

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

CIVIL RIGHTS TIMELINE

- 1954 **Linda Brown** is denied entrance to Topeka's elementary schools because of her race. This triggers the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* that eventually condemns racial segregation in public schools.
- 1955 The Montgomery Bus Boycott begins in Alabama after **Rosa Parks** refuses to give up her bus seat to a white man. **Jo Ann Robinson** directly starts the boycott by distributing 50,000 flyers.
- 1957 **Ella Baker** assists Martin Luther King Jr. in organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) before working with student activists to further their civil rights goals. **Daisy Bates** reports on the fight against segregation in Arkansas, and helps drive the campaign to integrate "Little Rock Nine" into Little Rock Central High School.
- 1958 **Clara Luper** protests segregation laws by leading a sit-in at the Katz Drug Store in Oklahoma City.
- 1960 **Ruby Jones** becomes the first student to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans.
- 1963 **Dorothy Height** is a key organizer of the March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech.
- 1965 **Diane Nash** works alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and plays a key role in the Selma Voting Rights Campaign. This leads directly to the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 1966 The **Black Panther Party** is founded to protest police brutality against the black community. Women make up the majority of the party by the early seventies.
- 1967 **Mildred Loving** and her white husband are arrested for being in an interracial relationship. The resulting Supreme Court case strikes down laws that segregate marriages and relationships.
- 1968 **Coretta Scott King** continues to be an activist for change after her husband's death, including campaigning to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

REFERENCES:

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