

Are we human?

Are we human? What does that mean? In this case it refers to systemic racism. How we treat people who look different to us. At what point do we lose our humanity. When people lose their lives over a \$20 bill? When economy matters more than the human rights of an individual? When we start judging who deserves to live or die based on how they live their life? No one deserves to be murdered whether they lived a life of crime or not. They are entitled to a jury. Police must stop killing people disproportionately based on colour. Black people make up thirty percent of shootings in the USA compared to twelve percent of white people based on total number of people (McCarthy, 2020). This suggests there is a racial element to shootings in America.

The day George Floyd died was revolutionary for Black Lives Matter. He was killed by police officers after being called to an offence over a fraudulent \$20 bill. They put him in a choke hold until he passed out and died. The world would not have this. They tried to peacefully protest at the deaths of black people in the past. They knelt at NFL games and got laughed at. Kendrick Lamar did a Black Lives Matter inspired performance at the Grammys. No major changes were made. The officers who had murdered lives were not sentenced as a result. In order for real change to be evoked more was needed to be done. In the days following George Floyd's death protests all over America sparked. There were riots. People were outraged that another life had been taken. They were not going to stop until justice was taken. All of this in the middle of a pandemic. A nightmare for government. They had to make change. Soon after Derek Chauvin who murdered George Floyd faces second degree murder charge and all over police officers were charged.

But it doesn't stop here. There is a long way to go before systemic racism is removed from society. In the weeks following on from George Floyd's death a division in society occurred. People revealed their true colours. Their inner racism. The All Lives Matter movement arose diminishing the work of Black Lives Matter. They didn't want to help Black People gain justice instead use their white privilege to knock them back. An almost race war came about as some people regressed and some progressed in

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terms of racism. Something empowering was that people of all races came together for Black Lives Matter and chose to work together for the humanity.

Coming back to what the canvas depicts "Racism is a weapon of mass destruction". Systemic racism has been integrated into society to keep us divided. It tears us apart. When it reaches tipping point it causes mass destruction. We turn against each other. We lose our humanity. It is a form of control used by people of power. It was used in slavery, during segregation in the 1950's and 60's, and now by the police. We have to keep pushing to get these people charged with murder. For no more blood to be shed. For the UK to not make deals with the US by supplying tear gas and rubber bullets. We need to sign petitions. Educate your families. Find that human part of yourself and use it so that the whole world can join together as humanity. We will not lose this battle with humanity.