

FAITH IN ACTION – CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST – Progress Tracker

Many black Americans are descendants of people from **Africa** who were kidnapped to be slaves in North and South America.

In early 20th Century America, black people were still treated poorly in the southern states under 'Jim Crow' laws of **segregation** (keeping people apart).

One example of unequal treatment of black people at this time is **(one example of racial discrimination)**

In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, a black woman called **Rosa Parks** was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white person.

This led to protest against using buses with separate seats for white and black passengers, called the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**. The leader of the protest was a local church leader called **Rev Martin Luther King**

He became a national campaigner for black civil rights, but always said that the protests must not be **violent** because as a Christian he followed Jesus's teaching to **"love your neighbour as much as you love yourself"**.

In 1963 MLK made a famous speech, in the capital city of the USA, known as the **"I Have A Dream"** speech.

In 1968 MLK was **assassinated** in Memphis, Tennessee by a gunman called James Earl Ray.

Another famous civil rights campaigner at the same time as MLK was called **Malcolm X**.

MX disagreed with MLK and thought that black people should fight for their rights **"by any means necessary"** including protesting in **violent** ways.

He was a Muslim and was a spokesperson for a black political organisation called **the Nation of Islam**.

His father had been murdered by white men, so MX thought of all white people as enemies and because of this he is sometimes called a **racist**.

As a Muslim, MX went on the important **pilgrimage** (religious journey) called the *Hajj*, which changed his beliefs about different races of people.