

Why Racism Still Exists In America

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Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, “Let us all hope that dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away.” This quote was written in 1963 in response to the racial injustice in America. Today in 2020, racial prejudice still exists. Racial profiling, the lack of proper education about racism, and flying the confederate flag are three reasons why racism still exist today.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (2020), racial profiling is the practice of discriminating often by law enforcement officials targeting certain groups for crime based on the individuals race. According to the Pew Research Center (2020) almost eight of every ten black Americans say they are treated more unfair than whites when it comes to law enforcement. Many racial profiling victims walk away with just a traffic ticket. However, too often the outcome of racial profiling is death. Racial profiling might even take place as you are driving, walking or even shopping as an African American. No one wants people watching them suspiciously just because their skin is a certain color.

The lack of proper education is another example. Many history books cover up the truth about American history. Many of our history textbooks are watered down when it comes to teaching about slavery. Often certain figures are exalted such as Christopher Columbus. Many of famous people in history books are described completely different from what they actually were. Instead of being heroes and followers of God many displayed hatred and racism when it came to the treatment of Native and African Americans. Many websites offers several tips for parents to assist them with talking about racism and social justice with their kids. If racism is to stop existing, we must learn to properly educate our children at a young age. It is important for blacks to know the knowledge, but all races to races should know the horrors of racial injustice in America if we plan on changing the narrative. It is a conversation we cannot avoid.

The third reason why racism still exists in this country is because people feel it is alright to fly the confederate flag. This flag is a clear and direct symbol of hate, racism, separation, and slavery. Many argue that the flag is merely a representation of southern pride and heritage while those oppressed by the flag see it as a symbol of constant racial injustice, the longing for racial separation and white supremacy, and the attitude of “making America great again”. Many White Americans over 65 are more likely to say that the flag represents southern heritage. This flag might be a part of history but this flag was designed to represent a divide in the nation. This is why it should not be allowed to be flown especially when those who tried to secede from the union were defeated. America is supposed to be one country, not two with separate ideas. This flag will continue to be a contribution to racism and a divide in the country if it continues to fly freely.

America cannot afford to continue down this road of racial destruction. As stated by Dr. King we as a nation must learn to judge a man by the content of their character instead of the color of his skin. There is only one race, the human race and we are all created equal. Racism in America does not have to continue if we would stop racial profiling, become educated properly about racism, and stop flying the confederate flag. If these things change, the country will become a place where all demographics can live together in unity and harmony.

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