

That it is better to speak up and be wrong than to keep silent and be right.

Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.” — quoted by Thurgood Marshall

### **To begin with, Let's speak up to confront prejudice**

Confronting is a very effective way to get people to stop behaving in discriminatory ways. Perhaps a friend uses an offensive word, a co-worker implies that people from some groups are just naturally better than others, or a family member expresses anger or fear toward another person because of the color of their skin or the way they talk. For most of us, such acts of prejudice make us feel bad because they violate our core values—we strive to treat people in fair, equal, and unbiased ways and we get angry, upset, and frustrated when others don't follow this code of conduct. Therefore, speaking out helps us to express our feelings and opinions significantly instead of remaining silent.

Research shows that most people believe they will stand up to prejudice—questioning the perpetrator, noting the problematic nature of the act, or exclaiming surprise. However, less than half confront when faced with an actual instance of prejudice. It turns out that there are some costs to confronting. People who fail to confront, however, tend to be more prejudiced themselves over the long term. In addition, not only does speaking out to confront prejudice make us feel better, but confronting actually makes us a better person over time.

“Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.” Quoted by Martin Luther King in his speech: I have a dream. He was born in 1929, when black people were treated very differently in the South. In his age of 26, Martin Luther King's role in the bus boycott transformed him into a national figure and the best-known spokesman of the civil rights movement. Through his connections with the Big Five civil rights groups, overwhelming support from black America and with the support of prominent individual well-wishers, Dr. King's skill and effectiveness grew exponentially. He organized and led marches for blacks' right to vote, desegregation, labor

rights, and other basic civil rights. And On August 28, 1963, he held the speech: I have a dream, which has become the landmark declaration of civil rights in the United States - the dream of all people to share an America marked by freedom and democracy in all races, colors and backgrounds. Today, people around the world still learn about his life and legacy—and his vision of equality and justice for all continue to resonate.

Last but not the least, we ought not remain silent when facing injustice and abuse but “speak truth to power.” We should not remain silent when witnessing wrongdoing. In those circumstances, silence is not morally acceptable; we have a duty to speak up.