

Jordan Mack

Professor Stubbs

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Positive Change Comes From Using Your Voice

A very well-known activist and politician, Nelson Mandela, once said “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”. To challenge a person's humanity is to deny the fact that they are part of the human race. Thomas Jefferson also stated that we as people part of the human race have inalienable rights that allow us “life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possession of property”. We are given independence, freedom, and the ability to use our voices to create change. It is our basic human right to fight for justice. Going all the way back to the industrial revolution when people were forced to work in horrible conditions. They would fight for better conditions. That is how we as humans are taught to get what we deserve, is to fight for it so we can receive social justice. Receiving social justice is extremely important especially when people’s basic human rights are taken away. In the past couple of years there have been many movements that have been in the news that have fought problems that affect the oppressed groups of America. People may wonder if these movements are actually doing any good. Questions can be asked like, do social movements positively affect the communities surrounding them? What social justice movements have been recently in the media? Do they cause more harm than good? What are the oppressed groups of America? How can they receive justice? These are just some questions that come to mind when one thinks about how people that are treated less than can fight back and use their voices. Social justice movements have been a part of history for many years. Some people may think that they cause

more trouble than benefit. After reading a myriad of journals, books, and other sources I can say that that just is not true. In the past 10 years social justice movements have created change and have not caused more trouble for the oppressed groups of America.

There are many groups in America that have been treated unfairly and not as equals. Those individuals have inspired and created these social justice movements that have impacted many people. The Black Lives Matter movement, LGBTQ social movements, Reproductive Justice movements, and Covid-19 social justice for minorities and low income communities. The whole reason that these movements were created was to receive justice for wrong doing and to create a more equal division of resources and opportunities. These specific movements have been taking over the media in the past couple of years. Some movements such as Reproductive justice and the Black Lives Matter movements have been around for many years.

One activist that wanted to make a change and did was Martin Luther King Jr. He is a very important figure in the history of America and the civil rights movement. He was known for creating change for civil rights and voting rights for the african americans that were not treated as equals. He was not only just a person that was important during the civil rights movement, he was the voice of the civil rights movement. He started his involvement in the civil rights movement in the mid 1950s with the Montgomery Bus Boycott (add a sentence with a source). This was a monumental moment in history that started the one of the greatest and most well known-movements of all time. Personally, after what has happened in the past couple of years the “new” Civil Right Movement is the Black Lives Matter Movement.

In the past decade the BLM Movement has been all throughout the media. It all started in 2012 with a young boy named Trayvon Martin. Through social media I have heard of Trayvon Martin on mostly Instagram. He was murdered in 2012 at the age of 17, unlawfully by a man

who was only on neighborhood watch. He was the spark and start for the Black Lives Matter Movement. He was also the start for the need for stricter gun laws. He was just one person that brought thousands of people out from fear to fight for justice. “ Social movements/protests can bring issues that ordinary people care about into the center of frameworks and practices” (Ramdeholl,2020). The questions Why are social justice movements created? Who do they affect? In what ways do emotions fuel social movements? May be asked when a person is not educated in this area or they are not exposed to issues like this.