

SPEAKER KIT

Rev. Peter Jerome Johnson

Civil & Human Rights Legend • Lecturer • Speaker

Rev. Peter Jerome Johnson has spent more than six decades in the Civil and Human Rights Movement. His life and work span the movement from the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign to voting rights, fair housing, employment, immigration, hunger and malnutrition, gun violence prevention, and international human-rights advocacy.

Speaking & Lecture Themes

- A Personal Perspective of the Civil Rights Movement
- Voting Rights and the Long Fight for Democracy
- Nonviolence, Protest, and Moral Courage
- Dallas Social Justice Movements
- Hunger, Housing, Employment, and Human Rights
- Gun Violence Prevention and Community Action

Selected Experience

Civil and Human Rights Legend; worked in the movement as a teenager; helped organize the Louisiana delegation to the 1963 March on Washington; worked with Dr. James Farmer and CORE; assisted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Poor People's Campaign; organized landmark campaigns in Dallas; founded the Peter Johnson Institute on Nonviolence; Visiting Lecturer at the University of North Texas at Dallas.



BOOKING

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Biography

Rev. Peter Jerome Johnson was born in Plaquemine, Louisiana, into a family already engaged in civil rights. As a teenager, he transformed a hometown youth gang into an NAACP youth chapter and soon became a nearly full-time civil rights worker. His early movement work included the Congress of Racial Equality and Dr. James Farmer, and in 1963 he helped organize Louisiana's delegation to the historic March on Washington.

Johnson later worked in the anti-war movement, assisted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Poor People's Campaign, helped organize Black garment workers in the Carolinas, and came to Dallas in 1969 to organize the showing of the film *Montgomery to Memphis*. In Dallas, he led and helped shape campaigns for employment, hunger and malnutrition relief, fair representation, immigration justice, and community safety.

His organizing helped force Safeway to expand employment opportunities for Black workers, and his 18-day hunger strike at Dallas City Hall helped lead to emergency food assistance and new city human-services infrastructure. He also fought for single-member city council districts, helping reshape political representation in Dallas.

Johnson later established highly successful gun buyback programs that were replicated in major U.S. cities. He has also worked internationally on medical aid and human-rights concerns in Africa. Today he is founder of the Peter Johnson Institute on Nonviolence and a Visiting Lecturer at the University of North Texas at Dallas.

Johnson has been honored as a Civil and Human Rights Legend. He has spent more than 60 years in the movement and, according to his professional record supplied for this speaker profile, has registered more than one million voters, been jailed more than 100 times for nonviolent protests, and spoken or lectured at more than 1,000 churches, schools, radio programs, and conferences.

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