



The Fight against Racial Discrimination

THE VOICE OF HISTORY

“I would like to be remembered as a person who wants to be free... so other people would also be free.”

Rosa Parks

THE WORDS YOU NEED

Unisci con una freccia il termine alla sua definizione.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| a. To ban | 1. Legal, social, or ethical principles |
| b. To release | 2. The words that someone speaks to an audience |
| c. Rights | 3. To allow a person to leave a prison |
| d. Speeches | 4. To say that something cannot be used or done |

READ AND LISTEN

Discrimination in the United States

In the 1950s and early 1960s, African-Americans did not have the same **civil and political rights** as the white American population, and still suffered from **discrimination**.

This included **racial segregation**: they were denied equal access to public facilities such as public transport and to public places such as theatres, hospitals, hotels, libraries and restaurants.

A sign in Jackson, Mississippi (1961).



Segregated drinking fountain used in the American South.



A civil rights pioneer: Rosa Parks

On December 1, 1955 **Rosa Parks's** act of courage set off a chain of events that changed the United States. In Montgomery (Alabama) Rosa was sitting in her seat on a bus after a hard day's work when the bus driver told her to stand up: a white man had come on board but all the seats were taken. Rosa refused to give up her seat for the white man and was arrested. That night a number of African-American leaders met and decided to boycott the city bus service. One of them was Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** After more than one year of boycott, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the segregation laws in Alabama were **unconstitutional**.

The Civil Rights Act

Martin Luther King became one of the **leading** figures in the civil rights movement. He always asked for **nonviolence** but was arrested several times while leading peaceful protests. In 1963, Martin Luther King contributed to the organization of the famous March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which was attended by over 250,000 people. At this political demonstration King pronounced his well-known «I Have a Dream» speech, which has become one of the most famous speeches in history. One year later, in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act which **banned** segregation and discrimination based on race, gender or nationality. In the same year Martin Luther King was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for fighting racial inequalities through nonviolence.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the quote from his famous speech «I have a dream».

SEGREGATION: separation or isolation of a race, class or ethnic group.

ENDORSEMENT: support, approbation.

TO BOYCOTT: to abstain from using or buying something as an expression of protest.

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH

1. Scegli, per ogni termine, la traduzione corretta.

a. To deny

1. Negare

2. Denigrare

3. Permettere

b. Facilities

1. Facilitazioni

2. Servizi

3. Agevolazioni

c. Libraries

1. Librerie

2. Negozi

3. Biblioteche

d. To be awarded

1. Essere escluso da

2. Essere premiato con

3. Essere avvertito di

e. To release

1. Trattenerne

2. Rilasciare

3. Realizzare

2. Trova nel testo un sinonimo per le seguenti parole.

a. Aim:

b. To prohibit:

c. To persuade:

d. Calm:

e. Injustice:

3. TO KNOW MORE Negli Stati Uniti si festeggia il "Martin Luther King's Day" il terzo lunedì di gennaio. Cerca notizie in internet su questa festività. Che cosa si celebra? Quando fu istituita? Viene osservata in tutti gli Stati?