

## 12d - United We Stand



*In 1997, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force presented Coretta Scott King with an award for her commitment to civil rights. In accepting the award, King recalled her late husband's message of universal fellowship.*

My husband understood that all forms of discrimination and persecution were unjust and unacceptable for a great democracy. He believed that none of us could be free unless all of us were free, that a person of conscience had no alternatives but to defend the human rights of all people.

I want to reaffirm my determination to secure the fullest protection of the law for all working people, regardless of their sexual orientation. ...[I]t is right, and just, and good for America.

Many of these courageous [gay and lesbian] men and women were fighting for my freedom at a time when they could find few voices of their own, and I will always remember and honor their contributions. ...

I still hear from people who claim to be followers of Martin Luther King, Jr., but who think I should be silent about the human rights concerns of gays and lesbians. All I can do is tell these folks that the civil rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion.

All of us who oppose discrimination and support equal rights should stand together and resist every attempt to restrict civil rights in this country.

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