

Mannat Kadian
East Lyme Middle School
Niantic, CT

An influential man who changed America is remembered every year on January 21st. He was a true leader who defied expectations with his desire for equality. Martin Luther King Jr. peacefully protested and advocated for equal rights. His dream resonates in society, leaving a mark that will not only impact my actions but also everyone across our nation.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character" is an excerpt from one of MLK's speech that impacts me. MLK is not just talking about his children but also everyone in the nation; we should not be judged on our skin colors. Sadly, sometimes in the 21st century, we let this message fade—we forget the importance of equality and let stereotypes take over.

I have a dream that we can become a unified nation and world. The American dream is to be free, but being free also entails unity. As a nation, we need to realize that stereotypes and judgment present in our day-to-day lives do not make us a better society. I will do everything possible to unify our nation by forgetting the differences in our skin color and putting on a smile as I look at everyone. We are all equal and should be defined by who we are, not what we are.

Every year when we get a day off to remember a true leader in society, we should be thankful for MLK's strong message that still touches the heart of every American. We all have our differences, but Dr. King taught everyone that we are one inside a nation that is thriving because of his visionary beliefs.