



# NEWS

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## *Historic March on Washington: United Front Demands Jobs, Freedom, and End to Segregation*

The August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was driven by the marchers' calls for fair wages, better job opportunities, and an end to hiring discrimination. At the same time, protesters demanded stronger federal laws to end segregation in schools, outlaw discrimination in employment and public places, and secure voting rights for African Americans.

The march was organized by a coalition of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations. Key figures included A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, the march's chief organizer and strategist, Martin Luther King Jr., along with the other leaders of the Big Six—John Lewis, James Farmer, Whitney Young, and Roy Wilkins—played crucial roles in rallying support. Labor unions, especially the AFL-CIO, and religious groups provided vital backing, focusing on both economic justice and racial equality. Additionally, Stanley Levison, an advisor to Dr. King, helped craft portions of his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, alongside Clarence Jones, who assisted in writing key sections.

Together, these leaders and organizations united to peacefully protest for civil rights. It's estimated that 200,000-300,000 people marched on Washington, helping to pass breakthrough civil rights legislation in 1964 and 1965. The march also served as a powerful display of public support for President Kennedy's proposed civil rights legislation. The marchers hoped to pressure both Congress and the President to take immediate action on racial inequality. Ultimately, it helped pave the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which aimed to eliminate barriers to voting for African Americans.

