

“I Have a Dream” at 50

Welcome to “As It Is” from VOA Learning English! I’m Mario Ritter. Today we remember an important moment in the history of the American _____ movement. The March on Washington took place exactly 50 years ago on this date.

Civil rights activists and thousands of other people filled the National Mall in Washington. The high point of that day was a speech given by civil rights _____ Martin Luther King Jr. It became known as the “I Have a Dream” speech.

“I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply **rooted** in the American dream.”

That message has become part of the nation’s history. Today, we hear about the 50 th anniversary observance last Saturday. Civil rights leaders remembered the _____ of the past and asked questions about the future. Then we look back at the message of non-violence that helped the civil rights movement succeed in changing America.

Washington Marks the 50th Anniversary of the "Dream" Speech

Tens of thousands of people gathered on America’s National Mall last Saturday to mark the 50 th anniversary of the March on Washington. The march is where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous “I Have a Dream” _____.

VOA’s Pam Dockins watched the event last weekend. She says its speakers expressed support for a number of _____. Kelly Jean Kelly has her report.

"Yes, we will. Yes, we will. Yes, we will."

It was a chance for many people _____ the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Some speakers had experienced the movement themselves as young people. They spoke of the sacrifice needed to make big changes in society. Sometimes, these are changes in the law, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That law **barred** discrimination in _____ based on a person’s race or sex. Several pieces of major legislation came out of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Activities on Saturday took place near the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech 50 years ago.

Speakers brought attention to many social causes including civil rights, women's rights, immigration reform and _____. The main reason for the **gathering** was to honor King and his sacrifice. A gunman shot and killed the civil rights leader on April 4, 1968.

But, the observance was also a place to ask questions about the direction of the civil rights movement today. The _____ listened to Myrlie Evers Williams. She was married to Medgar Evers, another civil rights leader who was killed.

"As I look out at the crowd, I find myself saying, 'What are we doing today? Where have we come from? What has been **accomplished?** And, where do we go from this point forward?'"

Congressman Steny Hoyer is from Maryland and a leading member of the Democratic Party. He said the United States had moved forward on the subject of _____. He pointed to the election of President Barack Obama as proof.

"The historic election of President Obama testifies to the progress we have made which would not have been possible except for the millions who sacrificed and raised their voices for change."

The 50th anniversary events included African Americans, Asian Americans, immigrants and young people. Janet Murguia heads the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights group. She said Hispanics consider themselves a part of Martin Luther King's dream.

"Millions of Latinos were watching that day in 1963. When we heard Dr. King proclaim, 'I have a dream,' we knew he was talking to us too." One of King’s sons, Martin Luther King, III, also spoke. He said his father’s dream has yet to be realized. He noted that unemployment and _____ remain high among African Americans.

"Today with 12 percent _____ **rates** in the African American community and 38 percent of all children of color in this country living below the level of poverty, we know that the dream is far from being realized."

But he added that, if Americans do their part to support freedom at home, in school, on the job and in organizations, then change will come.

I’m Kelly Jean Kelly.

Civil Rights and Non-Violence

The American Civil Rights Movement was successful largely because of millions of African Americans who fought _____ in the 1960s. Another reason for the _____ was the plan to avoid violence when protesting _____.

Marsha James has more on this strategy in a report from VOA's Chris Simkins. Martin Luther King Junior was a top leader of the Civil Rights Movement. His non-violent policies were a product of the teachings of Indian independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Throughout the South, King brought attention to racial discrimination and unequal treatment. Under his leadership, millions of African Americans took part in _____, civil disobedience actions and economic boycotts. The non-violent movement was tested in places like Birmingham, Alabama. As actions against non-violent protestors continued, so did the push for major civil rights _____. William Bell is the current mayor of Birmingham. He says that during the 1960s, members of the civil rights movement were afraid.

1. Listen to this new at Voice of America and fill the gaps.

2. VOCABULARY. Match the words from the text with their meanings:

- _____ (verb) to give support to; the essential, fundamental or primary part of nature of something
- _____ to battle or fight
- _____ work or occupation
- _____ a group of people, assembly
- _____ a large number of things or people gathered or considered together
- _____ to manage to do; to achieve; to conclude successfully
- _____ a group of people of common ancestry, distinguished from others by physical characteristics.
- _____ to live/experience again

3. COMPREHENSION. Read the text again and answer these questions:

1. During the march on Washington, 50 years ago, what was the most well-known speech?
2. According to the text which civil rights leaders were killed during 60's?
3. Civil rights movement is a non-violence movement. Who was Martin Luther King inspired by?
4. Has the civil rights movement reached all its goals? What problems still remain for black people?
5. What is a peaceful protest? Give an example.