

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Campaigns 1955 - 1968

1. The **Montgomery bus boycott** was a political and social protest campaign against the policy of racial segregation on the public transit system of Montgomery, Alabama. The campaign lasted from December 5, 1955 — the Monday after Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, was arrested for refusing to surrender her seat to a white person — to December 20, 1956

2. The **Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom**, or **Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington**, was a 1957 demonstration in Washington, D.C., an early event in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. It was the occasion for Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Give Us the Ballot* speech.

3. The **Youth March for Integrated Schools** was the second of two Youth Marches that rallied in Washington, D.C. The second march occurred on April 18, 1959 at the National Sylvan Theater and was attended by an estimated 26,000 individuals. Speeches were delivered by Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Charles S. Zimmerman.

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4. The **Albany Movement** was a desegregation and voters' rights coalition formed in Albany, Georgia, in November 1961. Local black leaders and ministers, as well as members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded the group. In December 1961, at the request of some senior leaders of The Albany Movement, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) became involved in assisting the Albany group with organizing protests and demonstrations meant to draw attention to the continued and often brutally enforced racial segregation practices in Southwest Georgia. However, many leaders in SNCC were fundamentally opposed to King and the SCLC's involvement, as they felt a more democratic grassroots approach aimed at long-term solutions was preferable for the area than King's tendency towards short-term, authoritatively-run organizing.

5. The **Birmingham campaign**, or **Birmingham movement**, was a movement organized in early 1963 by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to bring attention to the integration efforts of African Americans in Birmingham, Alabama.

6. The **Walk to Freedom** was a mass march during the Civil Rights Movement on June 23, 1963 in Detroit, Michigan. It drew crowds of an estimated 125,000 or more and was known as "the largest civil rights demonstration in the nation's history" up to that date.

7. The **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**, the **March on Washington**, or **The Great March on Washington**, was held in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, August 28, 1963. The purpose of the march was to advocate for the civil and economic rights of African Americans. At the march, Martin Luther King Jr., standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial, delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech in which he called for an end to racism.

8. The **St. Augustine movement** was a part of the wider Civil Rights Movement in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1963–1964. It was a major event in the city's long history and had a role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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9. The **Selma to Montgomery marches** were three protest marches, held in 1965, along the 54-mile (87 km) highway from Selma, Alabama, to the state capital of Montgomery. The marches were organized by nonviolent activists to demonstrate the desire of African-American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote, in defiance of segregationist repression; they were part of a broader voting rights movement underway in Selma and throughout the American South. By highlighting racial injustice, they contributed to passage that year of the Voting Rights Act, a landmark federal achievement of the civil rights movement.

10. The **Chicago Freedom Movement**, also known as the **Chicago open housing movement**, was the most ambitious civil rights campaign in the North of the United States, lasted from mid-1965 to August 1966, and is largely credited with inspiring the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

11. The **March Against Fear** was a major 1966 demonstration in the Civil Rights Movement in the South. Activist James Meredith launched the event on June 5, 1966, intending to make a solitary walk from Memphis, TN, to Jackson, MS, a distance of 220 miles, to counter the continuing racism in the Mississippi Delta after passage of federal civil rights legislation in the previous two years and to encourage African Americans in the state to register to vote. He invited only

individual black men to join him and did not want it to be a large media event dominated by major civil rights organizations.

12. The **Memphis sanitation strike** began in February 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. Following years of poor pay and dangerous working conditions, and provoked by the crushing to death of workers Echol Cole and Robert Walker in garbage compactors, over 700 of the 1,300 black sanitation workers met on Sunday, February 11, and agreed to strike. The sanitation strike was also the reason for Martin Luther King Jr.'s presence in Memphis, where he was assassinated.

13. The **Poor People's Campaign**, or **Poor People's March on Washington**, was a 1968 effort to gain economic justice for poor people in the United States. It was organized by Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and carried out under the leadership of Ralph Abernathy in the wake of King's assassination.

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