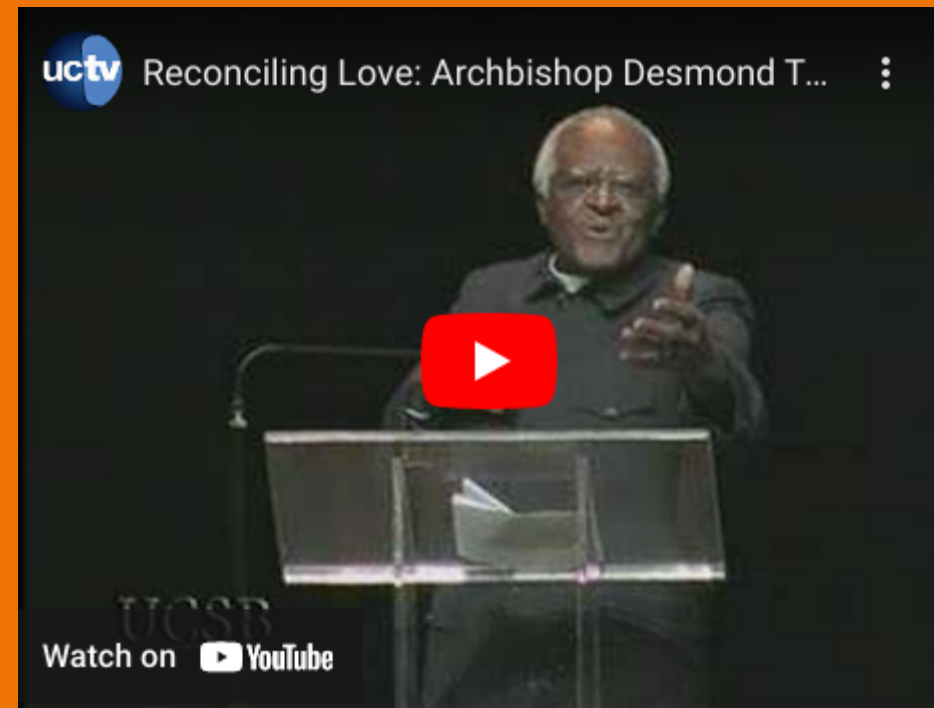
# SOCIAL JUSTICE VIDEOS



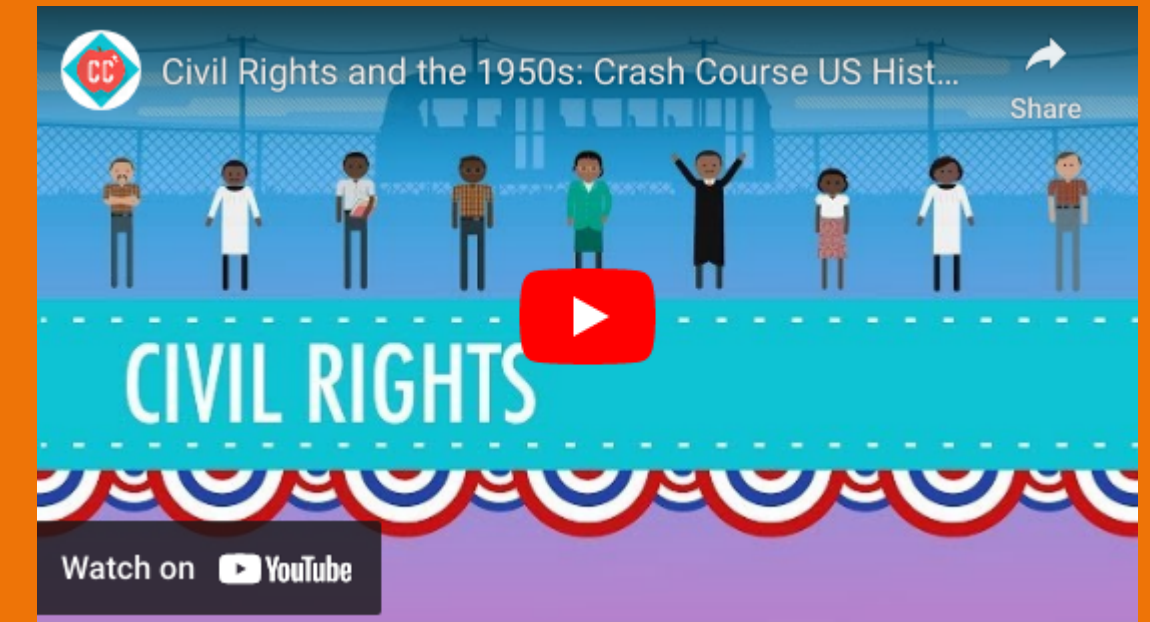
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJsF4hBo3V4&t=17s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Nlmp8xy3YY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV2LURTu3eQ>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S64zRnnn4Po&t=11s>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjD\\_3VDRyTY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjD_3VDRyTY)



# SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIES

- Just Mercy
- Let It Fall: Los Angeles 1982-1992
- Support the Girls
- Selma
- If Beale Street Could Talk
- Fruitvale Station
- Do the Right Thing
- Let the Fire Burn
- I Am Not Your Negro
- Milk
- Dear White People
- Dark Girls
- Central Park Five
- Resist
- The Murder of Fred Hampton
- Fahrenheit 9/11
- Titicut Follies
- Harlan County, USA
- Short Term 12
- Time: The Kalief Browder Story
- Hidden Figures
- An Inconvenient Truth
- John Q
- 13th
- The Hate You Give

I have decided to stick with  
love. Hate is too great a  
burden to bear.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

