

FREEDOM

001 JUNE 2020

SUTTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S MAGAZINE EXPLORING DISCRIMINATION AND INJUSTICE IN SOCIETY

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

**HOW GEORGE FLOYD SPARKED A SOCIETAL
REVOLUTION, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE SCHOOL.**

EDITORIAL

IN LIGHT OF recent events, we felt like it was high time that we, as a student body, addressed the prevailing issue of racism, as well as the ignorance associated with it. Racism is not an issue endemic to SGS, but rather is one which is prevalent throughout society. Nevertheless, this is not an excuse to avoid dealing with the problem. Racist ideas and opinions proliferate as a result of ignorance, complicity and silence. SGS prides itself on its tight-knit and ethnically diverse community, and therefore it is important that we are educated and aware of current issues which are most certainly pertinent to us.

This publication includes pieces which are both contemporary and historical in focus, with the aim of highlighting that racism is an issue which has persisted for an incredibly long time, despite gargantuan efforts to fight it. Personal accounts from members of the school community will show that this is a problem which negatively affects the people we see day in and day out. It is not an 'external' problem but one which is immediately relevant to us. Many of you may have seen the condemnatory social media posts with regards to racism, and the goal of this publication is to raise awareness so that people in the future are not put in the same position that these individuals are in now. Hopefully this will help to educate people, and enable them to better equip themselves to deal with the scourge of racism, and those problems associated with it.

If anyone has any suggestions, advice or just needs someone to talk to, do not hesitate to contact me.
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Yours sincerely,
Hari Kandiah

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The statue of Edward Colston, a 17th-century slave trader, was torn down and thrown into the harbour by protesters in Bristol.

RACISM: NOT FOR OUR FUTURE

MIHIRA PHILIP HEAD STUDENT

AT THE TIME of writing, 16,422,020 people have signed the petition 'Justice for George Floyd', and the question I find myself asking is, "What does justice look like?" In some murder cases, justice is, we hope, the handing of a suitable sentence to the killer. But Floyd's death was nothing standard. The guilty party is not limited to Derek Chauvin, nor to the three other policemen who aided and abetted their murderous colleague. When a black person is killed simply for the colour of their skin, the entire 'justice' system is guilty, those who preside over it, and all those who do nothing to fix it.

A white man applying a death sentence to a black man accused (not convicted) of using a counterfeit \$20 bill reeks of centuries-old racial abuse, and so carries echoes of America's tryst with slavery, the ghost of which has not yet been exorcised from what proclaims to be the leading nation of the free world.

Easy as it may be to call this America's problem, racism exists in Britain, too. If you're tempted to boast about the 'improvements' made in race relations here, please do not. Slight progress is not good enough in such a matter as racism; it deserves no compromise. It falls

to us, to our generation, to educate ourselves and each other, because it is only through education that we can hope to understand a problem so ingrained in the British psyche. So as we call on our government to put British colonial history on our syllabus, we need to be proactive in how we tackle racism. We may dream of a world in which racism is relegated to the history books, but there is much work to be done before we can come close to that.

Indeed, when we look at how deeply rooted racism has been in the history of mankind, it is difficult not to be pessimistic. It has

been one hundred and fifty-five years since the 13th Amendment was passed by the House of Representatives to abolish slavery in the United States. Fifty-six years ago, the Civil Rights Act was passed to end segregation. Only eleven years back, the people of the United States voted into office their first black President. Which brings us to the present day: black people

Brixton by police officers in 2008, crushing him to the point that he died in custody. American tragedies have their parallels in Britain.

It is not enough to lament the human condition. Racism is a disease for which there are cures proven to work; these have simply not been applied for long enough, and with enough conviction and consistency.

the Civil Rights Movement, but it was Martin Luther King Jr., advocate of non-violence, who stood behind President Johnson as he signed the Civil Rights Act.

As we take on institutionalised racism, we need not doubt the potency of our word, or of our peaceful, impenetrable solidarity. The ongoing Black Lives Matter protests are the living legacy of

// THESE HAVE SIMPLY NOT BEEN APPLIED FOR LONG ENOUGH, AND WITH ENOUGH **CONVICTION** AND **CONSISTENCY.** //

are still being killed by the police - by those who claim to be officers of justice, by those who are employed to protect those they murder. Just as George Floyd couldn't breathe, neither could Sean Rigg, who, suffering a mental health crisis, was pinned to the ground in

To those who fear violence is the only effective way to subdue racism - slavery was abolished not because the Civil War had been won, but through the power of rhetoric, three months before the end of the war. There were those who took up arms in the name of

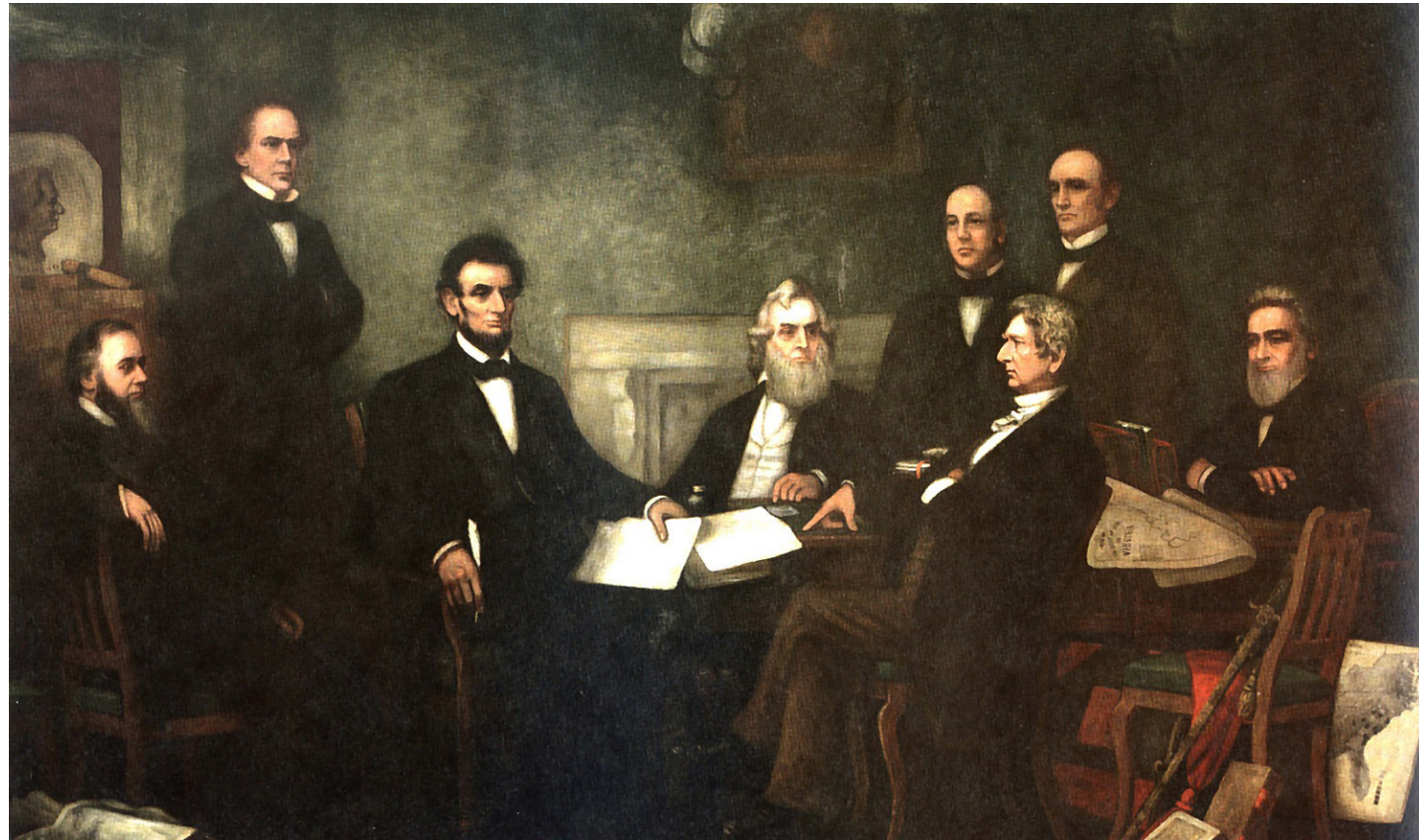
the Civil Rights Movement, and of any non-violent protest ever undertaken in the fight against injustice. Our voices and peaceful protest have worked before, and they need our unwavering commitment in order to work now. ■





SAME MUD. SAME BLOOD.

HARI KANDIAH DEPUTY HEAD STUDENT



First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln, painted by Francis Carpenter in 1864

THE 1863 EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION, along with the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, should have marked the onset of a societal revolution in the United States. These laws dictated that black Americans should be treated equally under the law and be guaranteed the right to vote. However, with Jim Crow casting his imposing shadow over the Southern States, those black Americans living in the South still lived in a distinctly unenlightened society. The infamous Jim Crow Laws established segregation in the United States which inherently divided society into those who were white, and those who were not. Despite the Laws only affect-

ing the South, black Americans in the North still experienced persistent discrimination. It was this institutionally ingrained, societal discrimination that laid the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Understanding the plight that those involved in the movement endured in order to try and correct these wrongs is essential, especially when it comes to understanding the outright abhorrence encapsulated by racism in the modern age.

In 1955, a black woman refused to give up her seat on a bus so that a white man could sit there in her place, and was arrested for it. Rosa Parks ignited the fire that would eventual-

ly develop into the behemoth blaze that was the Civil Rights Movement. Her arrest sparked outrage and led to the formation of the first Civil Rights activist group - the Montgomery Improvement Association - led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Parks' courage incited many to boycott Montgomery buses. The boycott lasted for 381 days and eventually forced the Supreme Court to recognise that segregated seating on buses was unconstitutional - the first of many rulings which would start to overturn discriminatory laws. After Brown vs Board of Education in 1954, the 'Little Rock Nine' were the first group of black students to attend an integrated school in Arkansas;

this marked another milestone in black Americans' battle to equalise society. It would be tedious to document every instance of people rallying together in order to make a point and bring about change because there are so many examples within the Movement's history. The Freedom Riders toured the Southern States to desegregate interstate transport lines. The Greensboro sit-in fought to correct the wrongdoings of local businesses after mistreating coloured Americans. The Selma to Montgomery march and the March on Washington effectively altered legislation as they helped to further establish voting equality in the USA. All of these contributed to the Civil Rights Movement's pivotal achievement: the 1964-1968 Civil Rights Acts. These laws ultimately aimed to establish a truly equal society in which people with a darker skin colour were not discriminated against. They aimed to eradicate inequality completely.

These numerous achievements certainly highlight the efficacy of the Civil Rights Movement, but many forget the suffering that these brave activists endured every step of the way. The Little Rock Nine were subject to severe harassment and violence, to the extent that President Eisenhower had to commission a police guard to escort them between lessons. The Selma to Montgomery marchers were victims of horrendous policy brutality, as many protesters were injured and killed on what became known as Bloody Sunday. Malcolm X and Dr King were both assassinated. The tragedy that surrounds all of these incidents further emphasises the courage that these individuals needed in

order to achieve what they did.

However, as Cold War tensions assumed an iron grip on the Western world, the attention was wrongly drawn away from the Civil Rights Movement, just as it was starting to gain momentum. American involvement in proxy wars in Korea and Vietnam diverted media attention away from those social warriors fighting for racial equality on US soil to countries millions of miles away. What has also been made clear is that even as the Civil Rights Acts were being passed, racial discrimination was still prominent amongst US citizens who were deployed abroad. Veterans of the Korean War have given accounts of widespread racial abuse within the US armed forces, and this

ing drafted, but once deployed, they were subject to persistent and enduring racist abuse. Following the assassination of Dr King in 1968, Confederate flags adorned the barracks of white soldiers. What is perhaps more worrying is that these instances of racial abuse were rarely dealt with. Of the 534 official complaints that the Pentagon received, only 10 were acted on. Moreover, it was shown that between 1966 and 1969, commanders had failed to report 423 allegations of racial discrimination. Members of the US Army and Marine corps were meant to be amongst the most disciplined individuals on the planet, and yet even they were guilty of frequent and explicit racist behaviour.

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became an even greater issue in the subsequent Vietnam War. Despite black Americans making up 11% of the population in 1967, they accounted for 16.3% of all draftees and 25% of all casualties. There was differential selection based on race as many upper class white men (George W. Bush and Donald Trump among them) were able to weasel their way out of being drafted. Not only did blacks have an increased chance of be-

Fast forward to the modern day, and even if things have changed in the military, there are still widespread issues in the civilian sphere. Black Americans are more likely to be arrested, convicted and sentenced to lengthy jail sentences than their white counterparts. On average, black Americans are sentenced to prison sentences that are 19.1% longer than those that white Americans serve. Black individuals are twice as likely to ►

►be unemployed than white individuals. 15.8% of students have experienced race-based bullying at school, and yet black students make up a disproportionate number of high school suspensions and expulsions

gazing at his thirty-foot likeness carved out of white marble, it is clear that this is a man who has deservedly been recognised as a historical stalwart. He was someone who achieved great things and died for his cause - a

these issues are systemic and deeply rooted in society. For so long, we have left only those who have been directly affected by this problem to fight it, but it is clear now that we must join the fight. The aim of this ar-

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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS STILL A

PREVALENT ISSUE

WHICH AFFECTS ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIETY, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF THOSE IN THE PAST

TO PREVENT IT.

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that are “not explained by more frequent or more serious misbehaviour of students of colour”. Racial discrimination is still a prevalent issue which affects all aspects of society, despite the efforts of those in the past to prevent it.

Dr King is commemorated by a memorial in Washington DC. As one stands there, cause which is still relevant today. More crucially, what needs to be recognised is that it was not merely his cause; it is our cause. The very issue to which he, along with so many others, dedicated his life to vanquishing is still a parasite leeching on society. Despite all of these laws and legislations aiming to eradicate the problem of racism, ticle was to show that anti-racism activists in the past had the courage to overcome adversity every step of the way, and precipitated extensive reform. In contemporary society, the obstacles we face pale in comparison with those of the 50s and 60s. So what is our excuse for not making a difference?■



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IF YOU THINK YOU'RE

TOO SMALL

TO HAVE AN IMPACT, TRY GOING TO BED WITH A

MOSQUITO

IN THE ROOM

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ANITA KODDICK

WHERE WAS ALL THIS ENERGY PRIOR TO LOCKDOWN?

KIERAN GRIFFITH OS (2013-2018)

WHEN I WAS younger my Dad would tell me of his experiences of being mixed race, growing up in Aberdeen. The prejudice to me seemed so archaic, so out of date, but now more than ever, my veil of ignorance has been lifted. It has revealed to me that what my Dad experienced was not dissimilar to what people are still having to deal with to this day, fifty years later. I think most people know this by now, but racism is not just that policemen and

women will kill unarmed black people; it's far more complicated than that. It has its roots tangled deep in our society and to uproot it, everyone, not just a few like-minded individuals, is going to have to do their part.

First things first: the world we know today was forged by slavery and oppression. I say the World and not just the United States because slavery was not exclusive to the States, though they are the most famous for it. The US only had a stake in the

slave trade - it was the United Kingdom that built an empire off the backs of Africans stolen from their homes. The ramifications of slavery are still being felt today. The descendants of slaves make up a great deal of the African-American population, and they don't have the luxury of knowing their heritage like I do. They are the unfortunate victims of a system that is one hundred and fifty-five years abolished.

From the position of an outsider looking into the US, it seems that "they" (being Donald and his brigade of stooges) would like you to see a vastly wealthy country that boasts equal opportunity for all - the "American Dream". This is not the case: the "American Dream" does not exist, and it has never existed. This is because "equal opportunity for all" would suggest that everyone, regardless

that has the right to kill who they want and when they want. I feel that Mr. Floyd's death has dehumanised him in a sense, and that he has been used as simply a point in an argument, rather than his life valued for what it was. He came to Minneapolis in 2014 after leaving Texas looking for better opportunities. He was taken from his five children. He was seen as a pillar by his community, even filming an anti-gun

as the States, you cannot, in any sense, suggest that there is equality in the United Kingdom. The greatest fallacy in our country is that people are given the same opportunity from birth. Being mixed race and living in a nice area, in a nice house with two loving parents and a supportive older brother, I recognise the privilege that I have. Not everyone is born so lucky and given the same opportunity

// **THEY SAY: 'YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL WE'RE THE LEAST RACIST.' I SAY: 'THE LEAST RACIST IS STILL RACIST'** //

of race, would receive the same equal opportunities. Perhaps a more apt description of the current situation would be, "equal opportunities for all, apart from those who are deemed unworthy of receiving opportunities." To be black in America is: to have fewer rights than those of your white counterparts, to have to work five times harder than your white counterparts, to be worried about being killed by the police, and to have to be constantly looking over your shoulder in fear of someone who wills to tear down the legacy that you have built. Simply for the outlandish 'crime' of being born black. George Floyd is just one example; his tragic death at the hands of the four police officers is but one example of the injustice that many have suffered. Killed by those sworn to protect and serve you. The police are not some militia

violence video in 2017.

Yes, the problem over here in the UK is nowhere near the severity of the situation over the pond. To quote Dave, "They say: 'you should be grateful we're the least racist.' I say: the least racist is still racist." This is an incredibly powerful message. It shows that we should not be complacent just because we don't have it as bad as those in the States. Why should we have it bad at all? Why is there even a conversation, people trying to even suggest, that, because we don't have it as bad as in the States, we should be grateful? Grateful for what? Because although you tolerate us in person, you curse us behind our backs? I say no, no-one should settle for less than equality in this case. Equality is not some scale; by its very nature equality is either achieved, or it is not. By saying we don't have it as bad

that I have, and that's why people born in my position, with the power to influence change but also the understanding of the hardships, must do what is best for current and future generations of black people.

Equality will not exist until everyone thinks of each other as equals and is given the same opportunity. People will say this is impossible in the UK. This I find to be incredibly pessimistic and, in all honesty, part of the greater problem. Many people have just accepted how things are. I understand that people who are black can still do well in life, but why is it that these people who do well are celebrated? It is because for them to have done well, they would have had to have worked harder than all those white people around them for a considerable period of time. People recognise and congratulate these people on ►



►their journey, whereas those white people who have done just as well in life will not see the same congratulations. This is because what they have done is not extraordinary, it is expected of them. Whereas their black counterparts are expected, by many people, to simply operate on the lowest rungs of society, and not make their way up to positions of power.

One thing I struggle to understand is the pressure that exists on social media to be showing that you are speaking out against institutional racism. Why should others feel that just because I haven't posted on social media means that I am part of the problem? Not to name and shame, but some of these people who are advocating for justice on Instagram are often the same people who will make racist remarks off-the-cuff to their friends. Many people are simply covering their own backs

and not seeing the problem at large. For example, I found the #BlackOutTuesday challenge completely laughable. Posting a black screen achieves nothing; people posted it because other people were posting it. Many people's intentions were pure, of that I am sure, but to put it simply, it is not good enough to do what others are doing. To combat racism we need individual thought, people to come to their own conclusions on how to help. Just following the crowd can be incredibly dangerous: when the crowd or movement stops moving, all individuals will stop their activism because they never had an original thought in the first place.

I would like to ask a slightly inflammatory question to all those who are posting on social media and attending protests in London (which have my full support). Where was all this energy prior to lockdown? This

does not apply to everyone but schools are shut, many people aren't working, so everyone has a lot of free time. It seems to me that people are only now showing support for BLM because it is convenient to them, because they have the time to spare. That is not using your privilege - using your privilege would be taking time out of your busy schedule to advocate for BLM with less fear of retribution than those alongside you. When Covid-19 has run its course and everyone goes back to work or school, what happens then? To me, it seems that people will slowly go back to turning a blind eye, and however harsh this may be, I feel it's the truth. Hopefully this movement has started a fire under people that will not let them sit back down and become complacent once again in the fight against racism. ■

WE ARE NOT FIGHTING TO BE SUPERIOR, BUT TO BE EQUAL



JEVAN AGAMA 12WA

"I CAN'T BREATHE." These are George Floyd's haunting last words. Mr Floyd uttered these as he came to the horrific realisation that his life was no longer in his hands but rather buried underneath the knee of a man who claims to 'Serve and Protect'. On May 25th the brutally tragic death of George Floyd revitalised a movement and battle that people with black skin have been fighting for centuries. Yes, things have improved over this time, but there is still the inextricable fact that I sit here in 2020 as a young black man, feeling that my opportunities and future prospects in life are restricted. This feeling that my potential is limited or even dictated by the colour of my skin stresses the pitfalls of society as

it has failed to eradicate problems that never should have existed in the first place. When one mentions society, it does not merely encompass the Prime Ministers and Presidents who have failed to do enough, and seem like they could not care less about the issue of racism. We all need to hold our hands up and take accountability. We have all seen it, heard it and an unfortunate number of us have had to experience and endure it. We are all guilty of not taking the correct action when faced with this issue. To be silent is to be complicit and therefore it is important that we stand up to people, apply harsher punishments or, perhaps most importantly, educate people on the matter. Why

should these people be protected and made to feel their actions are in any way acceptable? I am aware that this may be hard, especially given the fear of the social repercussions which could, for example, result in arguing with or losing a friend. But how can we complain about racism in the wider world if we do not actively try to eradicate it in our own localised communities? Although rather late, we have come to the realisation that it is not enough to be not racist; we cannot be silent when we see it. We must make a stand and show the people we surround ourselves with that racism is unacceptable and that we will not tolerate it. If we remain silent, are we not as bad as the racist? ►



// BUT IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET A VOICE HEARD, THEN SO BE IT //

► Seeing so many people unite against this execrable virus does highlight how far we have come in dealing with this problem. People of all ethnicities and racial backgrounds are making a difference and taking matters into their own hands, instead of waiting on those above them to act - something which has historically been an ineffective course of action. Some of what has been done has not been pretty, nor should we condone some of the behaviour that has occurred, but if that is what

it takes to get a voice heard, then so be it. Those who have never experienced it would not be able to imagine the pain and anguish a victim of racism feels and that potentially scars them for the rest of their life. It is only the start, but if we stay united and continue to apply pressure on the aggressors and those who are not doing enough with what is available to them, I believe one day this issue will be solved. However, the harsh reality is that this day is probably an eternity away: despite the

evident power of the people, the arrogance and ignorance of some is a persistent hindrance to progression.

I can only hope that BLM is not being seen as some sort of social trend - though this is sadly a possibility we are faced with. But for those who care, the fight continues. Sign petitions, donate to charities, call people out when there is an issue, educate yourselves. We are not fighting to be superior, but to be equal. ■



CAITLIN DANIELS 13B

THIS HAS BEEN a hard article to write, not only because I am a STEM student with a limited understanding of how to write a compelling piece of literature, but also because the concept of white privilege is a polarising topic, and many shirk away from it as if it were toxic gunk. It is tricky to accept any idea that suggests your life has been impacted by something so completely out of your control as skin colour, even trickier to understand that some of the accomplishments and opportunities we have experienced will have been influenced by the fact that we are white. However, it is important and necessary to talk about it, if we want to tackle institutionalised racism. This issue cannot be ignored anymore.

I am white, and can only speak about white privilege from the perspective of some-

one benefiting from it. In my relatively short life, my experience has been that people primarily of the fairer shade do not like to talk about race, the fact that they are white, or indeed acknowledge that others experience life differently because they are not. Some like to push the issue to the side and claim the popular 'I/we don't see colour', which then reduces racism from a legitimate cause of some of our modern problems to a trivial matter. It shows that they are uncomfortable talking about race and reluctant to address their own unconscious biases and privilege. What is unfortunate, is that whilst many white people are refusing to accept and address their unearned advantages, black people and other POC continue to battle the unfair consequences of this continued passiveness. This has been highlighted recently by

the news and videos of brutality emerging from America.

Firstly, I would like to state firmly that white privilege does not mean that white people do not experience problems or discrimination in their lives. Whiteness does not stop you from being female, disabled, transgender, LGBTQ+, working-class, poor, or any of the other many reasons for inequality or discrimination; it does not mean that you are protected from illness, addiction or unemployment. What it does mean is that society views your white skin as the default, the normal, the preferred. Your race will never be something to fear or seen as a trigger for your struggles. This is an unquestioned luxury experienced by white people. I will never have difficulty in searching for products aimed towards my race, never be surprised when I see people who ►

►look like me on TV or in the media, never risk receiving subpar healthcare because I am white, and I won't ever be distrusted by law enforcement because of my skin tone. This list is endless. As a first response, you might say

response to privilege is oppression, and there cannot be one without the other. For every girl who finds multiple brands with her foundation shade, others will struggle to find even one at multiple stores, and feel invisi-

ly when it comes to policing and justice. For every white man let off with a warning for possessing small amounts of drugs, every white American school shooter taken into custody alive, every white boy serving 6 months for

// BEING **ANTI-RACIST** IS NOT SOMETHING THAT **COMES AND GOES**

WITH THE 24-HOUR MEDIA CYCLE //

to yourself that these things are trivial, tiny events that should be endured without a thought. However, as Newton's Third Law of Motion dictates, 'For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction'. This is true for everything, so it also holds for the concept of privilege. The equal and opposite

ble. A white family watches their favourite TV show and wonders why there needs to be a second minority or POC character included, but another child may finally see someone like them on screen and feel like part of the story, part of the adventure.

Oppression has even graver consequences, especial-

ly when it comes to policing and justice. For every white man let off with a warning for possessing small amounts of drugs, every white American school shooter taken into custody alive, every white boy serving 6 months for

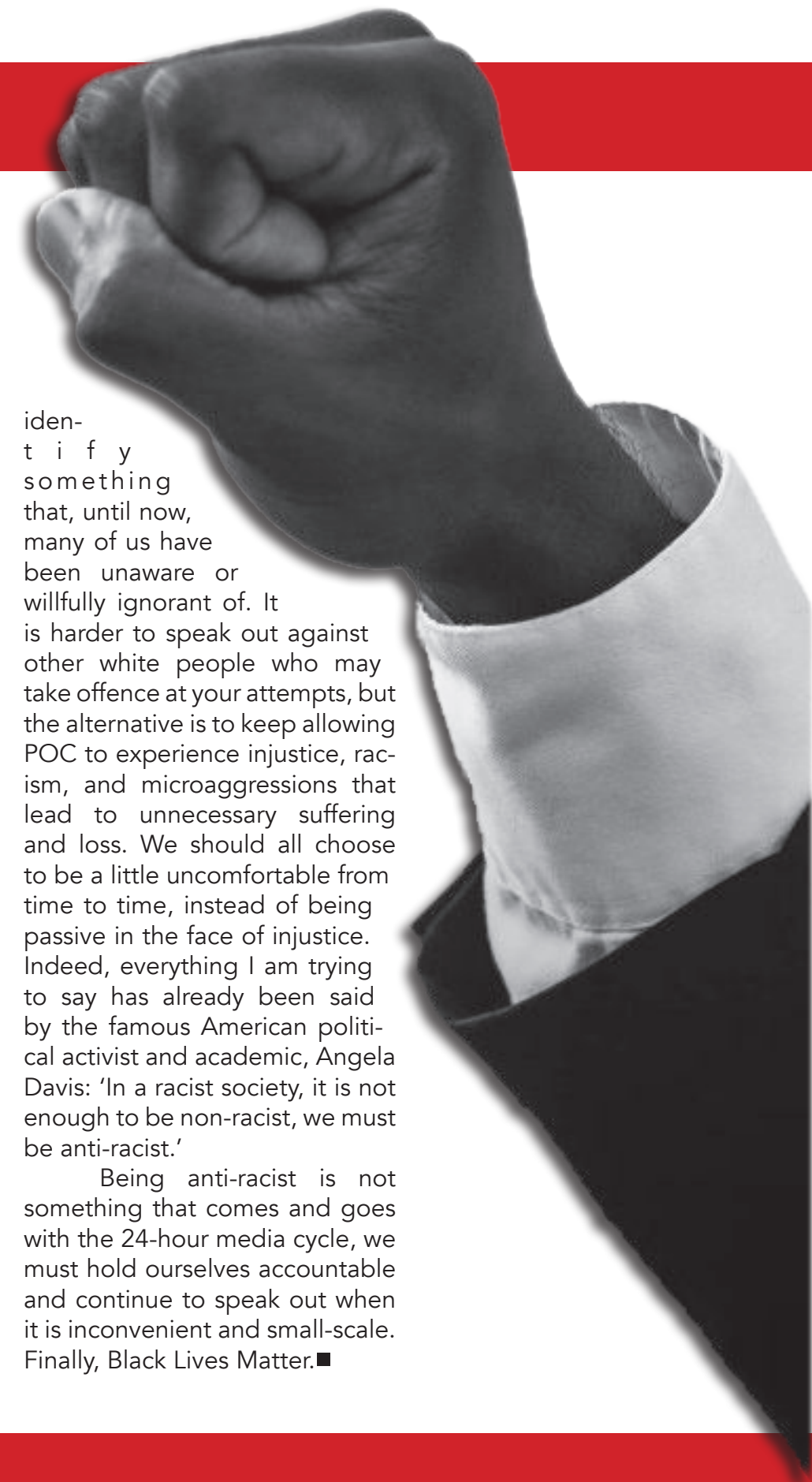
sexual assault, there are hundreds of POC serving year-long sentences for non-violent offences. This has to change, and a vital part of that change rests on individual responsibility. People continue to benefit from the European foundations upon which our Western civilization is built; white people

have to be willing to actively recognise instances of white bias that benefit them or disadvantage others, and speak up about it. How can this be done? If you hold a position of power or influence, it is essential that you root out your biases and focus on fixing them. It is our responsibility, as the next generation, to prevent the patterns of the past from persisting into the future. We need to call out our friends when they make casual jokes or racist comments. We have to identify where our success is oppressing others and do something about it. We should consistently examine our motivations and actions and ask the question, am I part of the problem? Am I allowing my actions to benefit certain people simply because we share the same skin colour? Am I allowing my unconscious bias to uphold this system of racism, and what can I do to make amends and stop this from happening again?

We will never be able to identify each time that white privilege benefits us because it is so subtle, but we can speak out when we do notice. Through listening and educating ourselves, we can improve our ability to recognise instances of unearned benefit more often. It will be hard to

identify something that, until now, many of us have been unaware or willfully ignorant of. It is harder to speak out against other white people who may take offence at your attempts, but the alternative is to keep allowing POC to experience injustice, racism, and microaggressions that lead to unnecessary suffering and loss. We should all choose to be a little uncomfortable from time to time, instead of being passive in the face of injustice. Indeed, everything I am trying to say has already been said by the famous American political activist and academic, Angela Davis: 'In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.'

Being anti-racist is not something that comes and goes with the 24-hour media cycle, we must hold ourselves accountable and continue to speak out when it is inconvenient and small-scale. Finally, Black Lives Matter.■





WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO

STEFAN TITUS-GLOVER 12Z

THIS YEAR HAS already been one of the most chaotic years in living memory, and with half of the year still remaining it has the chance to be amongst the most eventful of all time. From the US - Iran tension at the turn of the new decade to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic it may seem impossible to pinpoint a single focal instance. However, it is now clear to say nine fateful minutes on the streets of Minnesota, USA on the 25th May quite possibly will be remembered as the defining moment of 2020.

The nine aforementioned minutes on the 25th May saw the murder of George Perry Floyd Jr., an African American man, during an arrest that was recorded by many witnesses. The murder was yet another instance of police brutality against black people in America

and ignited outrage which was further increased by the nature of his murder. George Floyd did not resist arrest. He was handcuffed and placed face-down with two officers restraining his lower body whilst a third knelt on his neck for nine minutes in which he begged for his life repeatedly saying "I can't breathe". Protests and riots against police brutality radiated out of Minnesota, across all 50 states and quickly percolated across the entire globe. As the protests have spread the message behind them has changed to not just tackle police brutality against black people, but to combat racism on a wider scale and has reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement.

The current movement, despite only being 17 days old, has had quite the impact. It has challenged lawmakers to start

addressing the overt acts of racial aggression that very frequently go unpunished and has spread the message of other injustices to strengthen the cause for equality. In Minneapolis, the city in Minnesota where the initial event occurred, ideas have started to circulate about reforms to the police system, but a lack of clarity over details of the reforms and their feasibility exist showing that the movement still has lots of work to do in order to achieve long-lasting change. Other holes in justice systems across the world have also been exposed and many nations have started to look at themselves and have realised that whilst the problem is most evident in America, it is far from exclusive to the USA.

The BLM movement is also making the wider public aware of the racial microaggressions

that often go unnoticed despite being carried out frequently. Examples of these microaggressions are acts like the persistent mocking of foreign cultures with jokes masked as banter, the sudden clutching of valuables as you pass by people of colour and even comments such as "you don't talk very black" which perpetuate negative perceptions of ethnic minorities. The first example is the most common in schools and "casual racism", a problem highlighted in assemblies at school, is an issue that has definitely been more recognised and reflected upon as a consequence of the movement.

Education and awareness are two key areas of the movement that go hand-in-hand. Social media has been used to show solidarity with the movement's cause, expose injustices, show people what can be done to help and also educate people about history and the

more subtle injustices caused by deep-rooted, institutional or systemic racism. The issue of systemic racism is massive and many people have taken it upon themselves to learn about the legislation and acts that have caused inequality such as the practice of discriminatory redlining in America. This was the systematic denial of various services by federal government agencies, local governments as well as the private sector, to residents of specific neighborhoods or communities and deepened socioeconomic divisions which have contributed to the inequality we live with today.

Despite all of the movement's virtues, it has had some vices that have damaged the integrity of it. Amidst the protests people have occasionally looted stores for their own benefit. Despite this being a rather common occurrence in tandem with protests throughout history

with examples of it across millennia, the evils of the few will rarely fail to detract from the work of the good and it has hindered the movement. Moreover, on social media people have been accused of not truly supporting the movement and treating it as a trend that they only promote to gain personal recognition, leaving questions over the true, non superficial, support the movement actually has.

Regardless of its minor negatives, the Black Lives Matter movement has had a strong start. It is undeniable that it has started social change and has exposed the prevalence of a variety of forms of racism across the many layers of society. However, it still has lots of work to do. The road to equality is long and arduous but hopefully the movement can endure all of the hardships thrown its way and successfully fight racism.■

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

ARE TWO KEY AREAS OF THE MOVEMENT THAT GO HAND-IN-HAND



FILMS & TV SHOWS

WHEN THEY SEE US (2019)

A shocking but eye opening documentary telling the story of the 'Central Park Five'. The four part series tells the tragic story of five black boys, aged between 14-16- who were falsely accused and wrongly imprisoned for a crime they did not commit.

EXPLAINED: THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP (2018)

A very short piece, but is concise and to the point and explores how centuries of discrimination and inequality have compounded to create a racial wealth gap.

THE HATE U GIVE (2018)

Based on the book inspired by the Black Lives Matter Movement, the film is particularly pertinent as it follows the struggle of an African-American teenager after her friend is unlawfully shot by the police.

12 YEARS A SLAVE (2013)

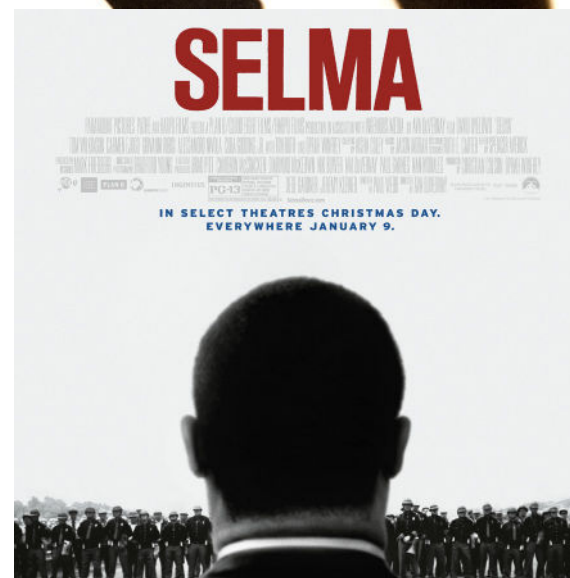
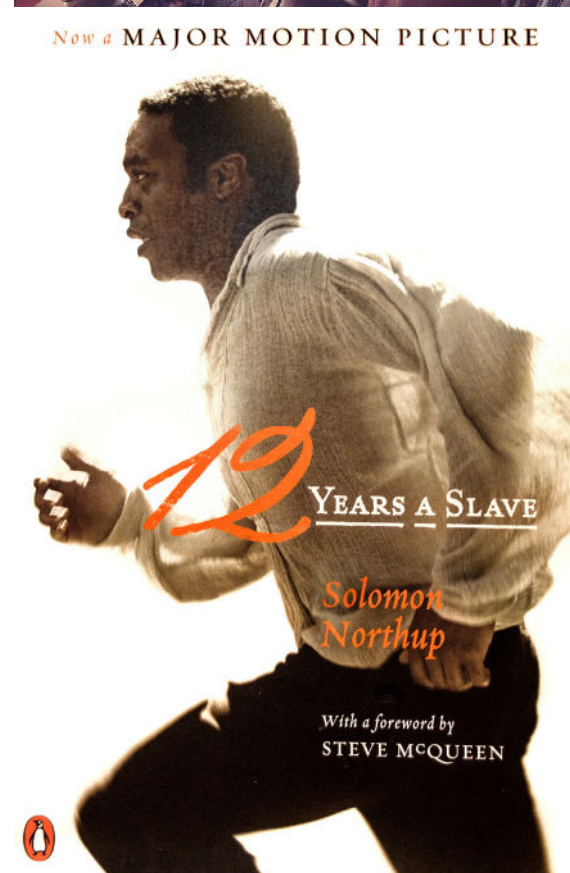
This biographical film, based on the memoirs of Solomon Northup, details the atrocities endured by a man who was unlawfully sold into slavery in the 19th century. This film succeeds in highlighting the devastating fact that racism has been a prevalent issue for hundreds of years.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO (2017)

A concise documentary which explores the history of racism in the United States and also follows leaders involved in the Civil Rights Movement such as Martin Luther King Jr and Malcom X.

TIME: THE KALIEF BROWDER STORY (2017)

This tells the story of a New York city teen who was wrongly prosecuted and serves to highlight the racial injustices and inequalities prevalent in the justice system.



SELMA (2014)

This is an inspirational film which follows Dr. King's efforts to make it easier for blacks to register to vote in the South.

HIDDEN FIGURES (2016)

This follows three African-American mathematicians who were pivotal in launching John Glenn into orbit. It highlights their intellectual prowess, but also sheds light on racial and gender inequalities that were present in NASA at the time.

WHOSE STREETS? (2017)

Particularly relevant considering all the protests and riots that are currently going on. This documentary gives an account of the Ferguson uprising from those involved in it as they protested in response to the killing of 18 year old Michael Brown.

LINCOLN (2012)

Documents the passing of the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery. Contextualises race relations, especially in the US.

MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM (2013)

A biographical film chronicling the life of Nelson Mandela, from his childhood through to his inauguration as president.

JUST MERCY (2019)

Based on a real case, the movie follows one lawyer's attempt to free a black man, wrongly convicted of murdering a white woman. The way the film highlights institutionalised and systematic racism is what makes it so important.

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE

Don't laugh! Specific episodes deal primarily with racial prejudices within the police system. Throughout, though, the series blends the advantages of an ethnically representative police force, whilst exploring the difficulties faced by a black, gay officer trying to rise up the ranks.

BOOKS

THE FIRE THIS TIME: A NEW GENERATION SPEAKS ABOUT RACE

Jesmyn Ward

This book is an anthology of essays and poems which look at the legacy of racial discrimination and inequality and the state of things today. It also looks at how we can address things to distinguish the future as being distinctly different and better from the past.

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE

Ijeoma Oluo

This book has the aim to try and help people navigate conversations about race and offers advice on how to effectively address the problems associated with racial discrimination.

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

Ibram X Kendi

This book is specifically pertinent as it details the author's journey of going beyond being more than just not racist. It addresses the complicity that allows racism to conflagrate and gives the reader an insight into how you can help to make society more equal. It is an essential read for anyone who is asking "What more can I do?".

WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING TO WHITE PEOPLE ABOUT RACE

Reni Eddo-Lodge

Discusses the tedium of repeatedly having to refute racist comments and stand up to racist behaviour.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Harper Lee

A must-read. Particularly relevant given its themes of white privilege and the justice system failing black people.

WHITE RAGE

Carol Anderson

A penetrating historical analysis of White America's persistent attempts to stop or hinder Black America's progress, spanning from 1865 to 2014.

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS

Michelle Alexander

Presents a hard-to-stomach argument why racial hierarchy still dominates American society, covering the racist policies and procedures that plague the American justice system.

THE COLOUR PURPLE

Alice Walker

This fiction book follows the life of a poor, uneducated girl living in the Southern United States in the early 1900s. It gives an insight to the historical aspect of racial inequality and is a truly eye-opening read which helps readers to understand the longevity of this issue.

SMALL ISLAND

Andrea Levy

Another novel which follows the hardships faced by Jamaican immigrants in 1980s Britain. Again another novel which helps to understand the historical context of racism, but this time focussed on the UK instead of the states.

WHITE TEETH

Zadie Smith

This is another novel which is a bit closer to home being set in the UK. Focussing on the lives of a Bangladeshi immigrant and an Englishman, the novel explores Britain's relationship with people from formerly colonised countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

HOW TO BE LESS STUPID ABOUT RACE: ON RACISM, WHITE SUPREMACY AND THE RACIAL DIVIDE

Crystal Fleming

A book which links historical racism to that of today, helping us to understand the present problem. It also suggests ways to help "dismantle systematic racism," says Fleming.

BLACK STATS: AFRICAN AMERICANS BY THE NUMBERS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

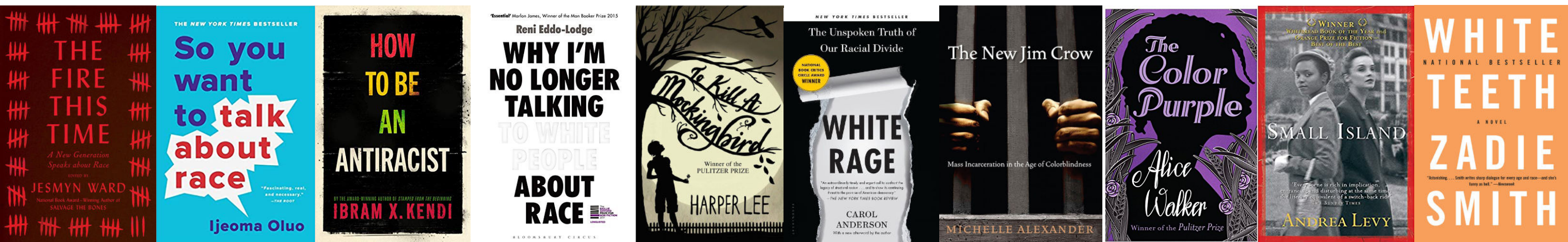
Monique W. Morris

An easy read with a hard message - this book provides countless statistics, on everything from African-American quality of life to educational attainment, to definitively disprove that racism in America is dead.

THE INVENTION OF THE WHITE RACE

Theodore W. Allen

This two-volume work is a must-read for those seeking to discover the origins of the construct of race in America, and the tensions that followed.



WAYS TO HELP

PETITIONS

The following petitions are relevant to the issues being discussed and vary in intention. All can be found on the **change.org** website.

- Teach British children about the realities of British Imperialism and Colonialism.
- Make white privilege and systematic racism a compulsory part of the British education course.
- A national period of remembrance for victims of slavery and racial injustice.
- Medical schools must include BAME representation in clinical teaching.
- Battle racism by updating GCSE reading lists.
- Justice for George Floyd.
- Justice for Belly Mujinga.

DONATIONS

Black Lives Matter

Any donations which go to this charity will facilitate the various actions that they are taking to try and combat the widespread problem of racism which include helping victims of racial abuse.

National Bail Out Fund

This charity helps to meet the bail for those who have been arrested as a result of protesting.

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

This trust was founded after a teenager who was killed in a hate crime in 1993. The organisation works with people from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them succeed in their chosen careers whilst simultaneously trying to deal with the social issues caused by racism.

Black Minds Matter UK

This charity has the aim of supporting black people who are struggling with mental health problems, conditions which are often exacerbated by racist abuse.

Southall Black Sisters

Southall Black Sisters aims to help black women who are or have experienced violence and abuse. They try to do this by offering specialist advice, casework and advocacy.

ARTICLES

ARREST STATISTICS

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-the-law/policing/number-of-arrests/latest>

UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINING WHITE PRIVILEGE

<https://www.thoughtco.com/white-privilege-definition-3026087>

GEORGE FLOYD PROTEST: WHAT DO 'THUG', 'WHITE PRIVILEGE' AND 'ALLYSHIP' MEAN?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-52892949>

WHY IS RACISM RIFE IN THE NHS?

<https://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2013/feb/05/racism-rife-nhs>

WHY ARE BLACK MOTHERS AT MORE RISK OF DYING?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-47115305>

ALL THE WAYS WHITE PEOPLE ARE PRIVILEGED IN THE UK

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/ways-white-people-privileged-uk-171011124754885.html>

RACISM IN HEALTHCARE OVER THE YEARS

<https://www.thoughtco.com/racism-in-healthcare-over-the-years-2834632>

NEW STUDY CONFIRMS DEPRESSING TRUTH ABOUT NAMES AND RACIAL BIAS

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/black-sounding-names-study_n_561697a5e4b0dbb8000d687f?ri18n=true&guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZWNVc2lhLm9yZy8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAHr2Wohdwipglk5I5xBH9XcboRqwgwbpr2nwcxgJl-pIC-fbZsL2k7pmSDt6kmYf5eATmjzyuFiVghOjWizbx12vKLJ9Jej-gFw-12FGKHn6x23YRU0pVY-V0nc4iqU_ytTR8BFqtRm5OnAno96gDHEN-mkBTIUicDVvte-8lxd5Uh

WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED SINCE MACPHERSON'S REPORT?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47300343>

16 KEY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN THE UK

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/anti-black-racism-uk_uk_5ed64992c5b6ce87e4781570



AMSTERDAM



I HAVE A DREAM

THAT MY FOUR CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A
NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE

JUDGED

BY THE COLOUR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE

***CONTENT
OF THEIR
CHARACER***



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.