

Quotes on Racial Justice

“A loving person lives in a loving world.
A hostile person lives in a hostile world.
Everyone you meet is your mirror”.

Ken Keyes, Jr.

“A Rattlesnake, if cornered will become so angry it will bite itself. That is exactly what the harboring of hate and resentment against others is -- a biting of oneself. We think we are harming others in holding these spites and hates, but the deeper harm is to ourselves.”

E. Stanley Jones

“A riot is the language of the unheard.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Accomplishments have no color.”

Leontyne Price

“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“At the heart of racism is the religious assertion that God made a creative mistake when He brought some people into being”

Friedrich Otto Hertz

“Collective fear stimulates herd instinct, and tends to produce ferocity toward those who are not regarded as members of the herd.”

Bertrand Russell

“For it isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“For those who have seen the Earth from space, and for the hundreds and perhaps thousands more who will, the experience most certainly changes your perspective. The things that we share in our world are far more valuable than those which divide us.”

Donald Williams

“I am where I am because of the bridges that I crossed. Sojourner Truth was a bridge. Harriet Tubman was a bridge. Ida B. Wells was a bridge. Madame C.J. Walker was a bridge. Fannie Lou Hamer was a bridge.”

Oprah Winfrey

“I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends.”

Abraham Lincoln

“I hate racial discrimination most intensely and all its manifestations. I have fought all my life; I fight now, and will do so until the end of my days. Even although I now happen to be tried by one, whose opinion I hold in high esteem, I detest most.”

Nelson Mandela

“I keep my ideals, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

Anne Frank

“I look at an ant and I see myself: a native South African, endowed by nature with a strength much greater than my size so I might cope with the weight of a racism that crushes my spirit.”

Miyamoto Musashi

"I plan to stand by nonviolence, because I have found it to be a philosophy of life that regulates not only my dealings in the struggle for racial justice, but also my dealings with people, and with my own self."

Martin Luther King Jr.

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I wish they would only take me as I am."

Vincent Van Gogh

"I would like to believe that the discovery of even a single fossil bacteria on Mars would teach us what we ought to know all along, and that is what binds us here on earth - all the diverse peoples here - is really much more profound than what seems to separate us."

Richard Berendzen

"Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together."

Eugene Ionesco

"If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work."

Thich Nhat Hanh

"If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you recognize that your liberation and mine are bound up together, we can walk together."

Lila Watson

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room."

Anita Koddick

"If you want peace, work for justice."

Pope Paul VI

"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

Moshe Dayan

"Ignorance is stubborn and prejudice is hard."

Adlai E. Stevenson

"In today's climate in our country, which is sickened with the pollution of pollution, threatened with the prominence of AIDS, riddled with burgeoning racism, rife with growing huddles of homeless, we need art and we need art in all forms. We need all methods of art to be present, everywhere present, and all the time present."

Maya Angelou

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It belongs to the very substance of nonviolence never to destroy or damage another person's feeling of self worth, even an opponent's."

Bernard Haring

“It is clear that the way to heal society of its violence . . . and lack of love is to replace the pyramid of domination with the circle of equality and respect.”

Manitonquat

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Robert F. Kennedy

“It is never too late to give up your prejudices.”

Henry David Thoreau

“Justice is truth in action.”

Benjamin Disraeli

“Laundry is the only thing that should be separated by color.”

Author Unknown

“Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away, and that in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Life’s most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Man is the only creature that refuses to be what he is.”

Albert Camus

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

“No future without forgiveness.”

Bishop Desmond Tutu

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.”

John Donne

“No matter how big a nation is, it is no stronger than its weakest people, and as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you might otherwise.”

Marian Anderson

“Nothing can be more absurd than the practice that prevails in our country of men and women not following the same pursuits with all their strengths and with one mind, for thus, the state instead of being whole is reduced to half.”

Plato

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

Franklin Thomas

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict -- alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence.”

Dorothy Thompson

“People only see what they are prepared to see.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Prejudice is an opinion without judgment.”

Voltaire

“Prejudice, not being founded on reason, cannot be removed by argument.”

Samuel Johnson

“Prejudices are the props of civilization.”

Andre Gide

“Racial superiority is a mere pigment of the imagination.”

Author Unknown

“Racism is man’s gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason.”

Abraham Heschel

“Seeing is not always believing.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The longer we listen to one another - with real attention - the more commonality we will find in all our lives. That is, if we are careful to exchange with one another life stories and not simply opinions.”

Barbara Deming

“The one place where a man ought to get a square deal is in a courtroom, be he any color of the rainbow, but people have a way of carrying their resentments right into a jury box. As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it - whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash.”

Harper Lee

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The ultimate measure of a person is not where one stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where one stands in times of challenge and controversy.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The very ink with which all history is written is merely fluid prejudice.”

Mark Twain

“There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“To be Negro in America is to hope against hope.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.”

Confucius

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness.”

Mark Twain

“Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral. It is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than to convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Violence will only increase the cycle of violence.”

Dalai Lama

“We all decry prejudice, yet are all prejudiced.”

Herbert Spencer

“We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.”

Anne Frank

“We are convinced that non-violence is more powerful than violence. If you use violence, you have to sell part of yourself for that violence. Then you are no longer a master of your own struggle.”

Cesar Chavez

“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“When I tell the truth, it is not for the sake of convincing those who do not know it, but for the sake of defending those that do.”

William Blake

“When will our conscience grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“Where there is no hope there can be no endeavor.”

Samuel Johnson

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”

Anthony J. D'Angelo

“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”

Indira Gandhi

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad.”

Aldous Huxley