

THANKS AND CREDITS

Massive thanks to everyone who helped create the exhibition – researchers, writers, curators, copyright searchers, audio-visuals editor, artists, poets, teachers, historians, musicians, singers, advisers, students, fundraisers, volunteers, evaluators, patrons, producers, film makers, designers and contractors and to those who gave us their stories.

Due diligence has been taken to attribute photographs, audio-visual material and quotations correctly where possible. All credit to the original artists, speakers and photographers. Special thanks to Richard L. Copley for his generosity.

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Eternal thanks to our funders and partners:



And to all our supporters, individuals and organisations too many to name here.

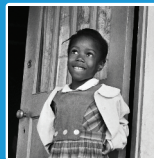
Everyone who gave to our crowd funding campaign and since – thank you for your generosity - from the bottom of our hearts.

THE US CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1950s AND 1960s

1955

- 1 1955 – Murder of Emmett Till, Money, Mississippi.
- 2 1955-56 – Montgomery Bus Boycott, Montgomery, Alabama.
- 3 1957 – ‘Little Rock Nine’, African American students challenged segregated schooling and met massive resistance, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 4 1960 – Greensboro sit-ins, Greensboro, North Carolina and the founding of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee).

Ruby Bridges & Barbara Henry, school integration, William Frantz Elementary School, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1960.



RUBY BRIDGES

- 5 1961 – Freedom rides to challenge segregated buses and facilities.
- 6 1962 – James Meredith’s admittance to the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi.

Bayard Rustin, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Washington DC, 1963.



BAYARD RUSTIN

- 7 1963 – Martin Luther King and ‘The Letter from Birmingham Jail’, Birmingham, Alabama.

Janice Wesley and the Birmingham Children’s Crusade, Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.



JANICE WESLEY

- 8 1963 – Murder of Medgar Evers, Jackson, Mississippi.
- 9 April 1964 – Malcolm X ‘Ballot or the Bullet’ speech, formally advocating use of self-defence and Black Nationalism, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 10 1964 – Mississippi Freedom Summer, voter registration project, Mississippi, USA.

Marcia Heinemann Saunders, voter registration, Fayette County, Tennessee, 1964.



MARCIA HEINEMANN SAUNDERS

- 11 June 1964 – Murder of Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney (voting rights activists), Neshoba County, Mississippi.
- 12 1964 – Civil Rights Act signed, Washington DC.
- 13 1964 – Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights leader, addresses Democratic National Convention, New Jersey.
- 14 February 1965 – Assassination of Malcolm X, Audobon Ballroom, New York City.
- 15 1965 – Watts riots, Los Angeles.
- 16 1965 – Selma to Montgomery Marches leading to 1965 Voting Rights Act, Selma/Montgomery, Alabama.
- 17 1965 – Lowndes County Freedom Organisation (LCFO) formed (inspiration for Black Panther Party), Lowndes County, Mississippi.

- 18 1966 – NWRO (National Welfare Rights Organisation) founded, joined by Jean Stallings, New York City.

- 19 April 1967 – Dr. King’s ‘A Time to Break Silence’ speech, Riverside Church, New York City.

Elmore and Peggy Nickleberry, Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike, Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.



ELMORE & PEGGY NICKLEBERRY

- 20 April 1968 – Assassination of Martin Luther King, Lorraine Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee.

- 21 1968 – Poor People’s Campaign planned to take activists to Washington DC.

1968

Thanks to www.thefilmSPACE.org for their help



Memphis sanitation workers' strike, 1968 © Ernest C. Withers

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

LEARNING FROM HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS PAST AND PRESENT



WHO ARE WE?

Journey to Justice is an alliance of educators, artists, historians, trade unionists, youth and community groups, human rights and faith organisations which inspires and empowers people to take action for social justice through learning about human rights movements.

The National Welfare Rights Organization marching to end hunger as part of the Poor People's Campaign, 1968

Jack Rottier photograph collection, Collection #C0003, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE: THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition introduces you to people at the forefront of the US civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and others who were part of human rights campaigns in the UK – some of them famous, some unknown.

Read their stories and then take a seat at our lunch counter and share your thoughts and opinions.

In the 'bus stop' panels of the exhibition, you will meet **Ruby Bridges**, the first black child to take her place at an all-white elementary school in the southern states, and **Elmore and Peggy Nickleberry**, who campaigned for the rights of sanitation workers in Memphis with Martin Luther King. You'll meet **Janice Wesley**, who, at 16, protested in the Birmingham Children's Crusade, **Bayard Rustin**, who organised the March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs and Jean Stallings, a black single mother who joined the National Welfare Rights Organisation which was linked to the Poor People's Campaign. You'll also meet **Marcia Heinemann Saunders**, who joined the Voter Registration campaign in Tennessee, and **The Greensboro Four**, famous for their sit-in at a 'whites-only' lunch counter in Woolworths, North Carolina. You'll read about links between the UK and the US civil rights movement, reminding us of the long history of struggles for human rights and freedom which were and are fought all over the UK.

“Some of the battles were won because innocent blood was shed. We paid a price for the freedoms that were obtained; some of us were bitten by dogs, some were hosed, many others were jailed. Six innocent young people died. Freedom was not free.”

- Janice Wesley



Sojourner Truth (1787 – 1883)

BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1950s AND 60s

Led by black Americans and building on resistance that began with slavery, the civil rights movement was made up of thousands of people and organisations, sometimes divided in their methods but united in their aim: to fight against the oppression, savage violence and attacks on black people that had persisted for hundreds of years. We remember Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, W.E. B. du Bois and Paul Robeson and many others whose names are not recorded but whose unimaginable courage inspired generations of people to take a stand against the vicious racism they faced.



Claudia Jones and Pearl Prescod lead a march against racism from Ladbrooke Grove to the US embassy in London, August 31st, 1963. They sang 'We Shall Overcome' in solidarity with the March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs. Photograph by John 'Hoppy' Hopkins, 1963

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

What can we learn from the civil rights movement? What makes a human rights movement succeed or fail? From the stories told here, we have identified many factors: inspiration, courage, perseverance, the importance of solidarity and allies, education, faith, leadership, tactics, music, tipping point, collective power, funding and the use of media. Can you think of any others? Please write down your thoughts in our feedback area.

MUSIC

Music is at the heart of protest. All the civil rights activists we feature talk about music - singing in church, in meetings or on the way to protests. They say it gave them strength and hope and a sense of solidarity:

“Without music, the civil rights movement would have been a bird without wings.”





- John Lewis, leader of the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC)

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

True equality and freedom for all have still not been achieved in the US: 'Everything has changed and nothing has changed.' (Gary Younge) The civil rights movement remains a universal symbol for those who struggle for human rights on every continent. We know that change can happen led by people like us.

JOIN US

For more information, to follow our work, join us or make a donation, visit us at:

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“Nobody’s free until everybody’s free... There is one thing you have got to learn about our movement. Three people are better than no people.”

- Fannie Lou Hamer, sharecropper and civil rights leader

Police lead school children to jail. Birmingham, Alabama, May 4th 1963.

Photograph © Bill Hudson/AP