

Opening Statement of Dr. Alveda C. King
Before the U.S. House Oversight and Reform Committee
January 22, 2026

Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member, and Members of this honorable Committee, thank you for allowing me to appear before you today. I am grateful for your service to our nation and for your willingness to engage in this important and solemn work.

My name is Dr. Alveda C. King. I come before you not only as a policy leader, but as a daughter, a niece, a granddaughter, and as a woman of faith.

I wish to begin by expressing sincere appreciation to President Donald J. Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Director Tulsi Gabbard for their commitment to transparency and openness in government. The release of the files related to the assassination of my uncle, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., represents a meaningful and historic step forward. Truth, especially difficult truth, has a way of setting us free. Transparency invites trust, and trust is essential for national healing.

This moment is deeply personal for me and for our family.

My uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was first and foremost a preacher of the Gospel. Before he was a global civil rights leader, he was guided by faith, prayer and family as a husband, a father, and a servant of God. He believed with all his heart that we are one blood, one human race, created by one God, and called to love one another, even when that love is costly.

My father, the Reverend A.D. King was a pastor and civil rights leader who stood faithfully beside his brother in the civil rights movement. He, too, preached nonviolence, reconciliation, and courage rooted in faith. My grandfather, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., or Daddy King as we called him, raised his family in the church and taught us that righteousness, justice, humility, and perseverance must guide our public lives as well as our private ones.

As we have reviewed these newly released records, we are reminded that the civil rights era was marked not only by moral courage, but also by deep concern, misunderstanding, and mistrust. There were moments when institutions failed to live up to their highest calling. Instead of protecting voices calling for justice and

peace, actions were taken that caused pain, confusion, and heartbreak for my family and for many others who labored peacefully for equal rights.

I say this not in anger, but in honesty, and with sincere grace.

We cannot heal what we refuse to acknowledge. And yet, we must approach the truth with humility and forgiveness, remembering that our goal is not condemnation, but rather restoration and healing. My uncle taught us that love must be at the center of every pursuit of justice. Nonviolence was not merely a tactic for him, it was a way of life. He reminded us that “Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.”

Today, I ask that we allow this moment to be a turning point, not only in how we view the past, but in how we shape the future.

Let us recommit ourselves to a government that listens, learns, and serves with integrity. Let us ensure that no family, no movement, and no citizen is ever again treated as an enemy and targeted by the state for peacefully exercising their God-given and constitutional rights.

The message of Dr. King is still relevant today. We are called to protect human dignity from the womb to the tomb and beyond. We are called to speak truth with love. We are called to reject violence in all its forms, physical, verbal, and institutional, and to replace it with compassion, courage, and conscience.

In a time when our nation feels deeply divided, I believe this moment offers an invitation, to unity, to prayer, and to a renewed commitment to the ideals that bind us together.

We are still one blood, one human race.

If we choose love over hatred, truth over secrecy, and faith over fear, then the sacrifices of those who came before us, including my uncle and my father, will not have been in vain.

I pray that the work of this Committee will help lead our nation forward in wisdom, humility, and peace. Thank you for allowing me to share my heart today. I look forward to your questions.