



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 21, 2025**

## **Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the shared struggle for justice**

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is deeply rooted in his unwavering fight to secure basic human rights and civil liberties for African Americans. Dr. King committed his life to advocating for racial equality, striving for a world where all people are treated with dignity and respect, free from the judgments of color, race, or religion.

Reflecting on the significance of Dr. King's work, Speaker Crystalyne Curley stated, "As Diné people, we understand ourselves as sacred beings, with a profound reverence for the power of our breath and our words. We believe that every word spoken and every thought held carries purpose and intention. Dr. King's calls for justice and equality exemplified this principle—he harnessed the power of his words and his actions with deliberate thought and deep commitment to non-violence. His approach to addressing injustice was rooted in critical analysis, rational discourse, and a steadfast commitment to peaceful, transformative change."

As Diné, we hold a deep understanding of the concept of Hozhó—the pursuit of balance, harmony, and a state of well-being in alignment with the natural world. This principle resonates with Dr. King's vision of a just society, where all individuals can live in peace, equality, and mutual respect.

The fight for justice remains ongoing across Indian Country today. Tribal leaders and citizens continue to engage in legislative battles on congressional floors, in courtrooms, and by testifying before congressional committees. The injustices that plague Native communities are entrenched in bureaucratic red tape and centuries of policies designed to eradicate Indigenous peoples. These systemic challenges persist and continue to widen the disparity gaps within Indian Country.

Much like Dr. King's tireless efforts for his own people, Indigenous leaders and communities remain steadfast in advocating for the rights, sovereignty, and future of their people in every



possible way.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the 25th Navajo Nation Council observes with reverence the sacred breath of change that lives within us all. Dr. King's legacy is honored, not only as a champion of African American civil rights but as a beacon of hope for all marginalized communities. His life and work continue to inspire collective efforts toward justice, peace, and Hozhó for all.

###