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Thread: [OpenAI stops 'disrespectful' Martin Luther King Jr deepfakes](#)

Palestine - October 17, 2025, 1:01 pm

OpenAI has stopped its artificial intelligence (AI) app Sora creating deepfake videos portraying Dr Martin Luther King Jr, following a request from his estate.

The company acknowledged the video generator had created "disrespectful" content about the civil rights campaigner.

Sora has gone viral in the US due to its ability to make hyper-realistic videos, which has led to people sharing faked scenes of deceased celebrities and historical figures in bizarre and often offensive scenarios.

OpenAI said it would pause images of Dr King "as it strengthens guardrails for historical figures" - but it continues to allow people to make clips of other high profile individuals.

That approach has proved controversial, as videos featuring figures such as President John F. Kennedy, Queen Elizabeth II and Professor Stephen Hawking have been shared widely online.

It led Zelda Williams, the daughter of Robin Williams, to ask people to stop sending her AI-generated videos of her father, the celebrated US actor and comic who died in 2014.

Bernice A. King, the daughter of the late Dr King, later made a similar public plea, writing online: "I concur concerning my father. Please stop."

Among the AI-generated videos depicting the civil rights campaigner were some editing his infamous "I Have a Dream" speech in various ways, with the Washington Post reporting one clip showed him making racist noises.

Meanwhile others shared on the Sora app and across social media showed figures resembling Dr King and fellow civil rights campaigner Malcolm X fighting one another.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y0g79xevxo>

I mean what did you expect would happen when you give the internet the tools to do these kind of things lol

webdev77 - October 17, 2025, 5:59 pm

Sora is definitely going to keep being further censored. I fully believe censoring AI is a fool's errand because someone is going to massively profit off of an uncensored version, but I get why brands don't want a fully unhinged AI either.

plops - October 17, 2025, 6:07 pm

This is a tough one and a very hard line to draw.

I have sympathy for the MLK family and the likes. Their history changing father/grandfather etc. was

assassinated for no reason other than ignorance. I have not seen these videos in particular, but to be honest I would find parodies of him being racist or something funny. I would not approve, but I can not deny comedy.

But at the same time, the Stephen Hawking videos are pretty damn funny.

Sometimes I wonder why social issues are such a strong force. But then here I am, MLK deepfakes are probably not okay. But Stephen Hawking might be.

Palestine - October 17, 2025, 6:11 pm

(Oct 17, 2025 06:07 PM)plops Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is a tough one and a very hard line to draw.

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I agree and after all its the internet... if you tell people not to do something there's a pretty good chance they'll just keep doing it even more.

The Pact - October 17, 2025, 10:05 pm

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."- Martin Luther King Jr.

I actually very recently included this as one of the quotes on someone's service sheet. A white man's service sheet. Because the white man attended MLK Jr. speaking in Washington D.C. 1963 and was involved in supporting Civil Rights legislation.

The quote shows MLK Jr. wasn't interested in being racist back. Racism turned on its head is still racism, sexism turned on its head is still sexism etc...

RangoWorld - October 18, 2025, 9:50 am

I suspect this will happen more and more and we'll see more limitations

KennyKey - October 18, 2025, 8:45 pm

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Well put and what do we have alot running on the Internet, ? Fools , so this case gonna take a while

Hackers - *October 18, 2025, 8:57 pm*

It's tough... on one hand we want safe & respectful AI. On the other, we need AI to make decisions based on prompts. When we add too many censors & rules & variables, it can make AI a lot less effective.

Chorozon - *October 30, 2025, 8:07 am*

I noticed that most AI image generators wont even generate religious images to avoid disrespect