

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## **U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY**

**WASHINGTON, DC:** The United States Commission on Civil Rights celebrates the anniversary of the January 15, 1929 birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., now observed as a national holiday on the third Monday of every January.

Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service that would encourage all citizens to apply the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings by engaging in projects that strengthen communities and individuals on the path to justice and economic freedom.

As co-pastor with his father of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Dr. King preached justice, empowerment, and peace, but at the end of his life that was tragically cut short by an assassin in Memphis, Tennessee, he turned to fighting poverty and joblessness.

“In a very real sense, the work that we do at the Commission ensures that Dr. King’s vision of equality manifests itself in the reality of the lives of all Americans. We are proud to be part of Dr. King’s legacy,” said Commission Chairman Martin R. Castro.

The Commission honors his memory and encourages all who love justice, equality and peace to find a way to serve these goals on this day of commemoration.

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Martin R. Castro and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Gail Heriot, Peter Kirsanow, David Kladney, and Michael Yaki. Commission meetings and briefings are open to the general public. The Commission’s website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.*

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