



American Conference on DiversitySM

VALUING DIVERSITY, EDUCATING LEADERS, PROMOTING RESPECT

MANY STILL DREAMING FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE

The recent dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C., was to coincide with the 48th anniversary of the historic March on Washington and Dr. King's famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

While the dedication was postponed as the East Coast braced for Hurricane Irene, the forces of nature could only slightly delay the unveiling of the monument to a great and articulate leader who spoke passionately and worked unceasingly to make the dream of equal rights, dignity and opportunity a reality for African-Americans and ultimately, for all of us.

Dr. King's words and his vision still resonate today. Indeed, the dream of justice, equality and the moral value of each person has become a universal truth in a country where each individual is judged by "the content of their character, not the color of their skin." These are words we can-and should -live by to this day.

Dr. King spoke and wrote his words and led the movement before the time of America's great diversity, the time we live in now. Yet the struggle for respect and worth continues for so many now-many African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, the disabled, the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) community and women. These individuals have dreams, too: "Treat me with dignity and respect; give me a chance at my dream."

The value and rights Dr. King fought and died for hold true today for all people. We all owe a debt to Dr. King, whose leadership and message withstand the test of time.

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