

MARION KWAN was a civil rights worker with the Delta Ministry in Hattiesburg, Mississippi in the summers of 1965-1966. Marion's presence sparked confusion as well as triumph in the cause of human rights, as she was neither Black nor white in the midst of tumultuous struggles for civil rights in the Deep South, especially in the state of Mississippi where racial terrorism reigned. Marion's work included attempts to integrate a swimming pool and the University of Southern Mississippi, setting up a summer day camp for children in Hattiesburg, meetings with civil rights organizations, marches, voter registration, and community organizing. Her most memorable event was her first day with the Movement in Mississippi when the courthouse had to dismiss the case of one of the freedom workers because nobody knew what to do with her. She is Chinese and refused to move to the Colored-only section or to the White-only section of the courtroom.

Marion says: 'I knew what it was to be a minority, and I had an instant empathy and sensitivity to what it is to be Black. Being a minority means something negative in the United States. It means that you're poor. It means that you're deprived of every basic necessity, that every human being deserves: everyone deserves a shelter, deserves food in their stomach, they deserve medicine when they're sick, they deserve an education. And these are the basic needs that every human being on the face of this earth needs, and we don't have it.' <http://www.crmvet.org/nars/kwan16.htm>

Marion was a community college counselor serving economically - and educationally disadvantaged students at the City College of San Francisco. She is also a consultant in Intercultural Communications. She is a member of the Bay Area Veterans for Civil Rights Movement, an organization of former civil rights workers who were active in the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960s as staff and volunteers for SNCC, CORE, SCLC, and Delta Ministry. The organization:

- Analyzes and records the history of the Civil Rights Movement as seen by those who were part of it.
- Speaks to groups who want to learn about the Civil Rights Movement.
- Is active in current events and public affairs to defend justice and fight for freedom.

<https://www.crmvet.org/bayvet.htm#:~:text=For%20Bay%20Area%20speakers%20contact,%2C%20SCLC%2C%20and%20Delta%20Ministry>.