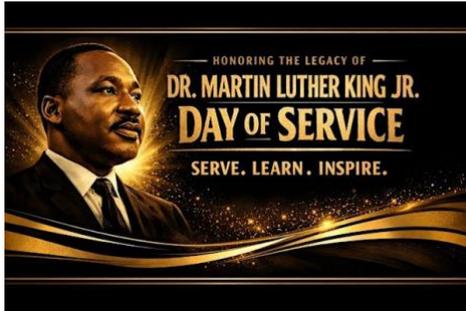




Indian Diaspora Council International
Shared heritage, aspirations and interests
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PRESS STATEMENT

January 15, 2026 (EST-USA)



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates proudly join organizations, officials, individuals, and institutions across the USA and worldwide in honoring the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** as we commemorate the 97th anniversary of his birth.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." — **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Following Dr. King's **assassination in 1968**, calls to honor his legacy began almost immediately. Years of public advocacy followed—including a **nationwide campaign** led by his wife, Coretta Scott King, and musician Stevie Wonder, whose 1980 song "Happy Birthday" became an anthem for the cause. The holiday is observed on the **third Monday of January**, close to Dr. King's birthday on January 15. The date follows the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, passed by Congress in 1968.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed to recognize Dr. King's **contributions to the civil rights movement** and his role in advancing equality, voting rights, and nonviolent social change in the United States. When signing the legislation that established the holiday in 1983, **President Ronald Reagan** stated: "*Our nation has decided to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by setting aside a day each year to remember him and the just cause he stood for.*"

Americans observe the holiday in many ways, often focused on remembrance, education, and service. This day encourages Americans to participate in volunteer activities that **support and strengthen their communities**. Many people mark the day by attending commemorative events, engaging in service projects, or learning more about Dr. King's work and its historical impact.

Dr. King's teachings remain deeply relevant today. In 2026, the fight for **voting rights, social justice, and racial equality** continues to shape national and global conversations. His vision of equality and nonviolence guides efforts to build a fair and inclusive society. Recent progress—greater minority representation in leadership, historic government appointments, and growing advocacy for equity—shows steps toward that vision. While challenges persist, the pursuit of justice and equality remains steadfast.

*Dr. King's teachings continue to guide us in addressing today's challenges and advancing human rights for all. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to building the **Beloved Community**, where peace, equity, and dignity prevail*
-Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage, and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations, and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.