



The Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee

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CONTACT:

Pamela Smith, Program Manager
Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee
919.862.7402

“I am convinced that if we succumb to the temptation to use violence in our struggle for freedom, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and our chief legacy to them will be a never-ending reign of chaos.”

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Critical Times”

Statement from Dr. Dumas A Harshaw, Jr

Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee

RALEIGH, NC – These are critical times in our nation. It has been a long time since we have witnessed such rage and anger displayed in a public manner. In critical times we must apply critical measures.

First of all, we need to apply critical analysis to the current passionate protests and unfortunate violent disregard for orderly protest. The public killing of George Floyd is not a unique occurrence. There is a long history of black men being murdered in clear view without any accountability and application of law. This cannot continue in America any longer. This may simply be the straw that breaks the camel’s back. We must connect the dots on our racist history and have the courage to address it in our pursuit of truth and justice.

Secondly, we need to apply critical reflection on the depth of racial tension in our nation. We have failed to deal productively with the entrenched existence of racism, white privilege, white supremacy and outright hatred relative to class, color and communities. Now is the time to unearth the history of discrimination and segregation that dehumanized former slaves and people of color for generations. We need to identify the systems and institutions that keep us imprisoned in a pandemic of broken relationship and unhealthy social dealings.

Thirdly, we need to apply critical methods for creating the kind of society that we talk about and that we dream about. This will only happen from a place full acceptance of a diverse nation and establishing dignity for all people. Social, gender and racial division has outlived its time to exist in our midst and needs to be demolished by people of good will and love. In addition, the method that promises the best results is still the nonviolent method. Riots, violence, burning businesses and buildings is not the way to unify our nation. Peaceful protest is the only way to create the redeeming foundation of dialogue and reconciliation. Let us tap into the transcendent ethic of love, demonstrated by Jesus that will overcome the evils in our society and grant us the courage we need to do the work of love and truth.

This time calls for critical engagement, we cannot run from what faces us now. Now is the time for change in our country, now is the time for peace, and now is the time for transformation.

*Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr.
Chair, Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee
Pastor, First Baptist Church*

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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About the Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee:

The Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee exists to educate our community by expanding upon the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Among the principles of Dr. King’s legacy are: respect, equality, opportunity, diversity and a commitment to peace, justice, and non-violent solutions to conflict. All of these principles at the heart of the civil rights movement are equally as relevant to our lives today as we seek to address and solve present-day social issues in our community.

It is the goal of the Triangle MLK Committee to organize, deliver and promote quality events and programming in the Triangle on the King national holiday, and expand the message of hope and healing in Dr. King’s philosophy through ongoing, community-engaging activities throughout the year.