

# Coretta Scott King

In the fight for equal rights for all people, Coretta Scott King was a hero. Coretta grew up in a small town in Alabama. There, she saw people discriminate



against her family because they were African American.

Coretta wanted to help end that discrimination, so she joined a local civil rights group. While she was at college studying music, a friend introduced her to Martin Luther King, Jr. They soon found that they shared a strong interest in civil rights.

After they were married, Coretta looked for ways to combine her background in music with Martin's work in civil rights. For example, while her husband gave speeches, Coretta held Freedom Concerts to raise money for and interest in civil rights. Sometimes, Coretta and Martin were able to attend protest marches and give speeches at the same event.

Coretta and Martin wanted to show people that discrimination and social injustice existed in America.

They insisted that the best way to bring equal rights to all Americans was through nonviolent acts. They spoke against violence, saying that peaceful means were the best way to achieve their goal. They marched, spoke, and sang about civil rights.

After Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Coretta continued their work. To honor her late husband, Coretta founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. This center now teaches more than one million visitors each year about nonviolence and about the civil rights movement. Coretta also made sure that Martin's work is remembered at least once a year by working to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

Over the years, Coretta met with civil rights leaders all around the world and worked with them to bring peace to their countries. Her goal was the same as her husband's: to make sure that all people can live in safety and in freedom.



Image of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. This image was released into public domain by the New York World-Telegram & Sun.

