

News Release



National Council of Churches
110 Maryland Ave., NE
Suite 108
Washington, D.C. 20002
www.nccusa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SUPPORTS 2004 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

February 11, 2004, Washington, D.C.—The National Council of Churches USA is encouraged by the introduction of FAIRNESS: The Civil Rights Act of 2004. The new comprehensive legislation recognizes the fact that regardless of race, gender, religion or age, fair, equal and just treatment is a civil right for everyone in this country.

As one of the 10 organizers for the 1963 March on Washington and a strong advocate of civil and human rights for more than 50 years, the NCC enthusiastically supports this legislation and will encourage our 36 member communions, which includes 50 million adherents in 140,000 churches, to do the same.

We believe that all people are created in the image of God and we know that our work will not end until discrimination, prejudice and all injustice is eliminated from our society. The Old Testament Prophet Micah says, “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?” As Christians, our faith teaches us that we must pursue justice. Our faith demands that we view the elimination of discrimination as a moral issue. The time has long past when our nation can continue to allow racial and economic injustice as well as other forms of discrimination to plague us. This comprehensive legislation is one step toward America truly living up to the principles upon which it was founded. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” It is in this vein that we ask the Congress to pass this legislation without delay.

The National Council of Churches USA is the leading ecumenical force in the United States. Members include mainline Protestant, historically African American, Peace, Orthodox and Anglican denominations.

-end-

*Media Contact: Leslie Tune, Washington Communication Officer, 202.544.2350, ext. 11
or via email at ltune@nccusa.org.*