

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Timeline

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1959

- Dr. King meets with Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers Union, in Detroit. Dr. and Mrs. King spend a month in India studying Gandhi's techniques of nonviolence as guests of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



Officers escort the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. from jail to county courthouse in Atlanta for a hearing, Oct. 25, 1960. All jailed sit-in demonstrators were released except for King, who was held on a charge of violating a probated sentence in a traffic-arrest case and eventually released from the Reidsville State Prison on a \$2,000 bond.

1960

- The King family moves to Atlanta. Dr. King becomes co-pastor, with his father, of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. The first lunch-counter sit-in to desegregate eating facilities is held by students in Greensboro, N. C.
- A warrant is issued for Dr. King's arrest on charges that he had falsified his 1956 and 1958 Alabama state income-tax returns. He is acquitted by an all-white jury.
- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is founded to coordinate student protests at Shaw University in Raleigh, N. C.
- Dr. King and A. Philip Randolph announce plans for picketing both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Dr. King meets with John F. Kennedy (candidate for President of the United States) about racial matters.
- Dr. King is arrested at an Atlanta sit-in and is jailed on a charge of violating the state's trespassing law. All jailed demonstrators are released except Dr. King, who is held on a charge of violating a probated sentence in a traffic-arrest case. He is transferred to the DeKalb County Jail in Decatur, Ga., and is then transferred to the Reidsville State Prison. He is released from the Reidsville State Prison on a \$2,000 bond.

1961

- A third child, Dexter Scott, is born to Dr. and Mrs. King.
- The first group of Freedom Riders, with the intent of integrating interstate buses, leaves Washington, D.C. by Greyhound bus. The group, organized by the Congress for Racial Equality, leaves shortly after the Supreme Court has outlawed segregation in interstate transportation terminals. The bus is burned outside of Anniston, Ala. on May 14. A mob beats the Freedom Riders upon their arrival in Birmingham, Ala. The Freedom Riders are arrested in Jackson, Miss., and spend 40 to 60 days in Parchman Penitentiary.
- Dr. King arrives in Albany, Ga., in response to a call from Dr. W. G. Anderson, the leader of the Albany Movement to desegregate public facilities, which began in January 1961; Dr. King is arrested at an Albany demonstration. He is charged with obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

1962

- Dr. King is tried and convicted for leading the December march in Albany, Ga. Dr. King is invited to join the protests in Birmingham. Dr. King is arrested at an Albany City Hall prayer vigil and jailed on charges of failure to obey a police officer, obstructing the sidewalk and disorderly conduct.
- James Meredith makes his first attempt to enroll at the University of Mississippi. He is later enrolled by

Supreme Court order and is escorted onto the Oxford, Miss. campus by U.S. Marshals.

- Dr. King meets with President John F. Kennedy at the White House for a one-hour conference.

1963

- The King's fourth child, Bernice Albertine, is born.
- Sit-in demonstrations are held in Birmingham to protest segregation of eating facilities. Dr. King is arrested during a demonstration. Dr. King writes the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" while imprisoned for demonstrating.
- Eugene "Bull" Connor, director of public safety of Birmingham, orders the use of police dogs and fire hoses against the marching protesters, including young adults and children.
- The Supreme Court of the United States rules Birmingham segregation ordinances unconstitutional. Dr. King's book, *Strength to Love*, is published by Harper & Row.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Mathew Ahmann, Executive Director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, in a crowd at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington.



Leaders march from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial during the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963. In the front row, from left are: Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League; Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; A. Philip Randolph, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, American Federation of Labor (AFL), and a former vice president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); Walter P. Reuther, President, United Auto Workers Union; and Arnold Aronson, Secretary of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.



"Property is intended to serve life, and no matter how much we surround it with rights and respect, it has no personal being. It is part of the earth man walks on. It is not man."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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