

## Abortion Issue Shares Spotlight With King Holiday

### Rally, March Held In Colorado Springs

By: [Scott Harrison](#)

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**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** -- A connection between the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday and the abortion issue may not seem immediately clear. But members of the pro-life community in Colorado Springs raised awareness of the connection Monday.

A crowd of at least 150 people gathered at Acacia Park for a rally, then marched a mile and a half to the site of a former Planned Parenthood clinic on Colorado Avenue that had been open for 40 years. Flowers and small wooden crosses were placed there as security guards watched the property.

Rev. Walter Hoyer of the California-based Issues For Life Foundation said nearly one-third of all abortions happen in the black community, and that abortion was a subject as important to King as civil rights.

"If you can't get out of the womb, what do schools, jails and jobs even matter?" said Hoyer. "Unless we end abortion, I'm afraid Dr. King's quote is prophetic. He said the Negro cannot win as long as he's willing to sacrifice his own children for personal comfort and safety."

Hoyer wants the black community to do a better job of protecting its women and children, and called abortion the most important issue facing the black community. He describes the situation as genocide and a holocaust.

Among the marchers was Ellen Garcia, who said she briefly considered abortion once.

"I got pregnant with our third child," Garcia said. "We were living in a one-bedroom apartment. But I said no. I understand the other side, though. One reason why black women abort their children is because they don't feel they can provide for their children. Economics is a big part."

Organizers expressed pride in opening a crisis pregnancy center across the street from the former abortion clinic. They say the center was influential in the clinic moving to another location.

The theme of abortion as black genocide is featured in the movie "Maafa 21" Monday night. The movie is showing at 7 p.m. at the University Center on the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs campus, and at 8 p.m. at the Gaylord Cornerstone Screening Room on the Colorado College campus. Admission is free.

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