

SEISEN POST

Taking A Stand

Breonna Taylor

Story of a Friend and Victim

Privilege and Anti-Racism in the International School Community

Delving into History: Criminalization of Black People Dangers of racial profiling

Performative Activism How it pervades the fashion Industry

What's happening in Somalia? In Turkey? In Belarus?

Pandemic Intensifies Class Divides

09/2020



Exclusive

Interview with an Ex-Cop

Leaving a broken system

Is the International Baccalaureate Really International? Interviews with Seisen teachers

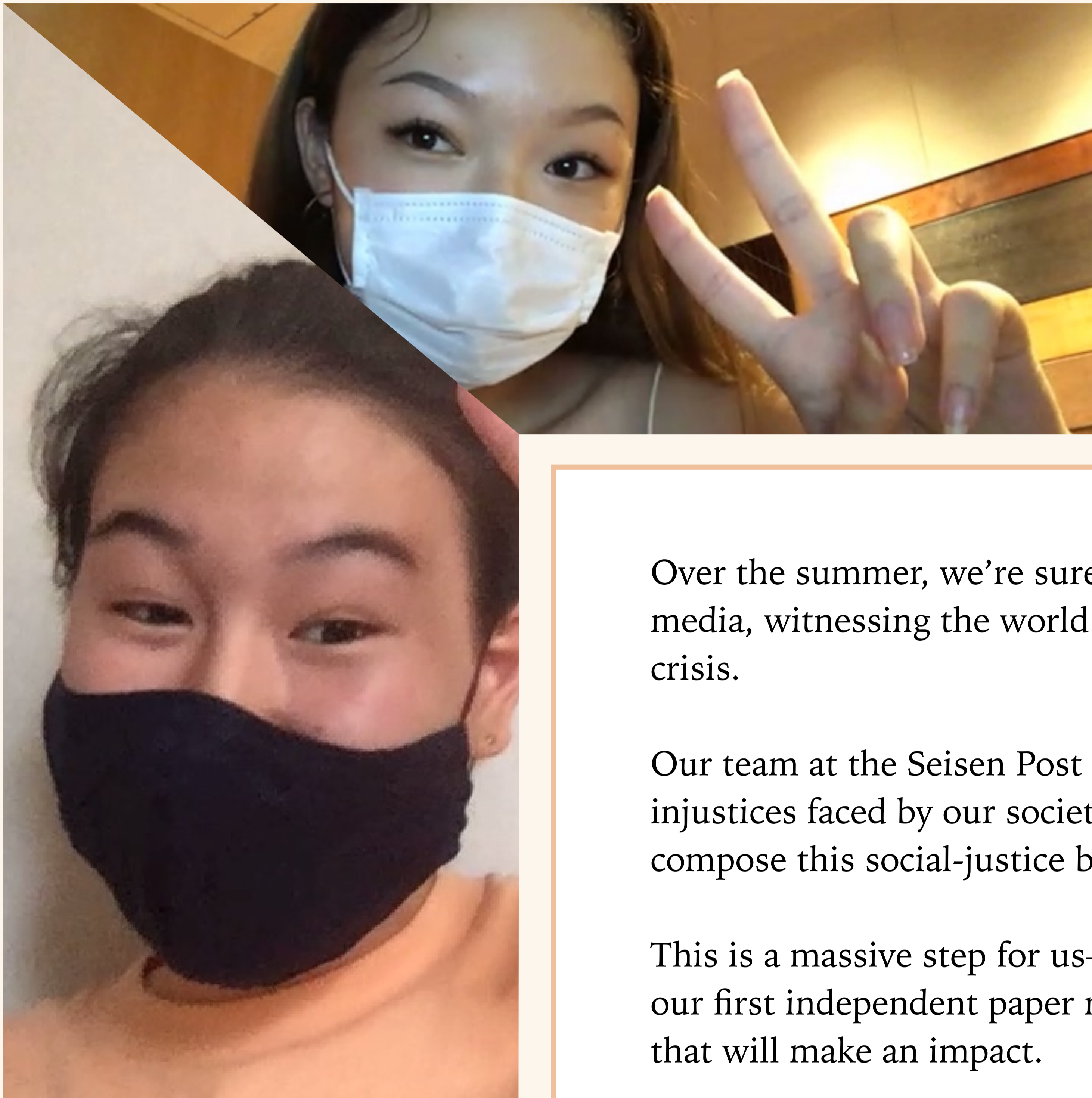
How to Address Racism in Individuals and Society

Police Reform Needs to Happen

Say Their Names

Student Spotlight! Speaking out in Japan Tachiagarou Olivia K. (12)

FROM THE



Over the summer, we're sure that many of us have been on social media, witnessing the world seemingly fall apart with crisis after crisis.

Our team at the Seisen Post has decided to respond to the many injustices faced by our society today by working over the summer to compose this social-justice based issue.

This is a massive step for us—our first edition with a central topic, our first independent paper magazine edition, and hopefully an issue that will make an impact.

We hold this edition dear to our heart—it contains months worth of ideas and brainstorming, and more importantly, months worth of work from our dedicated, inspiring writers and contributors.

From the Black Lives Matter protests to somewhat criticizing the curriculum at Seisen (yes, really) to illustrations and features by students, we hope this issue helps you learn a little something more about our community—both local and global.

We hope that in these tumultuous times, we (not just the Seisen Post, but all of us) can use our platforms to raise awareness and voice our opinions freely.

Let's focus on empathy. Open-mindedness. Coming together as a community to take a stand, and be a group that future generations remember for making change.

We'd like to thank the Seisen Administration, specifically Mr. Lee and Mr. Mitchell, for being so supportive and cooperative, even over the summer break.

And lastly, best of luck with this new school year!

Love from the co-editors-in-chief,
Miffy Hori ('21) and Luna Kanagawa ('21)

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IMAGE FROM THOUGHT CATALOG

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SKIN
COLOUR
IS NOT A
CRIME

SILENCE
IS
VIOLENCE

Don't Forget Your History
For Your Destiny - Bob Marley



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The racial injustices that have existed in our world in the past centuries are horrifying. As I watch videos and read articles, I ponder, 'what has our world become?' and ask myself, 'why do we face so much injustice and prejudice in this world?'. With the privilege that we have, I am grateful for my community and the opportunities we are blessed with as international students. However, I cannot help but feel lost as to what we are making of this privilege and why we even have it when oppression or discrimination is so prevalent in our society. The primary reason as to why I am writing this article is to stimulate our minds and emotions so that we, as a community, can learn together, and take action to attain justice.

Everyone is chanting 'BLACK LIVES MATTER'. Seisen students, in particular, have also voiced their thoughts on educational reforms, so that the younger generations can unlearn the internalized oppression against people of color and learn how to be anti-racist. The impact of this movement proves that if we come together as a community and fight for these causes, we can fight systemic racism and oppression against blacks step-by-step.

With that, we cannot oversee the fact that the on-going protests result in police violence against citizens to suppress their opinions. Moreover, the police abuse their powers by targeting journalists reporting the situation, or even those simply walking or politely protesting. According to CBS News, in Buffalo, New York, two policemen were convicted of pushing a 75-year-old man who landed on his head and started bleeding. The police reported the incident in a statement that said, 'one person was injured when he tripped and fell', even though a videotape clearly showed the police shoving a man onto the ground and passing by him as if nothing had happened. It was reported that the officers were suspended without pay, and were not fired from the police department. It is upsetting to know that policemen, who pledged to serve and protect their citizens, abused a citizen who was not even a threat to them. Police officers continuously use misconduct against unarmed protestors, which is absurd as their role is to provide protection, not the opposite. Often, the police throw tear gas, fire rubber bullets and bring armed trucks during demonstrations, and use it against those who are simply exercising their right to speak up and protest.

Last week, another black man, Rayshard Brooks, was murdered during a period where many are grieving the gruesome murder of black people and are standing up for the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement. Brooks was under the influence of alcohol and was sleeping in his car at a Wendy's drive-through in Atlanta when 2 policemen were called by the workers to question him. After Brooks answered politely to the police's question and resisted arrest, the first police officer shot him two times in the back. According to CNN, 'prosecutors allege that he declared, "I got him" after firing the shots and he did not provide medical attention for two minutes and 12 seconds'. The two policemen are currently facing charges including felony murder and assault charges. Even when we know that police are capable of such things, why do we call them in these situations? If more harm is done than good, if people are killed for their race, wouldn't it be better to not call for help at all?

For the past few weeks, protestors have been shouting, 'Defund the Police'. This means that some of the funding that goes into police departments will be redistributed to implement measures to prevent crimes. The idea is that if we invest our resources and time into building our community and advancing our public safety system, we wouldn't need to rely on the police force as a way to solve such issues. Although police have a role in our justice system, we shouldn't solely put them in charge of protecting our community. In order to ensure safety, we must

have different perspectives, especially of those who specialize in a certain field because they are capable of solving some problems succinctly unlike police who resort to unnecessary use of force. The Minneapolis City Council declared that they would be taking serious measures to replace the police force with a more efficient public safety model. Other states are also initiating police reforms in order to better the justice system and are looking to pay more attention to mental health institutions, and the prevention of crimes through better security and law enforcement.

Everyone should feel safe living in their homes, going for a morning run, or having food delivered. No one should feel terrified of getting killed based on the pigment of their skin. Black people deserve to live the way they want to, how they want to. The protests are igniting change in our society, which people have awaited for centuries. We cannot treat this movement as a trend and return to our daily lives. We cannot stay egocentric and only focus on our first-world problems. We must acknowledge and ACT on the fact that we have certain privileges that need to be put to something good, such as helping those in need or pushing for reforms in our social justice system. This is the least we could do. As a brown student who went to a Japanese school, I was always conscious and scared of how people would perceive me. I can't even imagine how it feels to be afraid of even walking outside, but I know that it is possible to combat systemic oppression against minorities. So we ALL have to show our support, talk about these issues, and ignite change in our societies.



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“I HAD STOMACHED WATCHING EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE FOR YEARS”

— AN INTERVIEW WITH AN EX-OFFICER



In this interview, ex-officer Greg J. Ingle tells his story of nearly a decade in a broken system—and why he left to advocate against it.

“I couldn’t do the job knowing that there was the expectation that I would be willing to do something like that which I couldn’t do.”

“I can’t breathe,” begged Eric Garner. “I can’t breathe,” cried Elijah McClain. “I can’t breathe,” repeated George Floyd. “Stop killing us”, they have been screaming, united in angry harmony. Yet, a heartbreaking study by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America showed that “about 1 in every 1,000 black men can expect to be killed by police”.



IMAGE: VERNON BRYANT/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

The killing of George Floyd on May 25th, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, marked the umpteenth Black individual killed by police. For eight minutes and forty-six seconds, Derek Chauvin dug his knee into the neck of Mr. Floyd, arrested on suspicion for attempted usage of a counterfeit banknote. With the murder causing rightful public uproar, I, along with many others in the global community, have been further exposed to the detrimentality of the blemishes

within law enforcement.

Upon enlightening myself about the Black Lives Matter movement, I came across the story of Greg J. Ingle, from Oklahoma. He was an officer, who retired in response to the killing of George Floyd. While he initially entered law enforcement in hopes of reform, in realisation of the severity of the brokenness of the system, he became unwilling to adhere to it. Now a political activist, his social media platforms highlight the flaws of law enforcement with his personal stories as testimonials.

Compelled by his story as an officer-turned-activist, I reached out to him through his Instagram account and was able to conduct an interview in which we discussed his resignation, protests, and the necessary reform.

Leaving Law Enforcement

Before George Floyd’s murder, Mr. Ingle recalled seeing the use of excessive force by law enforcement. “In some cases, it went totally out of control and force was used. I saw cases of excessive force used more than once to enforce these ‘rules’ that were made by circumventing the proper way to make a law.”



(Above) Greg J. Ingle

“Then George Floyd happened on Memorial Day.” He remarked that the tragic event, a violent death in response to a non-violent suspected crime, coerced him to resign. “(It) rocked me. I knew that I couldn’t do it anymore and that it was time to speak out.” On June 3rd, 9 days after Mr. Floyd’s death, he submitted his resignation papers.

“During the last 6 months or so, I’ve felt as well as noticed that my job had lost any semblance from what I thought it was when I started.”

“The events of Mr. Floyd’s death, in particular, was the ‘straw that broke the camel’s back’ because I had stomached watching excessive use of force for years but that, over a counterfeit bill, just broke the wall. I couldn’t do the job knowing that there was the expectation that I would be willing to do something like that which I couldn’t do.”

Revealing what happens behind the police’s closed doors

The murder of George Floyd was fairly public in nature as video footage was documented, which provoked me to wonder the extent to which injustice overwhelms the justice system: how many incidents of corruption remain unpublicized?

“I have witnessed supervisors telling me to lie on reports, other officers intentionally harassing a family due to one member of the family, other officers making very sexual comments in private about females as young as 15,” Mr. Ingle stated.

One of the primary reasons I reached out to him was to enlighten myself and perhaps others about the injustices that often fail to be uncovered in mass media. The injustices that I’ve seen exposed have appalled me and I was curious to know the way that these are perceived and accepted, within law enforcement.

The realities of systemic racism

The systemic racism within the police force appears to be a plague constituted of various issues: misuse of power, police corruption, dangerous racial prejudices and stereotypes, and to quote Mr. Ingle, how the legal system is “slanted against those in poverty due to a lot of petty crimes being a monetary punishment, (and) a large portion of those in poverty are minorities & people of color.”

Similarly, Paul Butler, a renowned law professor at Georgetown University specializing in race relations testified at the House Oversight Hearing on Police Practices and Accountability in June, that what is needed is to “realize equal justice under the law, is for selective enforcement and police brutality to end,”

In a 2017 piece published in The Guardian where he speaks of his book *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*, Butler explains that “a chokehold is a process of coercing submission that is self-reinforcing. A chokehold justifies additional pressure on the body because the body does not come into compliance, but the body cannot come into compliance because of the vise grip that is on it.”

Racial profiling and the consequent brutality and murders based on the unjustified, dangerous perception that Black individuals are

inherent threats is one of the factors that has counterintuitively turned armed enforcement into a force feared by Black people.

“Every Black man in America faces a symbolic chokehold every time he leaves his home,” cites Butler.

Qualified Immunity

Police officers are also given inherent advantages, essentially permitting misuse of power. Qualified Immunity, a legal doctrine, states that, in Mr. Ingle’s words, “a police officer cannot be held liable civilly for violating someone’s civil rights during an on-duty encounter unless the incident was identical (to another involving the same officer) to a previous incident which is impossible”. Identical implies, in this case, factors as unmanageable and irrelevant as the weather. The irrationality and potential harm brought about by this doctrine speak for itself.

His podcast, named after the doctrine, which was started upon his resignation, delves into the brokenness of the legal system, politics and the economy. Using both his platform and his unique view as someone that has insight on the attitudes within law enforcement, little-known dangerous circumstances such as Qualified Immunity are exposed.

On the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests and fostering change

With the saddening list of Black American lives taken by police growing perpetually, we question if the seemingly unchanged tragedies will ever end. As protests persist, the plethora of propositions from defunding the police or ending for-profit policing, to demilitarization or the decriminalization of non-violent crimes has proven that much of the population are adamant on creating positive, sustainable change.

For Mr. Ingle, “we need a massive reduction in laws and regulations....law enforcement can only enforce the laws on the books”.

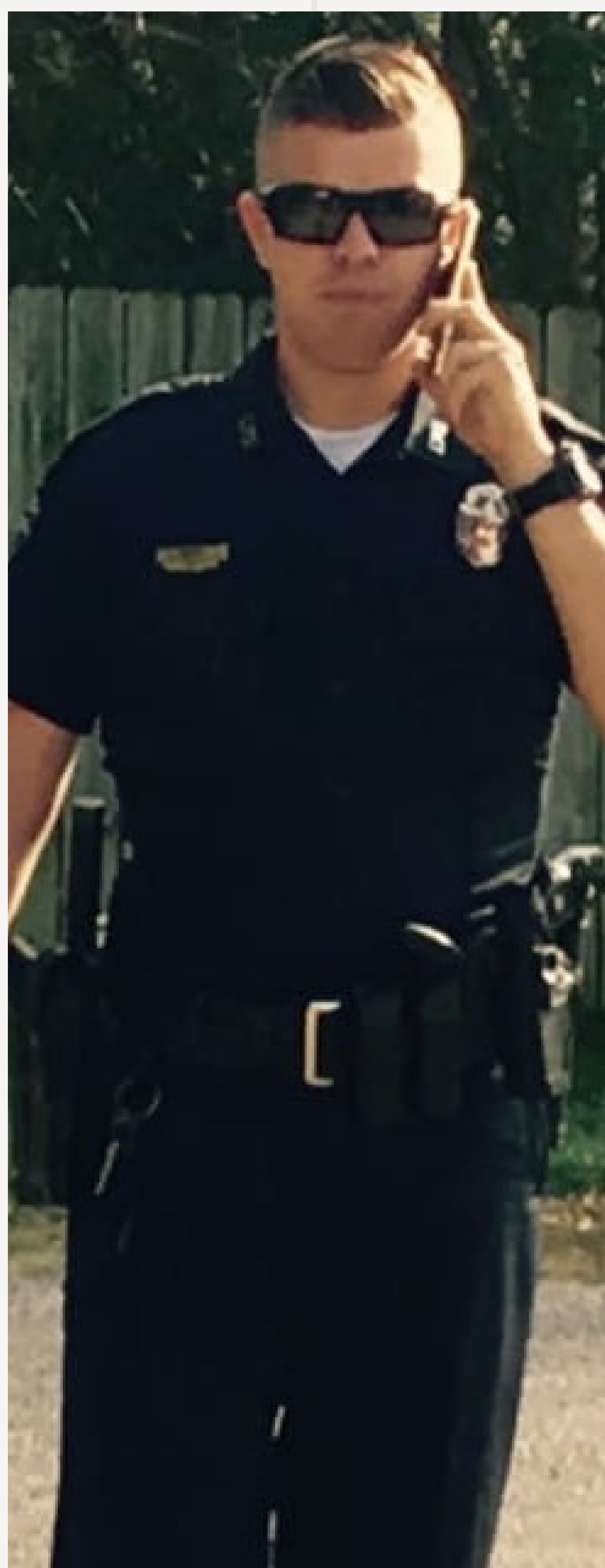
At present, the system that was built upon the apolitical ideal of keeping peace is tainted by acute political, racial, and socioeconomic prejudices that counterintuitively put peace and safety in jeopardy.

“I would like to see law enforcement return to the days of being more ‘peace officers’ than ‘law enforcement’. It’s going to take a lot of work but I believe that together we can make

In the past months, Black Lives Matter has (luckily!) become a household name for many. With protests surfacing globally, it is crucial to remember why we protest, why we speak up, and who we fight for.

Since the start of the protests, amongst various promises countrywide, Minneapolis City Council has committed to defunding the police department, while mayor Jacob Frey pledges to “full structural revamp” (NPR).

In spite of his direct exposure to the degree of maltreatment at the hands of law enforcement, Mr. Ingle believes that “consistent peaceful protest will make a change. If people stay at it long enough and stay peaceful about it....we can directly affect the government to choose a different path heading forward.”



(Above) Mr. Ingle prior to resignation

Concluding note

As a non-Black, sheltered individual born and residing in a country where I conform to the homogeneous racial group, I will never be able to fully empathize with the generational trauma, inherent injustice, and systemic suffering experienced by the Black members of our international community. With that, the good fight is one that should not be fought alone, and in a day and age where (credible) information is abundant, ignorance and silence are active, harmful choices.

The necessity for a just system is simple in general objective: without justice, there is no peace. Yet, the depth and myriad of injustices within each individual case complexifies the road to peace. Correspondingly, this article does not depict the gravity of the situation—I’ve linked numerous resources, including Greg J. Ingle’s podcast, Qualified Immunity, which I would like to admirably recommend.

RESOURCES

Qualified Immunity Podcast: https://open.spotify.com/show/0KRJsNIIWXGh16faiB0Kby?si=HobK3yhtQOC9x_Fy9Sa4cw

Educational Resources to Learn and Understand about BLM:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zg0EL4OnkVLDnlkdAdiA0imsyqO2wvQ2FtApQ5lmUt0/edit?usp=sharing>

TIME Magazine: 12 Movies to Watch to Educate Yourself About Racism and Protest History, Recommended by Experts

<https://time.com/5847912/movies-to-watch-about-racism-protests/>

Chokehold: Policing Black Men by Paul Butler (Amazon Japan link)

<https://www.amazon.co.jp/-/en/Paul-Butler/dp/1531836704>

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SOCIAL MEDIA and BLACK LIVES MATTER

🌙 🔒 ⌚ 15% 🔋

DIGITAL ACTIVISM

- FORM OF ACTIVISM THAT USES THE INTERNET AND DIGITAL MEDIA AS KEY PLATFORMS FOR MASS MOBILIZATION AND POLITICAL ACTION (BRITANNICA)

THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BLM

- BLACK LIVES MATTER INFORMATION
 - PETITIONS [CHANGE.ORG](https://change.org)
 - INFO CARDS [BLACK LIVES MATTERS.CARRD.COM](https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.com)
 - DONATION LINKS VICTIMS, PROTESTERS
 - CONTACT INFORMATION EMAILS, NUMBERS TO GOVT. OFFICIALS



FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TAMIR RICE AND OTHER VICTIMS AT [CHANGE.ORG](https://change.org)

DISCUSSION

- IS SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISM ENOUGH?
 - ↳ IS RAISING SOCIAL AWARENESS EQUIVALENT TO ACTIVISM?
- BLM 'TRENDS'
 - ↳ THE #BLACKLIVESMATTER BEING MORE HARMFUL THAN NOT AS IT FLOODED THE # WITH BLACKSCREENS RATHER THAN INFORMATION.
 - ↳ TAG-YOUR-FRIEND CHAIN HAS THE MESSAGE OF SOLIDARTY BUT ESSENTIALLY INSENSITIVE. IT FELT LIKE THE MOVEMENT WAS BELITTLED.

'SILENCE IS SIDING WITH THE OPPRESSOR'

- COMPLICATED AND DEPENDS ON THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON.
 - ↳ AS A BLACK PERSON, DEPENDING ON THE COMMUNITY/AUDIENCE, IT MAY BE HARDER TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT. DIRECT IMPACT
 - ↳ AS A NON-BLACK PERSON, IT SEEMS AS IF IT DOESN'T MATTER ENOUGH TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT. NO DIRECT IMPACT.

TALK TO YOUR BLACK FRIENDS

INCITE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT OR MAY NOT BE HELPFUL OR INSENSITIVE TO POST, SPEAK OUT ABOUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

MORE RESOURGES AT [BLACKLIVESMATTERS.CARRD.CO](https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co)

Amid a widespread epidemic, with cases surging particularly in the South and West of the US, activists from all over the US are gathering on the streets to protest against racial injustice directed towards black communities. Even despite the call to stay at least six feet away from each other, they are willing to risk their physical well-being so that their voices are heard. It's not just on the streets; two days after Bubba Wallace, the only African American driver in NASCAR's top series, called for a ban on the display of Confederate flags at races on June 10th, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, NASCAR, officially prohibited the display of the flag at its events. As the Black Lives Matter movement has received attention from all over the world, many questions arise regarding how and why people manifest racist actions and what we can and should do to stop them.

A factor of systemic racism that many activists are currently addressing is police brutality. The murder of George Floyd has rekindled the protests against police departments, calling for reforms on police behavior and even defunding the police. The evidence that points towards the need for immediate action is written out; according to one study titled "Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity, and sex", black men are 2.5 times more likely than their white counterparts to be killed by police during their lifespan. In addition, black people, who were fatally shot by police, seemed to be twice as likely as white people to be unarmed (Ibid.). Yet the responses to defunding the entire police department are divided. As stated by African American Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms,



(Above) Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms

"If I'm in a room with a group of folk who are saying, 'Defund the police,' I can walk right into another room with another

group of folk who are saying, 'I want more police in my community.' They both want our communities to be safe, and they want us to figure out how you get there." Seth Stoughton, a former police officer who is now a law professor at the University of South Carolina, asserted that "I have become convinced that we do not have a race problem in policing. Rather, we have a race problem in society that is reflected in policing." If this is true, how do we make meaningful change and profess forward?

The system where we might want to examine first is our brain. Our brains are where unconscious and conscious racism stems from. Conscious racism, as stated by The New Oxford American Dictionary, is understood as openly accepting and believing that "all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race." Unconscious racism, on the other hand, can develop from the accumulation of the acceptance of society's biases, prejudices, and stereotypes during childhood. A common example used to explain this is the following: Picture yourself walking down the street late at night. You look around and see a black man a few meters away from you. Would you cross the street? Clutch your bag a little tighter? While this is an example that captures just one scenario, when our biases are implemented elsewhere, the effects can prove to be detrimental to the millions of minorities in society. This is why it's important to educate people from early on, as studies have shown that kids pick up on racial differences from a very young age, in ways such as teaching and sharing resources on the history of racism and influential activists such as John Lewis.



In fact, research from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education has shown that signs of racism can be found even in infants; infants (from as early as 6 to 9 months) were found to be biased in favor of people of their own race and against those of other races (as based on two studies). By giving children more interactions with and exposure to diverse racial groups, we may be able to limit the deepening of racial bias.

As crucial as introducing children to diverse racial groups can be, it is also important to educate individuals continuously, starting out from early on. Discrimination can stem as soon as the mind starts developing, and only worsens as one ages. We are all part of the same race, that is, the human race; deliberately ostracizing a certain group of people is not only bigoted but can also put certain groups of people, mainly Caucasians, at a higher advantage than others, from career opportunities to presidential campaigns. In order to better society, we all need to admit and address the prevalence of racism; by neglecting to do so, we will only widen the gap within society and prevent understanding, cooperation, and communication among all races and ethnic groups.

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PHOTO BY CHARISSE KENION

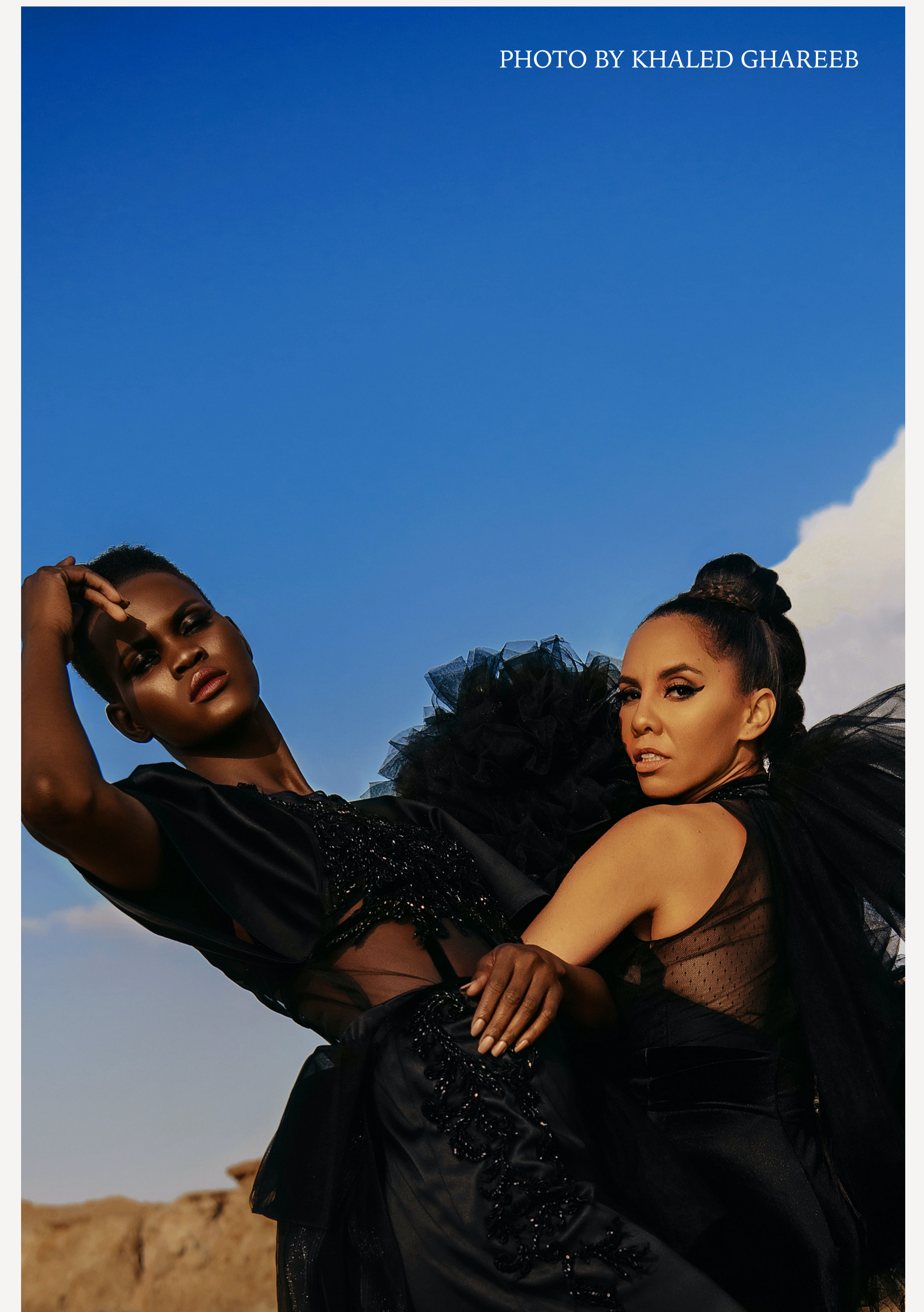


PHOTO BY KHALED GHAREEB

The tragic murder of George Floyd by white policemen has raised awareness of the existing systemic racism today, resulting in protests against the the issue worldwide. It is an understatement to say that the Black Lives Matter movement has brought people together for social change and activism and changed their worldview on equality and human rights. However, the fashion industry has stayed reluctant, as what the industry has promoted in response to the movement has proved solely to be performative activism.

Performative activism refers to activism done to increase one’s social capital rather than one’s devotion to the issue at hand. In the fashion industry, many companies and brands are incorporating the movement to their products, campaigns, advertisement, and more just for their benefit to appease and attract their respective customers.

Jaquemus, a French designer brand, is an example of the performative nature of the industry. Though the brand has prepared a diverse and inclusive runway for its SS21 (Spring-Summer 2021) show, the brand soon was under fire when they released a behind the scenes photo of their team with the majority being white. This does not only apply to Jacquemus., lit is an industry-wide problem, as diversity is needed not only on the surface but also behind the scenes for stylists, hair and makeup artists, designers, photographers, journalists, editors and executives.

Other notable instances of hollow activism lie within white-run brands that have openly posted on social media about racism. Most recently, Reformation, a sustainable women’s clothing brand based in Los Angeles, received public backlash due to the allegations from former employee, Leslieann Elle Santiago, about its racist work environment that left little to no room for black employees to be promoted, making their posted statement of standing against systemic racism questionable and hypocritic. To turn their perfunctory actions into actual activism, it is mandatory for the industry to first make changes internally, to its problematic structures that lack inclusivity and for brands and companies to effectively use their platform to spread messages to achieve social change.

It is justifiable to argue that superficial activism, such as black

models being featured on magazine covers and advertisements, do allow diversity to become more visible to the public, which can help normalize inclusivity on media, foster open-mindedness, and demolish racist beauty standards. But it is important to not be fooled by the veil and take notice of the fact that behind what we see on the exterior, equality may not always be granted. Thankfully, with the help of social media platforms, we are exposed to more information from insiders that tell the issues in the industry. With these resources, consumers should hold brands to higher ethical standards than before; supporting a company means supporting all aspects of them.



PHOTO BY ANDREW NEEL

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THOUGHTS ON PRIVILEGE AND ANTI-RACIST REFORM IN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN A TIME OF CHANGE



DISCLAIMER: I would like to start off this article by saying this is heavily inspired by posts created by some of my peers, Thea Nawal and Maisha Gregory, as well as numerous other people who have spoken up about this issue. Without their effort to start this conversation, I don't think I would have ever been able to write this, and so I would like to give credit where credit is due and thank them. I would also like to state that as a privileged Asian able-bodied girl living in a homogenous country where I am part of the majority, I understand that I will never understand or experience racism to the extent that black and indigenous people of colour (BIPOC) do on a daily basis in countries like the United States. I also don't believe that I have the right to speak for BIPOC; however, given the minimal representation of minorities (racially and socioeconomically) in international schools in Tokyo, I feel as though it's necessary to put in the effort to reform the educational system in a manner that actively promotes anti-racism and other forms of intersectionality, especially because many of our students will eventually move to countries such as the UK, US, Australia and other places where anti-blackness and racism are still prevalent, both socially and systematically. I believe it's the responsibility of our educators, teachers and school administration to raise awareness about the role that concepts such as racism, ableism, homophobia, and more play in contemporary societies in order to develop young people who will learn to speak up for what is right. We cannot ignore the manners in which many of us in our community benefit from the systematic oppression of so many

different groups, and BIPOC in particular.

—

Amidst the flurry of recent news and activist movements surrounding police brutality and racism in the United States, I've had time to reflect on my own actions as a person, how they contribute to systemic racism, and how I can help the Black Lives Matter movement. Seeing young people in my demographic and community post ignorant, uncompassionate and hateful speech in this time of mourning and change made me realise just how close-minded the international school community is, how unaware we are of our privileges and how uneducated we are on issues concerning racial justice, including its history.

I myself am certainly not free of this conditioning and racist mindsets. I have watched classmates, friends, family members, acquaintances and even teachers say or partake in certain problematic behaviour that I should have called out. I have been silent in moments when I should have spoken up. One of the clearest and worst memories I have of educating myself on societal issues includes a time where I was visiting the US for the first time as an 11-year-old and tensed up when a black man walked past me on the street (studies have shown that people perceive black men to be much more threatening, able to do potential harm and larger than whites subconsciously). I remember perpetuating ideals of white saviour complexes when I was a kid, having the media tell me time and time again that the only heroes in our world were white (70.8% of speaking

roles in Hollywood are given to white actors). These issues that have popped up time and time again throughout my own development as a person have helped me to realise that nobody is born with hate and ignorance. Hate and ignorance are taught, through the media, our education and the environments we grow up in. Because of this, we have to make an active effort to unlearn it.

There are a plethora of resources on the internet detailing the history of systemic racism in the United States and how to combat our own privilege in order to attain equity and change in our governments and society, but it bothers me that we haven't been taught that in our own schools, especially since these resources need to be actively searched for in order to be found AND it does not hold people to their responsibility to dismantle their own subconscious racial prejudices if it is merely an option rather than something they are made aware of consistently throughout their education. I would like to ask international schools, both in my community and outside of it, to address this issue by implementing a curriculum that is not merely Euro-centric (the IGCSE syllabus as of 2020 has both of its core content studies completely revolving around European and American history, with minimal room to explore other countries' histories in their depth studies as an option and there have been numerous debates on the history curriculum of American schools in general), that actively teaches students to be empathetic and understanding and that shapes people to better comprehend the role they play in modern-day society. Systemic oppression is an issue that spans all aspects of life, and as such, it

can also be brought up in every single one of our classes. Should we not be teaching biology students preparing to be future medics the way that healthcare is biased towards cisgendered able-bodied white males, because of the way research surrounding medicine has always been conducted on this particular group? Should we not be teaching, from an early age, in our English classes just how much the literature we value as classics are overwhelmingly sourced from a cis white male canon? Should we not be teaching girls how they are going to be told time and time again that their perspectives are irrational and based in emotion, that they're going to be interrupted whenever they try to speak in modern society, that they're going to be catcalled and men are going to feel entitled to their bodies regardless of what they want?

I appreciate my teachers trying to bring up these discussions, and I recognize the effort that they have already made to make students aware of these issues. However, I have found that these discussions only begin after we've already entered high school and have had time to develop our own manners of thinking. Furthermore, these issues are rarely addressed in the curriculum itself - instead, teachers have to make an effort themselves to fit time into their classes to discuss these issues with their students. With this in mind, it should be necessary for students to understand the role they can play in systemic oppression, especially from a young age, because children who are black, disabled, in poverty, etc. do not have a choice in learning about these issues. They have to live through them on a daily basis. Students in Seisen and countless other private international schooling institutions are privileged in so many ways - most of us are relatively wealthy, white/Asian, able-bodied, have access to food, healthcare & homes - and because of this, we are limiting the conversation and not giving voices to those that are afforded the same luxuries that all of us have. People who are privileged have to be forced to acknowledge the reality that they are because it is necessary in order to incite change and not doing so is inherently harmful to the many communities that suffer on a daily basis.

appreciate my teachers trying to bring up these discussions, and I recognize the effort that they have already made to make students aware of these issues. However, I have found that these discussions only begin after we've already entered high school and have had time to develop our own manners of thinking. Furthermore, these issues are rarely addressed in the curriculum itself - instead, teachers have to make an effort themselves to fit time into their classes to discuss these issues with their students. With this in mind, it should be necessary for students to understand the role they can play in systemic oppression, especially from a young age, because children who are black, disabled, in poverty, etc. do not have a choice in learning about these issues. They have to live through them on a daily basis. Students in Seisen and countless other private international schooling institutions are privileged in so many ways - most of us are relatively wealthy, white/Asian, able-bodied, have access to food, healthcare & homes - and because of this, we are limiting the conversation and not giving voices to those that are afforded the same luxuries that all of us have. People who are privileged have to be forced to acknowledge the reality that they are because it is necessary in order to incite change and not doing so is inherently harmful to the many communities that suffer on a daily basis.

As a school whose aims are to educate women for social and cultural transformation and shape international mindedness and celebrate international diversity (amongst others), we should recognise the factor that incorporating intersectional education of systemic oppression can play in reaching this goal.

Along with my sources, I have attached a number of articles, journal studies, and guides meant to shift schools towards more diversity and intersectional inclusive education, as well as a google document with more resources on anti-racism created by my older sibling.

Anti-Racism & BLM Resources

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DELVING INTO THE HISTORY: CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK PEOPLE



The day after Marther Luther King Jr's passing, Jane Elliot, a teacher, decided to educate her students about discrimination and its implications. The exercise she demonstrated in front of the class separated students based on the color of their eyes, blue or brown. On one day, she treated the brown eyed students as superior by giving them more freedom (e.g. lunch passes), while dismissing the blue-eyed kids as if they were worthy of nothing. The next day, she switched the groups and gave more privileges to the blue-eyed students instead. According to PBS, within just two days, the group that was treated unfairly felt demeaned and performed poorly on their daily tasks, as if they came to believe that they truly were inferior. On the other hand, the group that was praised and given privileges took on an 'attitude of superiority' and discriminated against the others.

Elliot then carried out this exercise with millions of people, including children and adults, who needed to learn and apply empathy in their lives. In an interview with Morning Edition, Elliott sighed, 'We are repeating this blue/brown eyed exercise on a daily basis', meaning Black people are profiled every single day of their lives, and unlike the experiment, there is nothing called 'switching groups' in real life. As a result, Black people are treated as inferior and are degraded, while White people are superior and supposedly 'deserve more privilege' with no valid justification.

Why and how is Black criminalization so prominent? This is a fundamental question to ask ourselves, especially when it is incredibly easy to hop on the trend of posting about the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement. Although people are aware of systemic oppression and white privilege, we often neglect the history of racial inequality. This is the most crucial step to take action against the US criminal justice system and push for reforms to strengthen the education system. Without knowledge of previous incidents, policies, and government regulations, we will not be able to fully understand the issue and advocate for effective changes.

Before digging into the question, it is important to step back and look at the bigger picture. Some make the questionable argument that Black males "look far more dangerous and aggressive" than an average white male. Through the use of language, images, and racial stereotypes, the media has portrayed Black people as 'thugs' and assert that their physical features justify their deaths. Unlike white people, the criminal justice system does not even give a chance to hear the Black defendant's perspective, but are quick to rule them guilty for crimes they never committed.

According to the National Registry of Exonerations, in 2016, they recorded 1900 defendants who were accused of crimes but later turned out to be innocent and "47% of them were African Americans, three times their rate in the population". Undoubtedly, many people repeat the process of being criminalized, wrongly convicted, and exonerated. And no, because they were exonerated doesn't give anyone permission to say, 'at least they were released'. If Black masculinity hadn't been associated with criminality, they wouldn't have to go through such a dreadful process. The criminalization of Black people dates back to a period of slavery, prejudice from hundreds of years ago, when people didn't have as much freedom of speech as we do now.

In the 16th/17th century, Africans were brought into America to work as slaves and aid the agricultural production to produce substances such as tobacco or cotton, all while treating white people as their superiors. With hundreds of years, the economy of the South became heavily dependent on Black labor in agricultural farming and they were keen on enduring that this system stayed in place. However, in the 19th century, when the West began to deny the need for slavery and oppose the act itself, many in the South feared that slavery would be abolished and their economy would exacerbate. Thus, the tensions only increased, as some politicians came to justify slavery, while others claimed that it should be abolished. The conflict of slavery was one of the major causes of the Civil War, aside from varying economic and political interests. From April 1861, the Civil War continued for a dreadful 4 years to ultimately come to a consensus: will Black people be freed from enslavement? Will everyone be treated as an equal? Not exactly.

A few months after the end of the war, Abraham Lincon, the president at the time, introduced the 13th amendment. This amendment states that 'Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.' This amendment formally abolished slavery, but it wasn't too long before some found a 'potential loophole' in the amendment and exploited it to suit their needs. The logic behind this loophole was that if slavery is legal as a punishment to a crime, it is legal for Black people to be enslaved because they comitted a crime, for example, loitering (even though a punishment as such is not major). Through this method, Southern states ignored the amendment and passed their own laws, known as the Black Codes, which forbid Black

people from obtaining the same rights as other free American citizens. As slavery was re-enforced in the south, Jim Crow laws and the KKK, a white supremacist hate group emerged, became active parts of society and thus, violence struck again.

Furthermore, The media continued to portray unarmed Black people as hostile criminals, who deserved what they were receiving, referencing the word 'thugs'. Similar to the 'blue/brown eyed exercise', once people adapted to the everyday phrases and news that painted Black people as criminals, racist practices against Black people were normalized. The oppression against Black people was to last for years after this historical period, and racial segregation had increasingly become strictly enforced with regulations to keep Black people inferior to white people. However, the Civil Rights Movement in 1954 was a significant moment where Black people stood united to stand up against white people and regain their freedom as citizens of the United States. We must build on those steps to achieve that very goal that has existed since long ago.

It is difficult but nonetheless extremely important to look into the history of slavery and the criminalization of Black people to understand what it means to fight for the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement. It is crucial to move forward and voice our opinions with informed knowledge and comprehension of the issue.



IMAGE FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



PHOTOS BY COOPER BAUMGARTNER

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BLACK LIVES MATTER



DISCUSSION

- POLICE RESPONSE TO QUARANTINE PROTEST VS. BLM
- POLICE INITIATING VIOLENCE
 - 10 YEAR OLD GIRL MACHED
 - POLICE PROPAGANDA
 - PROPERTY DAMAGE
 - RUBBER BULLETS AND TEAR GAS (WHICH IS ILLEGAL IN WAR)
- WHITE INCITEMENT
 - LIVING ANARCHISTIC 'FANTASIES'
→ LOOTING, VANDALISM
 - TAKING ACTIONS WHICH AFRICAN AMERICANS WILL TAKE THE FALL FOR
- PROTEST OR RIOTS?
- POLITICS VS. MORALS



PROTEST DEVELOPMENT

- CURFEW → ESTABLISHED (DURING A RIOT)
- TRUMP - MILITARY AS LAW ENFORCEMENT
ILLEGAL?
EXAMPLE OF AUTHORITARIANISM



OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

HONG KONG ADELANTO ICE DETENTION CENTER

- BRUTALITY
- CHINA ENFORCING MILITARY INFLUENCE W/O HK APPROVAL
- USE OF HDQ NEUTRAL (LESS LETHAL THAN TEAR GAS)
↳ BLISTERS, RASHES, BLEEDING, STOMACH PAIN +

POLICE CONCEPTS

- PRACTICE OF VIGILANTIANISM IN THE WORK FORCE.
- 2ND AMMENDMENT RIGHTS
- STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS





POLITICS vs. MORALS

- IS IT SEPERATE?
- INSTITUTIONASED → ROOTS IN HISTORY
- OVERLAP OF POLITICS AND ACADEMIA

↳ ACTIVISM IN UNIS

LOCAL ACTIVISM

- HARDER TO SPEAK OUT IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES
- TALKING POLITICS WITH FRIENDS IS HARD BUT VITAL

MOVING FORWARD

- CRITICAL JUSTICE REFORM NEEDED
- AGGRESSION AND LEARNING FROM THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION
- RECOVERING FROM THIS WILL TAKE TIME → SO DID A LOT OF MOVEMENTS

SERVICE

- WORKING FOR AN INSTITUTION VS. THE PEOPLE
- US POLICE OFFICERS AREN'T LEGALLY REQUIRED TO PROTECT PEOPLE → ENFORCE THE LAW (CONSTITUTION)

SUPPORT

AND WHAT WE CAN DO

- DONATIONS TO BAIL FUNDS, CHARITY ETC.
- PETITIONS
- SPREADING AWARENESS
- EDUCATING OURSELVES AND OTHERS
- blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/
 - UPDATED REGULARLY, + LINKS

MORE RESOURCES

BOOKS

- OVERSTORY RICHARD POWERS
- THE HATE U GIVE ANGIE THOMAS
- BECOMING MICHELLE OBAMA
- THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLOURBLINDNESS | MICHELLE ALEXANDER
- BIASED JENNIFER L. EBERHARDT
- AMERICAN LYNCHING ASHRAF HA ROSHDY

CINEMATOGRAPHY

- JUST MERCY - 2019
- THE 13TH - 2016
- THE FINAL YEAR - 2017
- FREEDOM RIDERS - 2010

PODCAST

- 'WHY THE CORONA VIRUS IS SO DEADLY FOR BLACK AMERICA' EZRA KLEIN - VOX

JOURNALS + LINKS

- TIMELINE OF PROTESTS - THE ROOT
- POLICE ERUPT IN VIOLENCE - SLATE
- WHAT WE BELIEVE - BLACK LIVES MATTER.COM



When one thinks of famous scientists, who inadvertently comes to mind? Einstein, Newton, Galilei. Mathematicians? Pythagoreans, Archimedes, Euclid. Artists? Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet. Classical musicians? Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart. When we think of renowned individuals at the forefront of shaping history, we associate them in our mind as white cis-gendered (where one's gender identity correlates with one's assigned sex) men.

The current political and cultural climate has intensified heated disputes in universities across the globe swirling around European colonialism. From Princeton University removing Woodrow Wilson from the public policy school and Wilson College to Oxford College destructing the Cecil Rhodes statue which embodies oppression, universities are responding to their students' impatience towards obsolete practices of racism and anti-blackness throughout the world.

This discord has brought about the question of whether international schools can be lauded for their diversity. In "An Open Letter to the International School Community: Our Role in the Black Lives Matter Movement and Anti-Racism Work", Rachel Engel, a sociology Ph.D. student who is studying the impacts of globalization, colorism, and race/ethnicity in Southeast Asia, explains that "the birth of the international school can be traced back to the migration of European expatriates and diplomats to developing countries" in which "diplomats and expatriates sought to create an educational system comparable to those in their home countries" while remaining financially exclusive in the local community. They have grown to become institutions for local, opulent students often endeavoring to receive Western tertiary education—a manifestation of prosperity. In "Growing up in Transit", Danau Tanu elaborates upon how Eurocentrism is entrenched in daily lives of international school students, whether it is through only deeming one as "international" if one is speaking fluent English with the "right" accent or arguing in English to a non-English speaking parent as a means of dominance.

At Seisen International School (SIS), current students and alumni are clamoring for educational reforms. Indeed, some elements advocated by the Eurocentric university system—the conceptual constructivist epistemology—should not be discarded, as cross-cultural disparities in learning configurations would have detrimental implications on students. Although SIS can be commended for their commitment to foster open-mindedness, they can continue to further decolonize the curriculum at the content level, which can ensue in the decolonization of other facets including the wall display and the physical space. For example, most classroom set up aligns with a Eurocentric epistemology, where the students face the teacher who stands at the front of the classroom. Susan Preston, an associate professor at Ryerson University, brings about these questions into consideration: "What is it like for Indigenous students when they walk into this university, into any educational institution, and see a white woman in front of the class? What is it like to walk into that space with the four walls and the desks and the chairs? What kind of images does that conjure up for them?" A circle seating arrangement—otherwise known as "a sharing circle"—can break the misconception that teachers are omniscient by opening up the conversation to explore disparate perspectives. What's more, students should be enlightened by the rationale behind the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, encompassing the newly-implemented Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the already-implemented Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Diploma Programme (DP), which seemingly champions intercultural respect and global-mindedness. Dr. Hatch, who completed a dissertation in international education and is the incoming Global-mindedness Coordinator, had this to say: "IB is merely a framework. What schools don't understand is that you can teach IB in a way that suits your local needs."

The decolonization of the curriculum is often discussed in relation to History and English. Mr. Skulmoski, the Head of Individuals and Societies Department, contends that History is now "less prescriptive," such that there is "an opportunity for diverse voices to be studied." The newly-introduced World History options provide "thematic outlines," leaving ample freedom for both the MYP and the DP.

Mr. Skulmoski has meticulously constructed the Grade 6 MYP curriculum to cultivate diversity, for example by inviting representatives from indigenous groups, allocating time for current affairs, and culminating the year with a service-learning project. Likewise, in the IBDP, students engage with historically excluded groups such as in the Anti-Apartheid and Civil Rights movements. Moreover, as opposed to the IGCSE curriculum, the "Cold War Conflicts in Asia" unit breaks free from the emphasis on the US and the USSR; despite this being seen as less relevant today with regard to the social issues than the history of racism and white supremacy, it is designed to examine Western imperialism from the perspective of non-Western nations by accentuating local experiences.



In my IBDP HL History class, I am grateful for the focus on the modern and historical geopolitical tensions in Eastern Asia in the context of current events. This has allowed me to consider entrenched historical injustices and develop a deeper understanding of the current tensions between Japan and its East European neighbors. However, it was only in the IBDP that it was structured as such. Why is there a perception that World War I with a death toll of 15 million is more significant than China's Taiping Rebellion with 20 million? Why is it that we classify Japan, perhaps rightfully so, as a malevolent nation during World War II without mentioning the implications of Commodore Perry forcibly opening Japan and the English bombing Kyushu on modernization, while not forgetting the xenophobic US Exclusion Act of 1924 and the rejection of the racial equality clause at the Paris Peace Conference? Why is it that education is subject to local distortions, bigotries, and prejudices, which produces history textbooks with varying content even in the same country? Why is it that from an early age, we do not nose-dive into issues Japan has yet to adequately confront, from the Nanking Massacre to so-called "comfort" women to Unit 731 (where the Imperial Japanese Army conducted lethal human experimentation during the Second Sino-Japanese War on mainly Chinese people)? With the implementation of the MYP, I am cautiously optimistic that these deeply-rooted prejudices will be addressed.

In a conversation with Mr. Dutki, the Head of the English Department, he indicated that they plan to mitigate Eurocentricity in the MYP by introducing more culturally diverse, insightful works. Moreover, he expounded that there are many rationales behind the reading list for the IBDP, including the representation of female authors or texts with strong female protagonists as an all-girls school. Indeed, while Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Sophocles' *Antigone* are written by white cis-gendered men, it features strong female protagonists. It does not fail to expand the predominantly literary canon by including works, ranging from Shigeru Mizuki's *Showa 1926-1939: A History of Japan* to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches.



Although the selection of texts is significant in promoting global-mindedness, the conversations concerning them are nonetheless pre-eminent. Although I acknowledge the teachers' efforts in facilitating these conversations, they were rather done so in the past tense or nebulous terms. With SIS existing within the bubble of international schools in Japan, these issues may seem far-fetched. It is imperative to delve deeper into historical injustices and their embodiments in the contemporary world. When discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we must go beyond addressing the enactment of Jim Crow laws. Let's talk about the underlying white savior narrative. Let's talk about systemic racism, such as the flawed institutions that still enable police brutality towards black people and the exception clause of the 13th Amendment in the US. In the IBDP, I have appreciated the national and international contextualization of texts. For instance, despite *The Handmaid's Tale* being a speculative fiction novel, we compellingly discussed how the atrocities were based on real human history and drew parallels to the US

under the Trump administration.

The STEM subjects are not often as challenged as the humanities for Eurocentricity, due to their rigidity to shift the emphasis of their content. However, Eurocentricity exists within all disciplines, including within STEM subjects. Mr. Cabiles, the upcoming Head of Sciences, elucidated that the Sciences are taught in a way that glorifies Western progress: "It's always taught that some Greek philosophers, like Aristotle, began thinking and questioning things 2000 years ago, and then the world was in the "Dark Ages" until the Scientific Revolution in the 16th century." He continues, "Through research, the truth is that while Europe was in the "Dark Ages", the Arabs and Chinese were furthering many aspects of science, perfectly fine, without the help of the Europeans. For instance, China invented gunpowder and hot air balloons, the idea of the number 0 was invented in India, and anything with "al" in front is from the Arab world, namely alcohol, alchemy, and algebra. Harvard historian of science, George Sarton, even rebukes that "From the second half of the eighth to the end of the 11th century Arabic was the scientific, progressive language of mankind... When the West was sufficiently mature to feel the need for deeper knowledge, it turned its attention, first of all not to the Greek sources but the Arabic ones." The exclusion of these important historical/scientific contributions seems to put the European "Age of Enlightenment" at the forefront of when people started to think, which is completely untrue." The illustrious European individuals who spearheaded their respective fields "stand on the shoulders of giants", including non-Europeans.

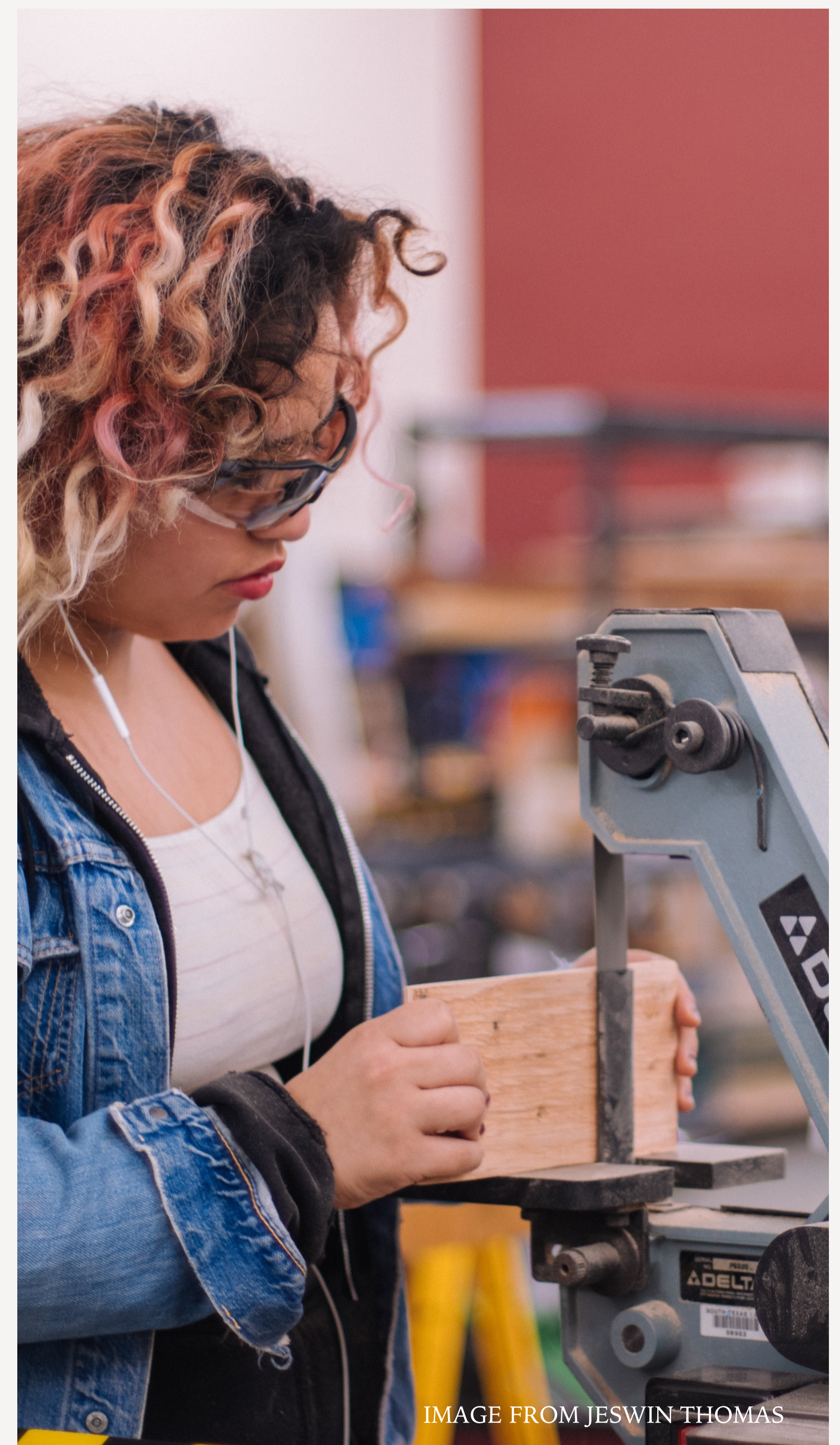
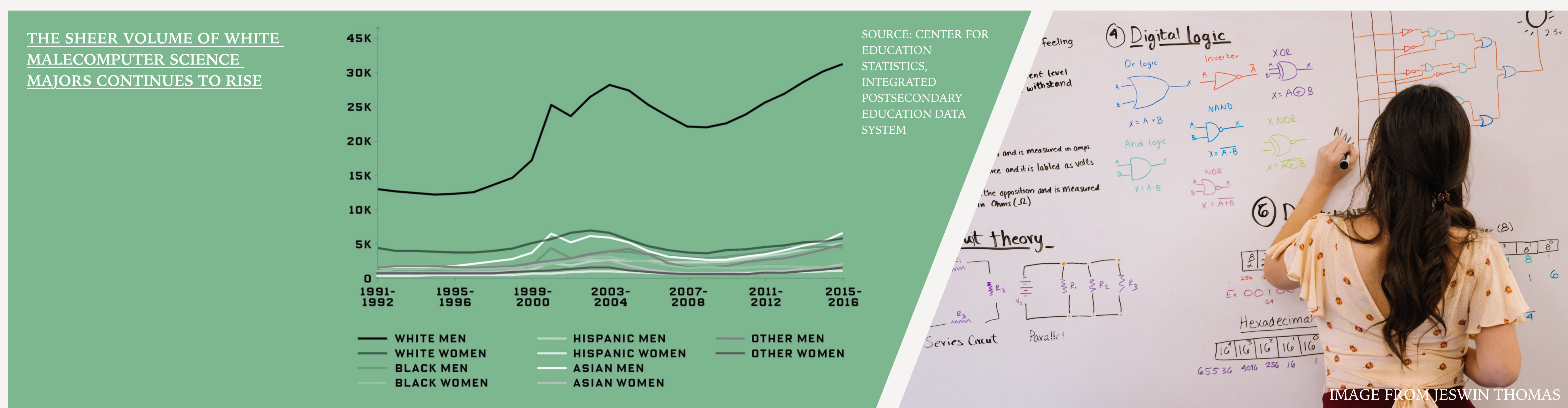


IMAGE FROM JESWIN THOMAS



The pronounced gender and ethnic imbalances still exist today, notably in computer science degrees as seen in the graph. While Mr. Usher, the Head of Mathematics, and Mr. Cabiles seek to articulate that the STEM subjects are not solely dominated by white men, they do acknowledge the reality, where this message is not being conveyed profoundly enough, with the face of the discipline remaining much too dominated by white males. However, Mr. Usher notes that “One way that we can begin to fulfill that mission in the math classroom is by developing data literate students who are better able to recognize—and respond to—inequality in the world around them.” This does not detract from the fact that discussions about modern non-European scientists and mathematicians can empower students to see that the STEM field is not merely constituted of white cis-gendered men.

Unfortunately, individual and communal blind spots to consider the complexity of social justice issues still plague SIS. For instance, SIS students overly utilize superficial and easy methods to raise money for non-profit organizations such as hosting bake sales and approaching people with a donation box at the Festival of Nations. While good-intentioned, such acts of social justice must be accompanied by deep and active reflection to understand how privilege and inequality are manifested in our daily lives, which in turn leads to reflexive grounded action. This ongoing normalized ignorance, for example, has been reflected in the response of the Black Lives Matter Movement. While I have been ecstatic by the great strides made towards addressing this issue, I have concurrently witnessed SIS students perpetrating performative activism.

To encourage students to voice their opinions and take action, there needs to be a social justice class from primary school, where students are given opportunities to navigate their third culture kid identities, recognize their own biases and privilege, fully immerse themselves in the local community, and learn about seemingly distant social justice issues plaguing our world both historically and today strikingly, just to name a few.

It cannot solely be the SIS administration endeavoring to effectuate educational reforms; the entirety of the community, especially students, must be responsible for stepping out of their comfort zones and making change as well. This encompasses reflecting on your privilege which cannot be mitigated, unlike the curriculum, engaging in conversations in classrooms, not merely sharing posts on social media, and facilitating conversations outside of the classroom among your family about the moral imperative of being taught by teachers with diverse heritage.

In writing this article, I was able to get in touch with many teachers and the SIS administration. Despite the difficulty in changing curriculum and mindsets, given their thorough responses to my questions and receptiveness to my ideas in further decolonizing the curriculum, I am very hopeful for the future of SIS.

MUST-READ

1. <https://medium.com/@rachel.engel/an-open-letter-to-the-international-school-community-our-role-in-the-black-lives-matter-movement-c92ba725d93c>
2. <https://medium.com/@rachel.engel/international-school-reform-initiatives-must-be-led-by-students-alumni-and-bipoc-educators-5a57e84750c1>

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BLACK LIVES MATTER

SENTIMENTS

PRO-BLACK ISN'T ANTI-WHITE

- BLACK LIVES MATTER ORIENTATES AROUND RACISM AND THE PAST EXAMPLES OF PREJUDICE AND INJUSTICES
- COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE MOVEMENT STEM MISUNDERSTANDING OR INTIMIDATION BY THE ASSERTION OF BLACK POWER
 - LACK OF EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND CAN LEAD TO HARMFUL TERMS SUCH AS REVERSE RACISM
- RACISM, PARTICULARLY IN THE US., IS DEEPLY INTERSECTIONAL WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE OF COLOUR. IT'S ABOUT THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE
 - PEOPLE OF COLOUR ARE SUBJECTED TO RACIALIZED VERSIONS OF CLASSISM, ABLEISM, SEXISM ETC
- #ALL LIVES MATTER (OR ANYTHING SIMILAR) ASSUMES THE NOTION THAT PRO-BLACK IS AN ATTACK, OR OFFENSIVE STANCE TO WHITE OR OTHER RACES. HENCE OVERLOOKING THE ACTUAL CRITICISMS OF SYSTEMATIC RACISM. ALL LIVES DO MATTER, BUT AS A RESPONSE TO BLM IT PERPETUATES HARM.

COMMUNITIES

- DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES ARE BOUND TO HAVE VARYING LEVELS OF EXPOSURE TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY, RACISM AND ANTI-BLACK SENTIMENTS
- SAME GOES FOR ACCESS TO EDUCATION, AND BY EXTENSION, AWARENESS.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO STAY AWARE AND EDUCATE OTHERS WHEN POSSIBLE
- WITH A VARIETY OF RACIAL, ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, INCITING CONVERSATIONS CREATES MORE INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



RESOURCES

- BIASED BY JENNIFER EBERHARDT
- GROWING UP IN TRANSIT BY DANAU TANU
- WHITE RAGE BY CAROL ANDERSON
- SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE IJEOMA OLOU
- RAISING WHITE KIDS BY JENNIFER HARVEY

WHERE TO TAKE ACTION

WWW.BLACKLIVESMATTERS.CARRD.CO

Breonna Taylor was a victim of police brutality that once again set in motion the Black Lives Matter movement and unveiled the racial prejudice faced by many to this day. At 26-years old, Taylor was an African-American Emergency room technician, who was fatally shot to death early morning on March 13, in Louisville. She was asleep with her boyfriend Kenneth Walker when they woke up to hear a loud banging on their apartment door, on account of a visit from the cops early that morning. After a heated argument between the two parties, Kenneth Walker was the first to fire his gun, wounding one of the officers present. This later resulted in the police shooting Taylor, hitting her at least 8 times.



(Above) Breonna Taylor

The original investigation led by the police was meant to be a narcotics raid, but instead, ended with Taylor's death. The police were investigating two men whom they believed were selling drugs from a house that was 10 miles from Taylor's apartment. There were various sightings of the main suspect meeting Taylor at her apartment, raising the suspicion that Taylor was helping him. But only later was it found that the reason for their frequent

meetings was because he was her ex-boyfriend. Although not directly part of the investigation, the police were authorized a no-knock warrant by a judge to check out Miss Taylor's apartment, as they believed it was being used to store the drugs. A no-knock warrant was issued to prevent them from taking time to hide any possible substances that could have been found, but no drugs were discovered in her apartment.

The police claimed that albeit having a no-knock warrant, they still knocked on the door and announced themselves as the police. However, both Walker and the neighbors claimed that they did not hear the police identifying themselves. Moreover, Walker was licensed to carry a gun and claimed that he only shot the police officers out of self-defense and fear of the intruders being burglars. The police's actions, however, have been a topic of debate, as they shot Taylor 8 times, despite being unarmed. Furthermore, many questions were later raised after the incident, inquiring why the raid on Taylor's home was done in the middle of the night, and shortly after other investigators had already located the main suspect involved in their investigation.

Following this incident, Louisville has banned the use of no-knock warrants in police investigations. Furthermore, Brett Hankison, one of the officers involved in the death of Breonna Taylor, was fired, with the other 2 officers placed on

administrative leave. However, many people are not satisfied with these punishments, as they fail to atone for the officers' actions. 2 of the 3 officers, who were present at the scene, are still employed by their department and facing zero charges for her murder. Taylor's death is one of the many examples of racial prejudice in our world today, and the very reason why police reform needs to happen. Since the killing of George Floyd, protests have broken out all over the world, demanding justice for the lives lost and holding those involved accountable for their crimes. Social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter have also allowed it's users to raise awareness on cases of police brutality and racism. It is more important now than ever to raise our voices on the Black Lives Matter movement to continue the fight, and ensure that no further lives are lost at the hands of police officers.



"Breonna Taylor." Here's What You Need To Know About Breonna Taylor's Death, The New York Times, 2020.

"Breonna Taylor: Louisville Officer to Be Fired for Deadly Force Use." BBC News, BBC, 20 June 2020.

Elahi, Amina. "No Arrests Or Charges So Far In Breonna Taylor's Shooting Death." NPR, NPR, 13 July 2020.

Oppel, Richard A., and Derrick Bryson Taylor. "Here's What You Need to Know About Breonna Taylor's Death." The New York Times, The New York Times, 30 May 2020.

HOW A PANDEMIC IS FOLDING OUT IN MODERN SOCIETY: HITTING THE POOREST THE HARDEST

Ain Cho ('23)

Vulnerability to disease is no exception to the socio-economic divide. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the less privileged harder than those who live above the minimum income threshold. To solve this issue, more funding must be allocated to those most in need.

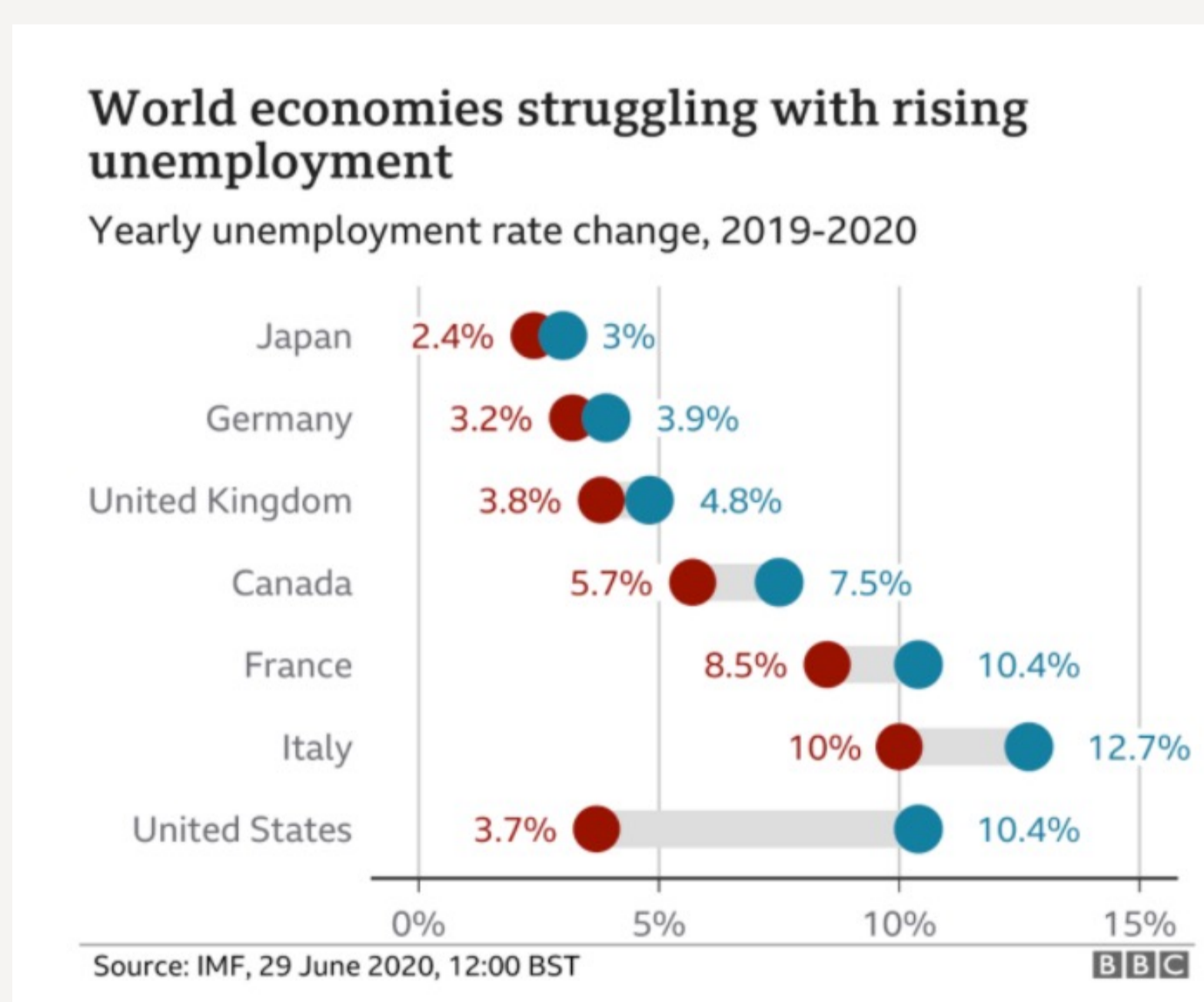
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has slashed the incomes of those working in manual labor and less stable jobs. There are people like Maria, a 37-year-old undocumented Mexican immigrant, working at an orchard in Washington state. Her income has greatly suffered following the outbreak, as the strengthening social distancing measures unfairly puts low-income jobs in peril. Moreover, many don't have the luxury to work from home or stock up on food or other forms of basic sustenance. Therefore, this dilemma, where social distancing



is necessary but cuts “unskilled” jobs, aggravates the livelihood of the lower echelons of society.

Maria is one of the many suffering from reduced income. The National Geographic illustrates the case of Monique Greenwood, an Black businesswoman who runs bed and breakfast inns in various parts of Pennsylvania. People such as Greenwood have seen their revenue plummet “in a matter of days ... and were forced to lay off nearly all of her 15 staff members”. The lack of revenue which hit her establishment led to loss of jobs and her employees’ livelihoods.

Such unemployment trends can be seen on the following graph. Many countries ended up with an elevated unemployment rate during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Some governments including that of Korea and Japan have been providing financial aid to their citizens; however, their effectiveness has been limited. The Korean government distributed a variety of relief packages in the form of emergency funds. For instance, according to KBS World Radio, the government gave 1 million won (approximately \$880 million) to “each household with four or more members in the bottom 70-percent income bracket.” in April. However, some argue that these funds have done little to stabilize the

economy and improve the livelihoods of the receivers. In “Has the emergency fund effect faded after three weeks?” on KBS, the tourism industry, which has been particularly affected by the pandemic, has seen no positive revenue from the emergency funding. Therefore, emergency funding to increase consumption does not always lead to flourishing business, especially the smaller ones.

Similarly, the Japanese government carried out two plans. In the first plan, they sent out a 108-trillion-yen (approximately \$993 million) package. However, this plan was criticized by two opposing parties. The second plan included a “one-time cash payment of 300,000 yen (about \$2,760) to needy households, and of up to 2 million yen to small and mid-size businesses.” It similarly received backlash. JCP Chairman Kazuo Shi argued that these were “the worst kind of plan[s],” as they were abruptly made, distributed insufficient money, and too narrowly targeted and applied unfairly.

A possible solution is heavier taxation on the privileged and using surplus tax income to help with medical coverage for poorer patients. In an article published by Guardian, it is



claimed that ultra-millionaires, who own more than \$30 million have been favorable towards more taxation. Their wealth can be used in direct and indirect ways to help with economic recovery. In the UK, the Labour Party has even suggested implementing this solution.

Globally, low-income individuals and families are being substantially affected by this pandemic. As young-activists, the best way forward is to use platforms such as social media and written media for the voices of the victims to be heard.



Brooks, Rodney A. “More than Half of Black-Owned Businesses May Not Survive COVID-19.” National Geographic, 17 July 2020.

Jones, Lora, and Daniele Palumbo & David Brown. “Coronavirus: A Visual Guide to the Economic Impact.” BBC News, BBC, 30 June 2020.

Neate, Rupert. “Super-Rich Call for Higher Taxes on Wealthy to Pay for Covid-19 Recovery.” The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 13 July 2020.

서영민 . “빅데이터야, 진짜 ‘재난지원금 효과’ 맞아?” KBS 뉴스.

“Japan’s Opposition Blasts Lack of Cash Aid for Regular People amid Coronavirus Emergency.” The Mainichi, 8 Apr. 2020.

“Conflict Regions Vulnerable to COVID-19 Catastrophe.” Anadolu Ajansi.

SAY THEIR NAMES

"Racism Is Not Getting Worse, It's Getting Filmed" (Will Smith)

Please note that all information regarding the charges of the police officers are of August 9, 2020.



AIYANA STANLEY-JONES

On May 16, 2010, Stanley-Jones, a 7-year-old, was killed in her home after being shot in a raid by the Detroit Police Department. Following two mistrials, charges against the officer who killed her were dismissed.

IMAGE FROM MOTHER JONES



TRAYVON MARTIN

On February 26, 2012, Martin, 17, was shot in Sanford, Florida by George Zimmerman, a neighbourhood watchman, who was acquitted of all charges.

IMAGE FROM BIOGRAPHY



YVETTE SMITH

On February 16, 2014, Smith, 47, called 911 to pacify a dispute between two armed men but was fatally shot twice and killed by a sheriff's deputy in Bastrop County, Texas within three seconds after she opened the door. Although the officer who killed her charged with murder, he was found not guilty after visiting judge Albert McCaig during a retrial.

IMAGE FROM YWCA HOUSTON



TAMIR RICE

On November 22, 2014, Rice, 12, was fatally shot twice and killed within two seconds after arriving, by a Cleveland police officer, because he was playing with a toy gun. A grand jury did not indict, and the officer was later fired for an administrative offense.

IMAGE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES



WALTER SCOTT

On April 4, 2015, Scott, 50, was shot and killed by a North Charleston police officer, after being stopped for a nonfunctioning brake light. On 2017, the officer was charged with second-degree murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

IMAGE FROM BLACKPAST



ALTON STERLING

On July 5, 2016, Sterling, 37, was fatally shot by an officer in the Baton Rouge Police Department. Although the Department of Justice investigated, in May 2017, they did not file criminal charges against the officers. Later, Louisiana's attorney general, Jeff Landry, claimed that Louisiana would open investigation, but again, failed to file criminal charges against the officers, as they acted in a "reasonable and justified manner."

IMAGE FROM VOX



AHMAUD ARBERY

On February 23, 2020, Arbery, 25, was chased and fatally shot by two white men in his South Georgia neighborhood. The men have been charged with murder and aggravated assault.

IMAGE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES



D'ANDRE CAMPBELL

On April 6, 2020, D'Andre Campbell, an Afrikan man, was shot by police in Ontario, Canada after calling 911 for help during a mental health crisis. Charges have not been made and the officer refuses to conduct interviews, however, an investigation is ongoing.

IMAGE FROM CBC.CA



EISHIA HUDSON

On April 12, 2020, Hudson, a 16 year old indigenous girl from Winnipeg, Canada, was shot and killed by police. Three murders of Indigenous people occurred within 10 days, including hers. An investigation by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth has commenced.

IMAGE FROM CBC.CA



CHANTEL MOORE

On June 4, 2020, Moore, a 26 year old indigenous woman killed in New Brunswick, Canada after being shot by police in a physical altercation with an officer during a supposed wellness-check arranged by her boyfriend.

IMAGE FROM CBC.CA

SAY THEIR NAMES



L I G H

STUDENT

P O T

While the George Floyd incident caused many students in Japan to stand up to fight against racial injustice, we realized that the majority of activists had international backgrounds. Through talking to students in Japanese schools, we realized that there is a common misconception that the Black Lives Matter movement is “not related to them” and therefore, they are “not in the position to express their opinion.” It seemed to us that many of them were taking peace for granted.

To spread awareness and inspire action among the Japanese community regarding global issues, I made an Instagram account, @tachiagarou (“stand up”) with two other like-minded bilingual students, who attend Japanese highschools.

In order for our posts to appeal to our primary audience—Japanese people who are “not so interested” in global issues—we make our posts visually appealing with a colorful, handwritten cover page (although we hope that people choose to read and share our content based on the information rather than the aesthetic appeal.) The posts on the right are translations of the last words of John Lewis, a black congressman who was arrested more than forty times during the fourteen years of the Civil Rights Movement and five times since serving in congress. We were touched by his last words but realized that there is not yet a Japanese version of it accessible to everyone, therefore decided to translate it.

Through this account, we have been able to connect with activists throughout Japan. As our account name suggests, we hope to see more people within the Japanese community stand up for global issues.

Olivia K. ('21)




**“Together,
You Can
Redeem the
Soul of Our
Nation”**
- John Lewis

@masterwilliams



“
Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to **let freedom ring.**”


私はもうあなた達と共にはいないが、自分の心の叫びを聞き、自分の信念のために立ち上がって欲しい。私は人生を通して平和・愛・非暴力の道が歩むべき道だと示すために最善を尽くした。
これからはあなたが**平和の鐘を鳴らす**時代だ。



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

“
When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.”

歴史学者が21世紀の歴史本を書く時、あなた達の代で憎悪が捨てられ、やっと平和が暴力と戦争に打ち勝ったと書かせなさい。
愛する私の兄弟・姉妹よ。風と共に歩き、平和の精神と永遠の愛の力によって導かれて行きなさい。



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

@tachiagarou

ATROCITIES MASS MEDIA OVERLOOKS

Unfortunately, covering all the injustices in the world in one issue would be impossible.

Here are some other atrocities going on in the world right now that haven't been mentioned so far, and some ways for you to learn more about them!

Beirut explosion and the crisis in Lebanon



A massive explosion blasted through Lebanon's capital, Beirut on August 4th. As of August 5th, roughly 300,000 people are homeless and at least 154 people have been found dead. It is estimated that collective losses may reach upwards of \$15 billion (USD). The nation had already been facing an economic crisis, worsened by the coronavirus pandemic. The currency has lost 80% of its value, and hunger and increased poverty are expected. In response to the chaos, Lebanon's government resigned less than a week after the explosion. More political, economic, and social unrest is expected.

IMAGE FROM SPLASH247

Slave trade in Libya



The UN's International Labour Organization found that there are more than triple the number of slaves forced into slavery in present-day, than in the 350-year lifespan of transatlantic slavery (the trade of enslaved African people to the Americas). In Libya, the slave trade is particularly prominent, aid organizations and reporters have reported on disturbing slave auctions. Slaves are forced into terrible conditions, are subject to rape, physical abuse, and many have been murdered. In the TIME's article (see QR code), several survivors recount their traumatic stories.

IMAGE FROM GETTY IMAGES

Hong Kong's National Security Law



Hong Kong's National Security Law, imposed by China, has the intent of criminalising terrorism, collusion, and secession. However, this also means that freedom of expression is undermined, with pro-democracy activists worrying that their activism could become a crime, as it conflicts with the People's Republic of China's agenda. Furthermore, amongst many other consequences, anyone under suspicion of breaking the law can be wiretapped (allowing officials to listen to private conversations). Since last year, pro-Democracy movements have persisted in Hong Kong in response to this suppression of freedom.

IMAGE FROM WORDPRESS

Humanitarian Crisis in Somalia



The crisis in Somalia is multi-dimensional with many factors contributing to the terrible conditions in the coastal country. Hundreds of thousands have died from famine, which has been worsened by the drought, lack of health protection, and little humanitarian aid. Disease has been killing the population, with a heartbreaking statistic that it is expected that 1 out of 7 children die before the age of 5. Politically, armed conflict has been occurring in Somalia for decades, leading to death, injury, and displacement of the general population, and instilling fear in Somalis. This has also made it difficult for aid to be given.

IMAGE FROM THEATM

The epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada



The missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada (as well as Indian/Alaska Native women) have reached staggering numbers. Murder is the 3rd leading cause of death for Indigenous women, according to the Centers for Disease Control, with 84% of Native Women reporting experiencing violence in their lifetimes. Most of these crimes are shown to be committed by non-Native people, on Native-owned land, though many crimes occur in ordinary urban areas.

With Indigenous people also falling victim to countless instances of police brutality and mistreatment in the system, this epidemic has proven to be one in dire need of attention.

IMAGE FROM CROSSCUT

Ethnic Oppression of the Uyghurs in China



Since 2017, 2 million Uyghurs—ethnically Turkic Muslims—are detained in what the Chinese government call “re-education camps” under the pretext of the prevailing religious extremism in Xinjiang. This is the largest mass internment of an ethnic group since the holocaust. In these camps, they are cleansed of their ethnic identity—for instance, through banning of their history, language, and cultural practices—to make them “normal citizens” and tortured. Recently leaked documents confirm this. The international community has had mixed responses. Trump allegedly noted that “Xi should go ahead with building the camps, which he thought was exactly the right thing to do,” based on former U.S. national security adviser John Bolton. Read Miffy’s 2019 article, featuring interviews with Joseph Hope and Tokyo Camii, Japan’s biggest mosque, spokesperson Shigeru Shimoyama.

IMAGE FROM ASIANEWS

Yemen: “the largest humanitarian crisis in the world,” according to UN



In Yemen, over 24 million people, which is 80% of the population, despite 50% of the population being under 15, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Since 2014, the conflict between the Houthi rebels, supported by Iran, and the internationally-recognized government, supported by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia, the US, and the UK, has ensued in the bombing of Yemen, wounding and killing the populace. Since 2017, a cholera epidemic, which results in dehydration and death, has contributed to prevalence of famine and hunger. Now, this circumstance has been exacerbated by COVID-19, where merely 50% of health facilities are operating, essential medical supplies, from oxygen to PPE, are insufficient, and frontline health workers get no wage. COVID-19 will “delete Yemen from maps all over the world”.

IMAGE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

Human Rights Crisis in Zimbabwe



After an anti-government protest against corruption and political and economic instability which was scheduled for July 30 was suppressed, Zimbabwe’s military and police has so far arrested 60 opposition members, activists and journalists. If they cannot find their initial target, they destroy their homes and harass their relatives. Hence, many of the MDC members—the democratic party—have gone into hiding. Human rights organizations have accused President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s administration for arresting individuals under the facade of imposing lockdown regulations for COVID-19. Investigative journalist Mdudzuzi Mathuthu claimed, “Journalism is just a job, but in Zimbabwe it can be a matter of life and death. They have not only come just after me, but my family as well.”

IMAGE FROM LSE BLOGS

Femicides in Turkey



The killing of a 27-year-old woman by her ex-boyfriend has exposed Turkey’s high femicide rate—so-called “honour” killings—and government’s action in reversing the Istanbul Convention, a legislation that protects victims of femicides and effectively prosecutes offenders. In 2019, 474 women were murdered, mostly by their respective family members. In 2020, due to COVID-19, the figures are presumed to be higher. What’s more, the president has clearly communicated that men are superior to women and women without children are inadequate.

IMAGE FROM AL ARABIYA

Femicides in Mexico



Due to regulations enforced in response to COVID-19, there has been a surge in femicide rates: in April, there were 267 murders, recording the deadliest month in the last five years. However, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has continued to belittle this issue claiming that 90% of a record-high 26,171 emergency calls during March were false. During the beginning of the pandemic, the government launched series of videos which depicted “counting to 10” as a remedy for domestic violence. In mid-July, he approved a 75% budget cut for the federal women’s institute and suggested to abolish state funding for women’s shelters run by NGOs.

IMAGE FROM FEMINISTING

Tensions Between Gaza and Israel: Balloon Bombing



The lasting tensions between Gaza and Israel have resulted in an increasing number of attacks across the Gaza border. After Gaza launched explosive balloon bombs into Israel, Israel struck back and released a statement saying that they would close the border of the Gaza strip and only allow humanitarian goods into the region. Since Gaza was especially struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic, with unemployment reaching over 60%, this closure will lead to disastrous consequences for the Gaza residents. Gaza has stated that ‘they will not remain silent in the face of a Israeli blockade’.

IMAGE FROM TIMES OF ISRAEL

Belarus Election: Violence against Protestors



Protests started emerging in Belarus when the longtime authoritarian President Lukashenko had won yet another Presidential Election. He was victorious with a striking 82% of the vote in five regions, and being known as the ‘Europe’s last dictator’, people were frustrated to be under his rule and therefore started protesting. This has led to police violence with many officers firing rubber bullets and throwing tear gas to disperse the groups. Several citizens are left injured, and some have been detained until further notice.

IMAGE FROM INSIDER

A Gas Explosion In Baltimore



2 people, a college student and a woman, have been killed and 7 injured due to a natural gas explosion in Baltimore. 200 people have been affected with several houses destroyed across the block. The explosion had ‘leveled three row houses’ and had trapped people under wood, with shattered glass all over the floor, yet the exact cause of this disaster is unknown. Gas leaks have been occurring more frequently in the past few years, and while this is also detrimental to the environment, it has left several family members stranded without their loved one.

IMAGE FROM NEW YORK TIMES

STUCO PRESENTS

SILENT AUCTION

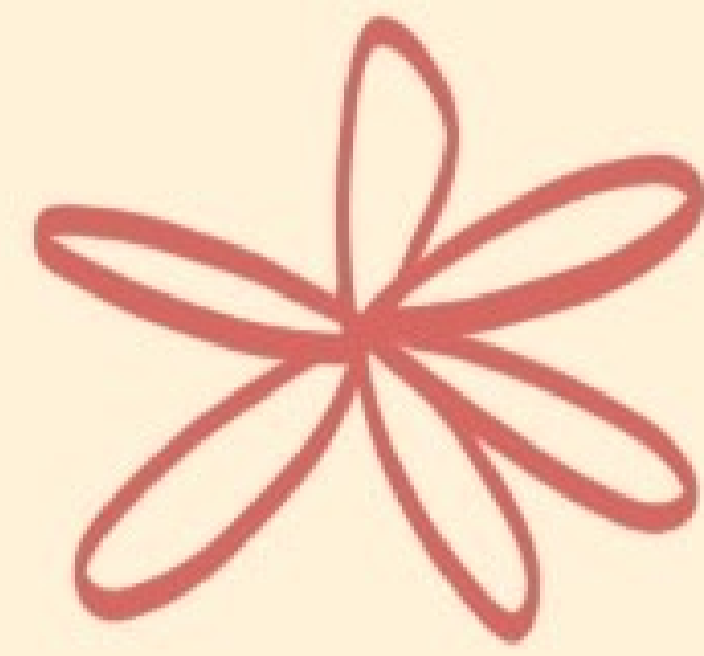
SPREAD AWARENESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**COMING SOON
IN THE FALL!**

WE ARE ASKING FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE BY
SENDING THEIR INNOVATIONS / ARTWORKS / DIALOGUES

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO NAACP DEFENSE FUND





“Let’s stand together, shoulder to shoulder, hold hands with every human of every color, because together we rise and we shall stand with justice & power forever so we can breathe in peace”—F.M. Sogamiah

September 2020