

From: James Boomgard
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 7:30 AM
Subject: Celebrating Martin Luther King Day

Colleagues,

Here in the United States, today is a holiday—a day we take to celebrate one of our greatest national leaders, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. This year, more than most, we would do well to take a moment to remember what Dr. King stood for. He stood for liberty, equality, and justice for all—regardless of race, religion, or nationality. He stood against poverty, injustice, and racism. And he stood with those who have been denied the respect due to them as human beings, insisting that everyone, everywhere deserves to be treated with dignity.

These enduring principles go beyond party. They transcend any single era and will outlast any particular political personality or ideological moment. And while they have particular resonance for those of us in the United States – an experimental nation built by the creativity and hard work of immigrants from all continents - they clearly extend beyond any one country or culture.

When it comes to these principles, DAI stands with Dr. King. On the day we celebrate his legacy, I commend all of you around the world, whatever your nationality and wherever you may be—Port au Prince or San Salvador, Nairobi or Abuja, Ramallah or Islamabad—for the efforts you are making to fight poverty, promote justice, and otherwise bring us closer to realizing Dr. King's vision.

Regrettably, I also recognize that Dr. King's vision remains unrealized and is still not universally embraced. As in Dr. King's time, there continue to be voices, both in the US and elsewhere, whose aim is to divide and to denigrate. We are stronger and better than that. Together, we are shaping a more livable world, and I thank you for your relentless commitment to bringing that world about.

Respectfully,

Jim