



## **Fannie Lou Hamer. *Consistent.***

Fannie Lou Hamer was a courageous civil rights leader and a passionate activist for voting rights in America. Her legacy remains today.

Born in 1917, Hamer played a major role in organizing the Mississippi Freedom Summer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Growing up poor in segregated Mississippi, Hamer developed her passion for social justice—and was known for her outspoken rhetoric. In the early 1960's she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and began work on registering voters in the deep south. Despite arrests and beatings, she maintained her vigilance, eventually helping to form the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

“Nobody’s free until everybody’s free,” was a favorite saying. In the late 1960’s Hamer joined anti-war activists; she opposed the Vietnam War, viewing it as an extension of racist American policy.

In all of her activism, Hamer was known for her constant hymn singing—it reflected her belief that the civil rights struggle was a deeply spiritual one. Her plain-spoken manner and fervent belief in the Biblical righteousness of her cause gained her a reputation as an electrifying speaker and activist for equality.

Often called the “spirit of the Civil Rights Movement,” Hamer worked tirelessly on behalf of the rights of others—including the unborn.

“The methods used to take human lives such as abortion, the pill, the ring, etc, amounts to genocide. I believe that abortion is legal murder ...”

Fannie Lou Hamer died in 1977, after a lifetime of promoting equality and nonviolence. Would you follow her example?



*We are committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today’s world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. We believe that these issues are linked under a ‘consistent ethic of life’. We challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.*