

Abby Gordon

There are so many great African American history makers that have made such a positive impact on the world. The one that I am choosing to write about is Kamala Harris. She is a very inspiring leader for several reasons.

Kamala Harris is the current vice president of the United States. She is not only the first African American to be vice president, but also the first woman. Those are two gigantic breakthroughs for the United States. Kamala was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California. She was raised by her parents Donald and Shyamala Gopalan Harris. She studied political science as well as economics at Howard University, and later obtained her law degree from Hastings College in 1989. Harris worked as a deputy district attorney in Oakland from the years 1990 to 1998. Prosecuting cases such as sexual abuse, drug trafficking, and gang violence was what Kamala was known for. She later became district attorney in 2004. Six years later she was elected to be the first woman, as well as the first African American, to become the attorney general of California. In 2014, she married her current husband, Douglas Emhoff. She won the 2016 election, taking Barbara Boxer's seat in the U.S. Senate, after advocating for immigration and criminal justice reforms, protecting reproductive rights for women, and increasing minimum wage. Kamala became the second Black woman in the Senate, as well as the first Indian American. She ran as a democratic candidate in the 2020 presidential election, and ended up being one of the leading runners. She dropped out of the race in december 2019 after facing a few issues in her campaign. Harris still continued to stay in the light by becoming a very important social justice advocate during the Black Lives Matter movement. In August 2020, Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris to be his vice president. Becoming the first Black woman in office, she made history.

Kamala Harris' accomplishment has already made such a large impact on society in the United States. It is very inspirational as a young girl to see a woman finally in office, and even more so for people of color. Especially since the events that have occurred in the past four

years since Donald Trump was elected president, it is a huge shift to see a Black woman as vice president. Women and African Americans have received a lot of prejudice recently, which caused movements such as "Me Too" and "Black Lives Matter". It is refreshing to see Kamala Harris in office, after such conflicting times in the United States.

There are so many more African American leaders who have made history and impacted society in a positive way. Kamala Harris made history by becoming the first African American woman to be vice president, after years of it only being white men. It is a huge step forward to have that kind of representation in the United States, and it will only go up from here.