

Subash Razdan - KING Center's 2020 "Dream Forward" Award Recipient

By JOHN R NAUGLE, president and CEO for Atlanta: City of Peace Inc. (ACP)
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ATLANTA, GA: January 2020 is helping many to grow their vision for a brighter future. It marks the 25th anniversary of the USA's MLK Day of Service and also the 37th Anniversary of MLK Day which began in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law. Millions celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy.

In the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., where he authored "**I HAVE A DREAM**", there is an abundance of courageous leaders who provide powerful inspiration for our youth so they may rise up. There is a wonderful level of transformation happening in this great city.

Good news! Subash Razdan, the Chairman of the Gandhi Foundation of USA, has been publicly recognized and celebrated once again for his excellent example of mentorship and service. On 14 January 2020, the bold Mr. Razdan was a KING CENTER Honoree at the opening event for the 2020 King Holiday Observance.

The DREAM FORWARD Community Service Award was presented to Mr. Razdan by Dr. Bernice A. King, the beloved daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Coretta Scott King who has also been CEO of the KING Center for the past eight years. The beautiful KING Center program followed the formal Kick-Off Reception in their Freedom Hall's recently renovated & dedicated Yolanda D. King Theatre for the Performing Arts; filled to capacity.



Receiving '**The International Affairs Award**' Mr. Razdan, in his acceptance speech, expressed his deep gratitude to Dr. Bernice King and King Center Staff for their recognition. In summary, he stated:

"Since the mid-1980's we have been developing our partnership with the KING Center. Our special time with Coretta Scott King, which resulted in establishing the GANDHI Sculpture in the MLK National Historic District, and also the GANDHI Room here in the KING Center has been memorable. To see the international peace legacies of Gandhi & Dr. King united in this special city is unique. I would like to recognize Raj, my wonderful wife, and all friends, supporters and board members of the Gandhi Foundation USA for their belief and help with our service dreams. ATLANTA: City of Peace is a dream born from our hopes, it deserves our recognition, and all can become integral."

This year's theme for the Dream Forward Awards was **"King's 2020 Vision—The Beloved Community: The Fierce Urgency of Now"** which reflects upon Dr. King's declaration from his book, **"Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?"** Dr. King's quote about **"the Fierce Urgency of Now"** has inspired and constructively informed many organizations, including the Gandhi Foundation of USA and ATLANTA: City of Peace that was birthed from the examples of Subash Razdan, plus his local and international colleagues.

It is exciting to know the KING Center selected **"The Fierce Urgency of Now"** as a subtitle for their event. As many social activists know, this perspective comes from Dr. King's 1967 **"A Time to Break the Silence" speech**. This powerful quote has helped many young leaders to grow in the virtues of Courage, Peace and Love. The young ATLANTA: City of Peace organization, through the inspiration of Subash Razdan, has the hope and vision that this quote, or proactive disposition, can eventually become a major export from Dr. King's birthplace and sent around the whole world to propel healing. King's quote, now 53 years old, is...

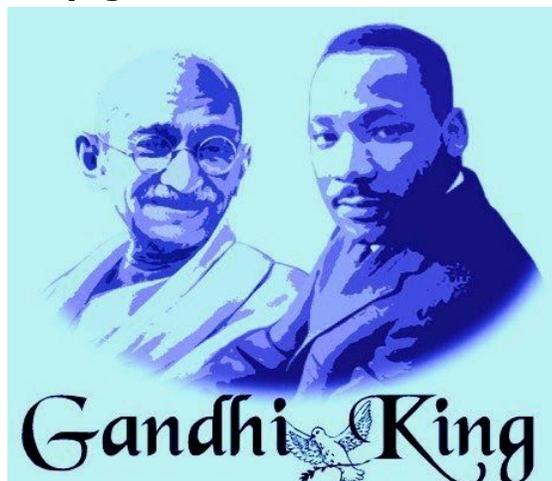
"This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing & unconditional love for all... Let us LOVE one another... We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW ! In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late."

It is appropriate and felicitous that Subash Razdan has received the KING CENTER's 2020 Dream Forward 'International Affairs' Award. Through him and other leaders with the Gandhi Foundation of USA, many are coming to learn about the powerful connection between GANDHI & KING. Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated as the Father of INDIA: The World's Biggest Democracy and in many ways, Dr. King is celebrated as a new era Father of our nation, USA: The Peace Way, via his support of Civil Rights, Voting Rights and Human Rights.

At the forefront of teaching and inspiring these transformative perspectives is Subash Razdan and Antony Thaliath, along with other co-founders and leaders for the Gandhi Foundation of USA. Since Gandhi & King are two of history's most globally accomplished, respected and celebrated peacemakers they cannot be ignored. More importantly, they need to be celebrated regularly. Many millions of people and thousands of organizations worldwide labor, directly and indirectly, to honor their internationally respected peace legacies.

Year 2020: Every year is a good year to honor Mahatma ('Great Soul') Gandhi. Especially in 2020 since millions worldwide just celebrated his Sesquicentennial, the 150th Anniversary of Gandhi's birth (1869 - 2019). Dr. King's VITAL and emphatic warning still guides the constructive urgent actions of Subash Razdan, the Gandhi Foundation of USA, and of many social activists. We must remember and share Dr. King's quote:

"Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore Gandhi at our own risk."



With Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on peace, love and nonviolence there are many MANY millions of peacebuilders worldwide have been inspired. At the very top of the list is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, who is considered the most globally accomplished and respected peace movement protégé of Gandhi. Dr. King is also THE world's most often referenced Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. This GREAT proponent of Gandhi once authored a great speech that is often quoted in many places of the world. He continues to proclaim:

"I HAVE A DREAM!"

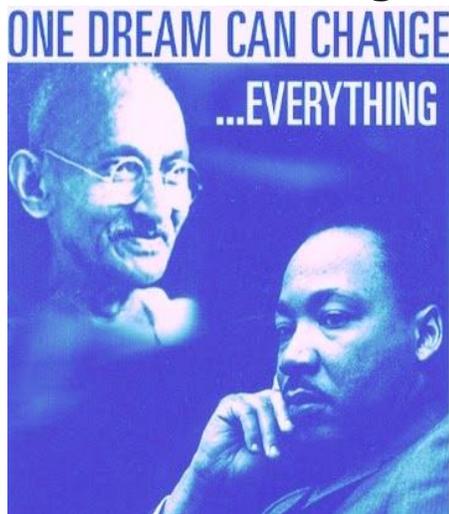
Yes, Dr. King had a DREAM and in this special year 2020, we can hear the call to have more vision; a clearer vision. We need to remind ourselves about Dr. King's GREAT dream and ask ourselves...

"Who became the DREAM?"

The best response is, **"WE ARE THE DREAM -- ALL OF US -- which includes you too."** We all have rights and responsibilities to claim. We all need to live up to the immense duty, honor and peaceability, right? ALL of us can be co-founders and co-creators for OUR DREAM of a brighter future to come, yes?

Dr. King's DREAM gains momentum and it is transforming into REALITY much faster as courageous leaders, like Mr. Razdan, continue inspiring others. As key collaborators commit to figuratively 'mining' one of the greatest assets that is owned by our Global Family, all of us, healing happens. Our family's GREAT asset?

"The Gandhi-King Global Peace Connection!"



"We all can play a part in building the beloved community my father envisioned," said Dr. Bernice A. King. **"This year's theme reflects the urgency with which we must be attentive and with which we must seize the opportunity to choose our existence, instead of our co-annihilation. In the midst of injustice and inhumanity, the hope of the Beloved Community remains. We can and we must build the Beloved Community, with nonviolence as our toolbox and love as our foundation."**

*The
Beloved
Community*

Our goal is to create a beloved community," said Dr. King, "and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.



**CREATE THE
BELOVED COMMUNITY**

The KING Center’s Dream Forward Awards theme “**King’s 2020 Vision—The Beloved Community: The Fierce Urgency of Now**” will continue to inspire many. In other sectors, their exciting program had additional widely respected and inspiring leaders who were publicly recognized for work in advancing the King Legacy. Among them were the Reverend Gerald Durley for Environmental Responsibility; Alexis Scott for Media; Jennifer Swain for Community Service; Dr. Joseph & Dr. Marjanita Ripley for Faith-Based Leadership and Senator Emanuel Jones who was Chairman of the Martin Luther King Advisory Council that established the \$300,000 eight feet tall bronze sculpture of MLK to the Georgia State Capitol in 2017.



**2020 KING HOLIDAY
KICK OFF RECEPTION & DREAM
FORWARD AWARDS**

*King's 2020 Vision: The Beloved Community- The Fierce
Urgency of Now*

This Year's Dream Forward Honorees Include:
*Media : Alexis Scott, The Georgia Gang
 Environmental Responsibility : Rev. Gerald Durley
 International Affairs : Subash Razdan, Gandhi Foundation
 Faith Based Leadership : Dr's. Joseph & Marjanita Ripley
 Community Service : Youthspark
 Elected Official : Senator Emanuel Jones*

**THE KING CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**2020 KING HOLIDAY RECEPTION
DREAM FORWARD AWARDS
JANUARY 14TH, 2020**

#MLK91 #DREAMFORWARD