

Our Voice, Our World

In the fight for injustice, it often starts with one voice, one individual who decides that enough is enough and becomes the spark that changes the course of history. It was one person who refused to get up from their seat and inspired millions, and one person who decided to go to the same school as everyone else and changed the course of education. They resolved not to remain silent, not to let someone else figure it out, and not to “sit this one out”. They understood Dr. Martin Luther King’s powerful words that, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” These words inspire us to refuse to accept the status quo. While the acts of bravery by Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges made history, there is still much to be done. And it falls on us, the youth of today, to take the baton and speak up.

We may think that the people who made history were somehow special, different from us, maybe even born brave. But the truth is that they understood Dr. King’s call to action as their purpose. They felt that not speaking up would be a betrayal of their own values. They didn’t wait for a perfect moment, debate the probability of success, or expect anything in return. They acted because they saw something that needed to be changed. They also didn’t have some innate talent to defy the system, what they had was a willingness to speak up even when the consequences were uncertain. We may wonder what power we have. We may question whether people will listen to us. But when Malala Yousafzai spoke up about girls’ education, the world stood still, listened and resolved to change.

The act of speaking up can feel intimidating, and it’s something we may not feel ready for. But it can start with small moments, everyday actions: standing up to a bully, asking difficult questions, standing up for our friends, or simply telling the truth. Let’s start by having an honest

dialogue at home. Greta Thurnberg, who inspired global action on climate change, began by talking to her family about climate-friendly lifestyles. And when we want to be loud, the biggest megaphone is in our palms. With social media just a few taps away, we can have our voice heard globally. The power that youth have is immense. Whether through quiet conversations or online platforms, we can make an impact far beyond what we may ever imagine.

The world needs us to speak up now more than ever. There will be people who will tell us we're too young, too inexperienced. But the fact is that youth is the most dynamic and productive phase of human life. We have the power to think differently. We have the energy, the passion, the means. And with Dr. King's words we have our purpose. It is time for us to make our voices heard and begin building a better, more just world.

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