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Mildred E Persinger

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Mildred Emory Persinger was standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the "I Have a Dream" speech. The YWCA was the first organization invited to co-sponsor the 1963 March on Washington. As chair of the National Board's public policy committee, she had convened the YWCA delegation. Cheers and whistles greeted the YWCA banners as the several hundred-strong column joined the line of march.

Inspired by staff partners, Mildred led the YWCA's public policy work for seven years of intense advocacy of racial justice, including the armed forces, government contract workers, transportation, schools, housing, civil rights and , voting rights. Social security and health care were also prominent in this agenda

Mildred wrote policy papers, congressional testimony, speeches, articles for herself and others; planned seminars and observances, guided public policy debates at national conventions, met with government officials, and was appointed by two US presidents to national commissions. She currently represents the World YWCA at the UN, where she has been responsible for several initiatives in the international women's movement.