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August 20, 2013

Dear fellow Ohioans,

This month marks a landmark in American history. On Aug. 28, 1963, the March on Washington culminated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and Governor John R. Kasich, together with The King Center in Atlanta and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coalition, are calling on people and organizations throughout the state of Ohio to pause to remember, reflect and act upon the dream that Dr. King shared with the world 50 years ago. Please join in "Let Freedom Ring" bell-ringing events at 3 p.m. on Aug. 28, a half-century to the minute after Dr. King delivered his historic address.

THE TIME: 3 p.m. EST

THE DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013

WHO: Individuals, groups, organizations and religious places of worship, in every village and city throughout Ohio

### YOUR REGISTRATION:

Please register your "Let Freedom Ring" commemoration with The King Center at:

[www.eventbrite.com/event/7705309789](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7705309789)

(Please include the location, address, city, state, and contact person's name and email.)

GUIDELINES: The suggested guidelines for the bell-ringing from The King Center are attached.

For more information about the "Let Freedom Ring" bell-ringing, visit the official website for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at <http://officialmlkdream50.com> or email Bobbi Bell, Ohio MLK Commission liaison, at [bobbi.bell@das.ohio.gov](mailto:bobbi.bell@das.ohio.gov).

"...when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: *Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!*"

Respectfully yours,

Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

William T. Green, Chair  
Rev. Joel L. King, Jr., Vice Chair  
Rabbi Harold Berman  
Dr. Fannie L. Brown  
David Jehnsen

Ron Mosby  
Rev. Lorenzo Norris  
Rep. Barbara Sears  
Sen. Nina Turner  
Angela Shute Woodson

## Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

c/o Equal Opportunity Division  
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Anniversary of March On Washington

# 'LET FREEDOM RING' BELL-RINGING COMMEMORATION

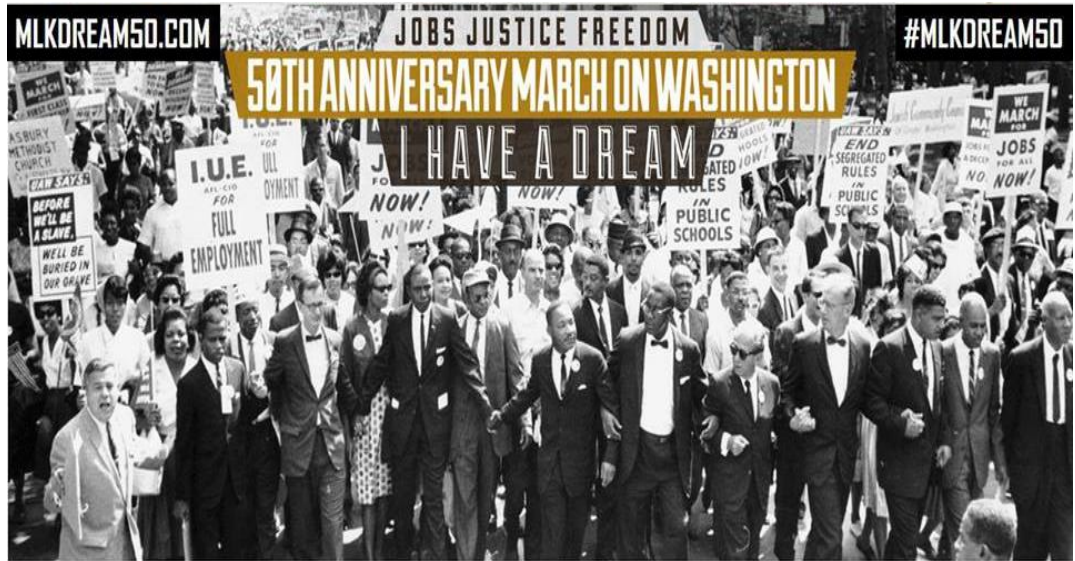
## FACT SHEET & SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

To confirm the spirit of the dream in hosting your "Let Freedom Ring" celebration, please see below recommendations that will ensure people across cultural and political lines celebrate the common humanity in creative and uplifting ways.

### The Theme

"Our World, His Dream: Freedom – Make it Happen" is the theme for the "Let Freedom Ring" Commemoration and call to action. The three sub-themes are:

- "Freedom to Prosper in Life;"
  - "Freedom to Peacefully Co-Exist;"
  - "Freedom to Participate in Government."
- (For more details about the theme and sub-themes please see page 2).



### The Bell

- The ringing of the bell will begin at 3:00 p.m. EST in your respective time zones. The bell may be rung before, during or after your program/ celebration. Any bell may be used for the commemoration; however, the bell tone should be deep to lend solemnity to the commemoration. Bells should ring for no longer than 15 seconds or less. If your community doesn't have a facility with a large bell, play a recording of bells ringing.

### Creativity

- To exercise creativity in developing your bell-ringing programs, give your program a special stamp of local character in a way that affirms Dr. King's dream of a nation united in justice, compassion and goodwill to all.

### Speeches/Tributes

- Please ensure your program is not too long (less than two hours). Any speeches given during the celebration should be very short, and polarizing debates should be avoided.

### The American Flag

- Dr. King always marched with the American flag, so it would be appropriate to have one present. See <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml> for proper flag protocol during your program.

### The Venue

- Persons with Disabilities: Please ensure that your venue is accessible to people with disabilities and there should be a physician or registered nurse present at outdoor programs where high temperatures are expected. Water should also be available.
- Security: Care should be taken to provide for security.
- Cleanliness: All attendees should have access to sanitary facilities. We recommend a clean-up committee to insure that there is no trash visible after your program.

### "I Have A Dream" speech

- For a copy of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, please visit <http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/document/i-have-dream-1#>

### The Pledge and Call To Action

- The King Center will be sharing a pledge by August 21, 2013 via our website and email that we are asking everyone to recite at 3:00pm EST.

For more information about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech, please contact:  
The King Center (Atlanta, GA) Steve Klein 404-526-8944 or [sklein@thekingcenter.org](mailto:sklein@thekingcenter.org)  
WEBSITE: <http://officialmlkdream50.com/>

## Inclusion/Diversity

- **No Exclusivity:** Programs should affirm in some way the interconnectedness of people of all races, religions and cultures and the spirit of Dr. King's challenge to "transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." Just one example would be a multicultural choir.
- **Youth:** Dr. King mentioned children in several places in his "I Have a Dream" speech; therefore, we suggest involving groups of children in bell-ringing programs. EXAMPLE: Have children wearing clothing that reflects their heritage, read excerpts from Dr. King's speech, or singing an appropriate song.
- **Ecumenical/Interfaith:** If your program offers prayers during this commemoration, we recommend they be ecumenical/ interfaith in nature, showing respect for all religions or, alternatively, allowing clergy of different faiths to say short prayers in their traditions.
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Speeches, tributes, prayers, etc. should be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

## PLEASE REGISTER YOUR BELL-RINGING COMMEMORATION WITH US AT

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7705309789>

(Please include the location, address, city, state or country and contact person name and email.)

Please use this list of sub-themes as a guide to help you organize your celebration.

## Freedom to Participate in Government

- Citizenship Education
- Just and Fair Government with Transparency & Accountability
- Socially Responsible Public Policies and Reform
- Fair Elections and Voter Registration without Disenfranchisement of Voters and Voter Suppression
- The Right to Nonviolent Protest and Peaceful Assembly
- Fair Immigration Laws & Regulations
- Equal Protection Under the Law
- Fair and Equitable Criminal Justice System, Ending Mass Incarceration
- Freedom from Human Trafficking

## Freedom to Peacefully Co-Exist

- Creation of a Beloved Community
- Strong United Nations and International Cooperation, Call for Reconciliation
- Common Sense Gun Reform
- Quality Universal Primary Education
- Freedom from Torture, Unlawful Detention and Imprisonment
- Freedom from Racism and Discrimination including Racial, Ethnic or Cultural Profiling
- Freedom from Militarism, War, Violence/Bullying (verbal & nonverbal)
- Freedom from Terrorism and Tyranny, Colonization, Human Displacement & Statelessness
- Clean and Green Nations, free of Pollution & Global Warming

## Freedom to Prosper in Life

- Equitable Economic Development, Empowerment and Access to Capitol
- Universal Health Care and Good Health as a Human Right
- Fair, Living Wages and Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Access to Equal, Quality, Free Education
- Equitable and Fair Housing Practices, Ending Red Lining
- Freedom from Excessive Consumption and Consumerism
- Freedom from Unemployment & Underemployment
- Freedom from Chronic Hunger, Malnutrition and Poverty
- Freedom From Economic Oppression and Depression

Use Your Smart Phone to scan this QRC for more information about the 'Let Freedom Ring' Bell-Ringing



To stay in touch with updated details, participate with the following:



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