

## Voices in the Fight for Social Justice (1960-1965)

1. *"I think we just delivered the South to the Republican Party."*  
**President Lyndon Johnson** on July 3, 1964 after signing the Civil Rights Act
2. *"All of this is on account we want to register, to become first-class citizens, and if the Freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America . . ."* **Fannie Lou Hamer**, Voting rights activist, organizer of Mississippi Freedom Summer, and Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, speaking to Democratic convention delegates, 1964
3. *"It is therefore a cruel irony that the President of the United States has only yesterday signed into law the most monstrous piece of legislation ever enacted by the United States Congress. It is a fraud, a sham, and a hoax."*  
**Alabama Governor George Wallace**, July 4, 1964
4. *Neshoba County has had a reputation for being so volatile that it has been nicknamed "Bloody Neshoba," and many experienced civil rights workers, for very good reason, declined to work in that territory."*  
**Rits L. Schwerner**, wife of Michael Schwerner, July 1964
5. *"This is why I say it's the ballot or the bullet. It's liberty or it's death. It's freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody."*  
**Malcolm X**, April 1964
6. *"The workshops in nonviolence made the difference... the philosophy... the tactics, the techniques, how to... take the blows and still respond with... dignity."* **Reverend C. T. Vivian**, Nashville Activist, 1960
7. *"First of all, Mayor West, do you feel that it's wrong to discriminate against a person solely on the basis of his race or color?"*  
**Diane Nash**, SNCC student leader, Nashville, 1960

8. *"For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant never."* **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", 1963
9. *"I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick... I thought I saw death."* **John Lewis**, SNCC Activist, Selma to Montgomery March, 1965
10. *"We preach freedom around the world . . . but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other, that this is the land of the free except for Negroes?"*  
**President John F. Kennedy**, Televised Address, June 11, 1963
11. *"We intend to make it difficult, if not impossible, for a Negro who advocates desegregation to find and hold a job, get credit, or renew a mortgage."* **Alabama White Citizens Council Member**
12. *"THIS IS SELMA, ALABAMA. THERE ARE MORE NEGROES IN JAIL WITH ME THAN THERE ARE ON THE VOTING ROLLS."*  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, SCLC President, Selma to Montgomery March, 1965
13. *"But this differences in leadership then led to differences in style or work."* **James Forman**, SNCC leader, Selma to Montgomery March, 1965

14. *"My wife died for a sacred battle, the rights of humanity. She had one concern and only one in mind. She took a quote from Abraham Lincoln that all men are created equal and that's the way she believed."*  
**Anthony Liuzzo**, husband of Viola Liuzzo, Michigan housewife and activist, Selma to Montgomery March, 1965
15. *"Strong people don't need strong leaders."*  
**Ella Baker**, Executive Director of the SCLC, key advisor to SNCC
16. *"Tell them about the dream, Martin!"*  
**Mahalia Jackson**, gospel singer and civil rights activist, at the March on Washington
17. *"Through those songs, I learned things about the history of black people in this country that the historians in school had not been willing to tell us about or had lied about."*  
**Odetta Holmes**, folk singer and activist at the March on Washington, 1963
18. **"You don't have to live next to me  
Just give me my equality  
Everybody knows about Mississippi  
Everybody knows about Alabama  
Everybody knows about Mississippi Goddam"**  
**Nina Simone**, singer, songwriter, pianist, civil rights activist
19. *"Freedom has never been free . . . I love my children and I love my wife with all my heart. And I would die, and die gladly, if that would make a better life for them."*  
**Medgar Evers**, Mississippi NAACP Field Representative, leader of the desegregation campaign in Jackson, Mississippi

20. *"The best thing you can do is to be a woman and stand before the world and speak your heart."*

**Abbey Lincoln**, entertainer and civil rights activist

21. *" . . . Every person in this community who has in any way contributed during the past several years to the popularity of hatred, is at least as guilty, or more so, than the demented fool who threw that bomb."*

**Charles Morgan**, white Alabama lawyer, Birmingham, Alabama, September 16, 1963

22. **"I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."**

**Fannie Lou Hamer**, voting rights activist

23. *"We've had a great change. Dr. King saw to that. I was so grateful to see the 'colored only' signs come off the water fountains and bathrooms in the south. But the struggle lives on."*

**Mavis Staples**, rhythm and blues and gospel singer, civil rights activist

24. *"The most powerful person in the struggle of the sixties was Miss Ella Baker, not Martin Luther King."*

**Stokely Carmichael**, full-time SNCC organizer in Mississippi

25. *"We can't count on adults. Very few . . . are not afraid of the tremendous pressure they will face. This leaves the young people to be organizers, the agents of social and political change."*

**Robert Parris Moses**, SNCC leader of Mississippi voter education and registration efforts

26. *“By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities.”*  
**Reverend James Lawson**, “SNCC Statement of Purpose”, May 14, 1960
27. *“These children—unoffending, innocent, and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity.”*  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, “Eulogy for the Martyred Children”, September, 18, 1963
28. *“Our bodies, numbering over 100,000 will bear witness- will serve historic notice that Jobs and Freedom are needed NOW.”*  
**Bayard Rustin**, “Why We March” from “Organizing Manual No. 2”, March on Washington, 1965