

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

**SAVE YOUR SIX**

TITLE VI PROTECTIONS AT SCHOOL



# A Brief History of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VI

## TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

“ No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. ”

# Roots in Reconstruction

Following the Civil War, three Reconstruction era amendments to the U.S. Constitution were passed to abolish slavery and establish civil and legal rights for Black Americans.

In 1865 the 13th amendment ended slavery and involuntary servitude.

Three years later, in 1868, the 14th Amendment gave citizenship to anyone born or naturalized in the United States, including formerly enslaved people, and guaranteed equal protection under the law.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed prohibiting governments from denying citizens the right to vote based on race, color or previous condition of servitude. Title VI is made possible by these constitutional amendments.



# The 14th Amendment became the basis for many landmark Supreme Court decisions over the years.

The 14th amendment was the basis for *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended segregation in schools. Title VI is also central to *Roe v. Wade*, guaranteeing abortion rights. The fight for Title VI was a part of the early Civil Rights Movement.

## Brown v. Board of Education



Ending School Segregation **1954**



## Roe v. Wade



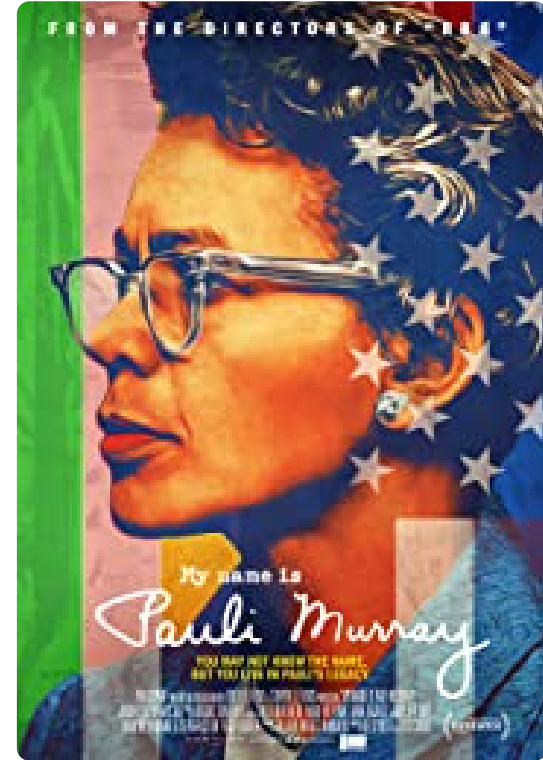
Guaranteeing Abortion Rights **1973**

# Shout Out To Pauli Murray

## 1910–1985

Pauli Murray, whose 1950 book “States’ Laws on Race and Color” was central to Thurgood Marshall’s landmark case *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Pauli’s work on the 1971 brief *Reed vs. Reed* is also essential to Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s work that led to Title IX. Pauli Murray endured gaslighting, silencing and erasure of their work in male and white spaces. They also likely would have identified as a gender non conforming person if we had had this language during their lifetime. To learn more about this often overlooked civil rights pioneer, watch the powerful film “My Name is Pauli Murray.”

- ★ **Civil Rights lawyer**
- ★ **Poet**
- ★ **Human rights activist**
- ★ **Authored the, *States’ Laws on Race and Color*, “The Bible” of the civil rights movement**
- ★ **Co-author of a brief on RBG’s landmark 1971 case *Reed v. Reed***



Watch “My Name is Pauli Murray”

# Unfulfilled Promises

## The rise of the Civil Rights Movement, The fight for the Civil Rights Act & SNCC

By the 1960s, the civil and legal rights promised during Reconstruction remained unfulfilled as structural racism continually violated the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. The Civil Rights movement, itself, is a direct result of Reconstruction-era Amendments not having been fulfilled. It is notable that this movement was powered by youth and youth activism.

## The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee



The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee or (SNCC) was founded in April 1960, by young people dedicated to nonviolent, direct action tactics. This became the blueprint for all social justice action movements in this country, including Women's Equality, Pride, ACTUP!, Black Lives Matter and so on.

- ★ **The sit-in movement** began in February 1960 when four Black American students from North Carolina A&T State University sat down at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- ★ **Freedom Rides** were coordinated in 1961 by both SNCC and the **Congress of Racial Equality** (CORE), which sought to challenge the non-enforcement of Supreme Court decisions that desegregated interstate bus travel.
- ★ **Voter Registration Drives:** Throughout the early 1960s, SNCC activists worked on grassroots campaigns in the Deep South, especially Mississippi, to register Black voters.
- ★ **Vietnam War Opposition:** By the mid-1960s, under the leadership of figures like **Stokely Carmichael** (Kwame Ture), SNCC began to take a more radical turn. It became one of the first major civil rights groups to oppose the Vietnam War.
- ★ **Black Power:** SNCC's evolution also involved embracing the idea of Black Power, a term popularized by Carmichael during the **Meredith March Against Fear in 1966**.

# SNCC Leaders



**Fanny Lou Hamer**

Fanny Lou Hamer was a powerful civil rights leader, she consistently fought for voting rights, women's rights, economic justice, and Black empowerment, and her deep influence among a generation of Black activists cannot be overstated.



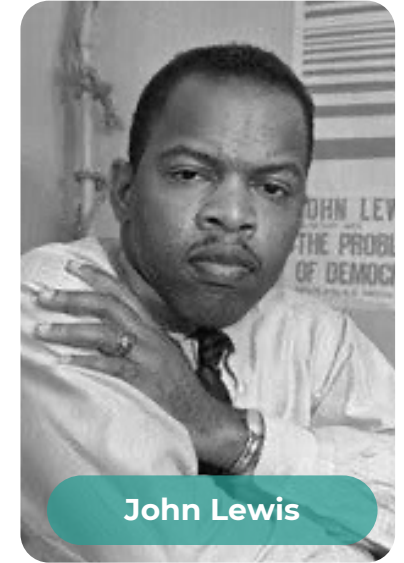
**Julian Bond**

Julian Bond was one of several hundred students who formed SNCC. He soon became the communications director. Bond also edited the SNCC newsletter, which was called the Student Voice and helped found the Southern Poverty Law Center.



**Diane Nash**

Diane Nash was a leading architect of the sit-in movement in Nashville, Tennessee and became one of the most esteemed student leaders and organizers of the time.



**John Lewis**

John Lewis, at age 21, was chair of SNCC and led the Freedom Rides. At age 23, he spoke at the March on Washington. Many of his quotes continue to guide our work today, as we engage in the “good and necessary trouble” that he spoke of with such passion and conviction.

# Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was a prominent civil rights organization founded in 1957 in the South. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. served as its first president. The SCLC, committed to nonviolent civil disobedience, played a pivotal role in major civil rights events like the Birmingham Campaign, the March on Washington, and the Selma to Montgomery marches. Its efforts contributed significantly to changes in segregation laws and practices. After Dr. King's assassination in 1968, the SCLC faced challenges but continued its advocacy.



- ★ **The Birmingham Campaign (1963)**, was a series of civil rights protests in 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama, led by the SCLC and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Its aim was to challenge the city's strict racial segregation.
- ★ **The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)**, where Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech
- ★ **The Selma to Montgomery marches (1965)** which highlighted the need for voting rights protection and culminated in the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965



# SCLC Leaders



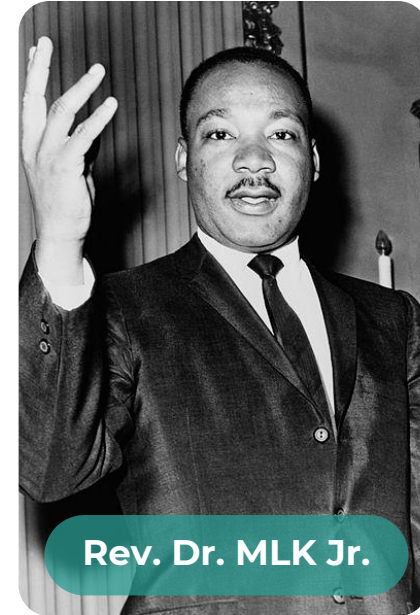
**Ella J. Baker**

Ella J. Baker served as NAACP field secretary and later as its director of branches.



**Bayard Rustin**

Bayard Rustin was the organizer behind the 1963 March on Washington. Throughout his life, Rustin was a labor activist and gay rights activist.



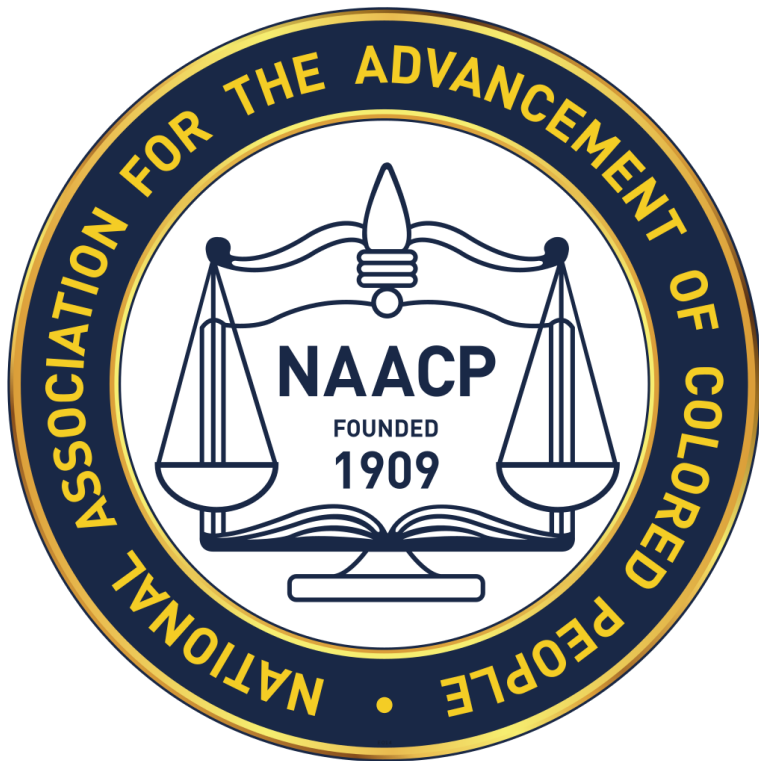
**Rev. Dr. MLK Jr.**

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr needs no introduction, as his influence can be seen in social justice movements worldwide.

**A Note on MLK:** There has been a concerted effort to dilute his message. We encourage everyone to do their own research on the radical nature of MLK. At the time of his death, **he was not supported by 2/3rds of the public, was considered the most dangerous man in the America by the FBI, and was deeply engaged in speaking out about the “3 evils” of militarism, capitalism, and racism.** His work on labor justice as a founder of the Poor People’s Campaign is seen as a primary factor in his assassination, due to a fear of the power of a massive, nationwide labor movement by BIPOC and especially Black, essential workers.

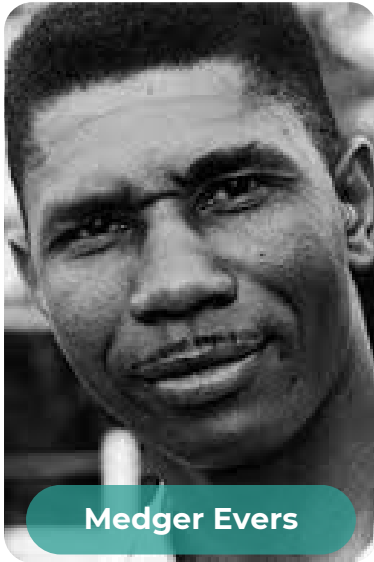
# National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 to combat racial violence and discrimination in the U.S. Key founders included **W.E.B. Du Bois** and **Ida B. Wells**. The organization played a crucial role in legal battles against segregation, most notably in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case in 1954. During the Civil Rights Movement, the NAACP advocated for legislation and supported protests against racial injustice. Post-1960s, it addressed housing, employment, and voting rights.



- ★ **One of the earliest focuses of the NAACP was combating lynching.** The organization lobbied for federal anti-lynching laws, although these efforts were repeatedly stymied in Congress.
- ★ **The NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF)** was instrumental in a series of landmark cases. One of the most significant was *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

# NAACP Leaders



Medger Evers

**Medger Evers** was the first field secretary for the NAACP and a prominent activist and organizer. He played a key role in utilizing the NAACP to publicize and bring to justice the case of the August 1955 murder of 14 year old **Emmett Till**. Medgar Evers was assassinated in front of his Jackson, Mississippi, home in 1963.



Rosa Parks

**Rosa Parks'** act of defiance—though not the first time someone had defied public transportation segregation—was instrumental in the year long Montgomery Bus Boycott. The federal lawsuit *Browder v. Gayle* resulted in a November 1956 decision that bus segregation is unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment. Although widely honored in later years, we must remember Parks' sacrifices, as she was fired from her job, and received death threats for years afterwards.

# Our Legacy

**The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were intended to uphold and protect the civil and legal rights guaranteed to Black Americans through the Reconstruction Amendments.**

The legacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was created by Black people who sacrificed for all Americans. Over 40 Black and accomplice ally lives were given on the road to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We must uphold and protect Title VI for them, for us and for future generations.

For perspective, there are many components of the Civil Rights Act.

**Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs.**

## The Civil Rights Act of 1964: Title VI

**Title I** Voting Rights

**Title II** Public Accommodations

**Title III** Desegregation of Public Facilities

**Title IV** Desegregation of Public Education

**Title V** Commission on Civil Rights

**Title VI** **Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs**

**Title VII** Equal Employment Opportunity

**Title VIII** Registration and voting Statistics

**Title IX** Intervention and Removal of Cases

**Title X** Community Relations Service

**Title XI** Miscellaneous – gives a defendant accused of certain categories of criminal contempt in a matter arising under title II, III, IV, V, VI, or VII of the Act the right to a jury trial.

# Title VI: Our Legacy

The federal departments and programs that are required to uphold Title VI.

Save Your Six advocates for and educates about Title VI in Education!

Title VI prevents discrimination by programs and activities that receive federal funds. If a recipient of federal funds is found in violation of Title VI, that recipient may lose its federal funding.

	Department of Justice		Department of Education
	Department of Homeland Security		Department of Labor
	Environmental Protection Agency		Department of Transportation
	National Aeronautics and Space Administration		Department of Agriculture
	Department of Housing & Urban Development		Department of Health & Human Services
	Department of the Treasury		

# A Note on Title VI & The First Amendment:

It's important to mention that the First Amendment has historically been used as an argument and excuse to avoid addressing racial harassment and discrimination in schools. "Political" statements on clothing and other personal items with racist connotations that students bring to school or post online can be used as a way to intimidate and harass BIPOC students who feel targeted because of the racist overtones of this symbolism and messaging. Parents and students who don't want to be told that they cannot bring this kind of clothing to school may try say this infringes on their student's 1st amendment rights. This is 100% false.

Feel free to utilize this direct language from the OCR as you remind schools and districts of their responsibilities as federally funded institutions. ***"Free speech, when it is discriminatory and based on race, creates a hostile learning environment for students. Schools have an obligation to respond and address it."***

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"OCR has consistently reaffirmed that the Federal civil rights laws it enforces protect students from prohibited discrimination, and are not intended to restrict expressive activities or speech protected under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

**The fact that discriminatory harassment involves speech, however, does not relieve the school of its obligation to respond if the speech contributes to a hostile environment.**

**Schools can protect students from such harassment without running afoul of students' and staff First Amendment rights."** - US Department of Education, OCR