



Together  
Venture  
Diversity  
Equity  
Inclusion



## JANUARY 16 2023 Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1955, Montgomery Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white person. Mrs. Parks was arrested and brought to trial for her crime. In protest to this injustice, young Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led Montgomery residents in boycotting the city's transit service.

The African American community came together to support the protest. America paid attention to the controversy in Alabama. 100's of reporters came to Montgomery to document the protests. Dr. King and other Black leaders inspired the community to keep with the boycott. People car pooled, or walked to work. African American taxi drivers only charged the same rate as bus fare to carry Blacks to and from work. 381 days from the start of the boycott, the U.S. Supreme court upheld a lower court's ruling that segregation violated the 14th amendment to the U.S. constitution.

Dr. King had become the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the world took notice. The SCLC promoted nonviolent tactics to draw attention to great inequities suffered by Black

people in the U.S. "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant."

In 1963, Dr. King, along with 250,000 marchers at the March on Washington D.C., called upon the American people to end discrimination. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech Inspired Congress to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Later that year, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Martin Luther King Jr. "for his non-violent struggle for civil rights for the Afro-American population." In Oslo, Dr. King received the award, "I accept this award with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

Today we commemorate Dr. King's legacy with MLK Day of Service: a day The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream.

References: [Britanica.com](http://Britanica.com); [nobel.org](http://nobel.org); [MLK official site](http://MLK official site); [Kingcenter.org](http://Kingcenter.org).