

Dr. Alveda King Opening Statement

Judiciary Hearing June 9, 2026

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I was born on January 22, 1951, not with a silver spoon in my mouth, but singing "Amazing Grace" and pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. In other words, I was born into a Christian family led by Baptist preachers and men and women who loved God, believed in God, proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and embraced the truth found in Acts 17:26: " And He has made from one ^{all} blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,"

I was taught from birth to love, to repent, to forgive, to trust God, and to love my fellow brothers and sisters. Human dignity is a creed of our family—the King family legacy. My uncle, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did not dedicate his life to dividing people into categories of oppressor and oppressed. He dedicated his life to bringing people together under the truth that every person bears the image of God.

I come before you today not with anger, but with deep concern.

I am not sure anyone can fully grasp the emotions of a young girl who grew up in a family that sacrificed so much for justice and reconciliation, only to spend much of her adult life being watched, shadowed, criticized, and even threatened because she believes in God, in Jesus Christ, in the sanctity of life, and in the American Dream.

My family legacy reflects the very truth that America is strongest when we recognize our common humanity. My grandmother's family came from the west coast of Africa. My grandfather's family came from Ireland. My mother's family included Cherokee roots. I have spent my entire life living the reality that America is not a collection of competing tribes. America is one people under God.

That is why I am troubled by the conduct and messaging of organizations that claim to fight hatred while profiting from division.

Recent allegations reportedly contained in a federal superseding indictment raise serious questions about the Southern Poverty Law Center's activities. Individuals associated with organizations the SPLC itself labeled as extremist or hate groups allegedly received substantial payments over many years. The indictment shares of payments totaling hundreds of thousands—and in some cases more than a million dollars—to sources connected to white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and Ku Klux Klan organizations.

Those allegations deserve careful examination. They reveal a troubling contradiction. Americans who faithfully donate their hard-earned money—many of them senior citizens who sincerely want to combat racism and hatred—deserve transparency and accountability about how those funds are being used.

Equally concerning is the message being taught to young people through their educational materials that increasingly portray America as permanently defined by racial conflict and caste. We should teach our history honestly, the good the bad and everything in between. But we should also teach our children hope, redemption, and the possibility of reconciliation.

Uncle ML taught that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

He also reminded us that "We must learn to live together as brothers [and I'll add as sisters], or perish together as fools."

Those words are just as true today as when he first spoke them.

America does not need more manufactured racial tension. We do not need more labels with the sole intention to drive us apart. We do not need more lists that place citizens under suspicion because they hold sincere beliefs about faith, family, life, or public policy.

I know something about being labeled.

For years, because of my views on the sanctity of life, because I believe abortion should become not only illegal but unthinkable, because I believe children deserve protection in the womb, because I believe biological reality matters, because I believe in secure borders and lawful immigration, and because I believe America should remain one nation under God, I have found myself targeted and characterized in ways that bear little resemblance to who I am or what I believe – I have even been labeled by the SPLC itself!

LET ME BE CLEAR.

I reject racism.

I reject hatred.

I reject white supremacy.

I reject any ideology that seeks to elevate one group of people above another.

But I also reject the notion that Americans who hold traditional Christian beliefs should be treated as threats, or terrorists, simply because they disagree with a prevailing political thought.

Today, I still have a dream.

I dream that one day we will move beyond black power and white power and embrace God's power and human dignity. I dream that Americans will see one another not as enemies, but as neighbors. I dream that we will hear each other, see each other, and recognize that every human life has value from the womb to the tomb and beyond.

The answer to racism is not more manufactured division. The answer is truth. The answer is repentance. The answer is forgiveness, and the answer is love rooted in justice and justice rooted in truth.

As a daughter of the King family, as a Christian, and as an American, I believe our nation is capable of better.

We are, as Scripture teaches and as science testifies, one blood and one human race.

And if we remember that truth, we can build a future worthy of the sacrifices made by those who came before us. We must speak out for truth and against the forces that would manufacture hate, division and violence – simply to line their pockets and further their political ambitions!

Thank you, God bless America, and I look forward to your questions.