

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST KALEIDOSCOPE

THE VIEWS, VOICES, & VISION OF OUR CFF FAMILY

## AWARENESS

July 4th is one of the most celebrated days in America. Rightfully so, as it reminds us of our human liberties, freedom from the ruling world powers, and marks the birthdate of America which occurred 246 years ago.

Did you know however that when the subject of independence was brought up among the original colonies, it was only meant as partial independence? A good majority of early Americans did not want full independence from the English crown but rather a partial freedom. Our Founding Fathers were in the minority. In fact, the group of Founding Fathers which consisted of 7 men who advocated for full independence were labeled as radicals by their compatriots.

Even now, when people propose changes that would make life better for communities of people but challenges the status quo and its followers, they are too labeled as radicals; dissenters changing things from how they've always been. Is this not what our country was founded on? A minority group of dissenters who felt silenced (taxed but not represented) and decided they would be heard no matter what? If they had not done so, would we have been the great country we are today? Perhaps, perhaps not.

History repeats itself. While it may look different each generation, dogmas driving history are ever-present. These are status quo vs modern ideals, liberalism vs conservatism, oppression vs freedom, equity and the lack of, to name a few. We witness this "tug of war" as seen in recent times with the SCOTUS' decision to repeal women's pro-choice rights, Putin's war on Ukraine, racially driven massacres and the systemic oppression of already marginalized communities.

As Human Service workers, let's ensure we are catalysts of change, even if it means we are labeled as radicals, rather than being part of a history stuck on replay, let's join the list of change agents keeping OUR America progressive and forward-moving just as our Founding Fathers did.

[LINK TO SOURCE](#)

## UNDERSTANDING

Here are some resources to better your understanding.

### Independence Day



[Book](#)  
Become America: Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy



[Book](#)  
Blue Sky White Stars



[Book](#)  
We Came to America



[Article](#)  
Reading The Declaration Of Independence Aloud



[Article](#)  
Maya Angelou on Wisdom, Pride and Independence

## ACTION

- Speak with loved ones about what freedom looks like for all, especially those groups experiencing oppression
- Contact your representatives about a rights issue that is important to you
- Visit <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/> to make sure you are registered to vote and even sign up to register voters or serve as a poll worker
- Make a day trip to a historical museum to learn something new
- Research and learn about the Tubman-Garrett park and what it stands for before attending a firework show there on July 4th
- Donate to or volunteer for an organization that advocates for equal rights

## TERMS & FAQs

### What does EDI stand for?

EDI stands for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

### Why do we celebrate the 4th of July?

The holiday marks the day in 1776 when the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, signaling the official separation of the 13 original colonies from Great Britain amid the Revolutionary War.

## HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

National BIPOC Mental Health Month

French-American Heritage Month

**7/4**  
Independence Day

**7/18**  
Nelson Mandela International Day

**7/24**  
International Self Care Day