

# The American Civil Rights Movement

## 1954 Decision

The Civil Rights Movement started in the 1950s. It started after they forbade segregation in schools in 1954. The movement was supported by the NAACP (the national association for the advancement of colored people), the CORE (congress of racial equality and others). Many protests would happen in the 1960s but one of the most important leaders Martin Luther King Jr fought against violence and wanted to protest in a peaceful way, so in 1963 King led the “March on Washington”.

## The March on Washington

The March on Washington was a massive protest march led by Martin Luther King on August 1963, when 250,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It's also known as the March on Washington for jobs and freedom. They wanted to draw the attention to the continuing challenges and inequalities and also the discrimination of colored people.



# The History of Slavery

Slavery was involuntary:

Slaves were captured in war, kidnapped, sold directly by a parent or transferred from one master to another. Children of slaves also became slaves. Slaves had to suffer much and they were longing for freedom, but freedom could only be gained by granting of manumission by the master.

Slavery already started 6000 years ago and throughout the centuries the status of slaves was lowered. The first mass enslavement from a European country was done by the Spanish in the 15th century. They had Indians work for them in their fields but when they died from European diseases in 1517 they had to import slaves from Africa. The first African slaves arrived in north Virginia in 1619. Nearly four million slaves were imported to north America in the by the mid of the 19th century.

There were many different forms of slavery for example productive and domestic slavery. Domestic slaves served in the household and productive slaves were employed to produce marketable goods in mines and on plantations.

The first societies against the slave trade were formed in Britain and USA in the 18th century.

Several proclamations and mass emancipations in the 19th century came to violent resistance. The slaves were discontented with their living conditions.

The slaver permanently ended in 1864 with the 13th Amendment of the constitution which made slavery illegal and gave rights to slaves.

## Civil Rights Act

The Civil Rights Act was first proposed by the 35th president of the USA John F Kennedy. JFK became president in 1961 at age 43. JFK felt strongly about civil rights, one of his famous quotes about civil rights was “this nation for all its hopes and boasts will never be fully free until all its citizens are free”. Sadly, as President Kennedy was visiting Dallas, Texas on November ,22, 1963 he was assassinated while he was only 46 when he passed. Following his death his successor or the 36th President, Lyndon B Johnson, signed the Civil Rights Act on July, 2, 1964. This was a big deal as it immediately ended segregation in public places and banned discrimination of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

## The Voting Right Act

The Voting Right Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965. They wanted to make it legal for African Americans to vote.