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Fighting Injustice

People have been fighting injustice for many years. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for many issues such as civil rights and poverty and he encouraged people to fight for what they believe in by organizing nonviolent and peaceful protests. Fighting civil injustice is important because everyone should be treated equally and not be discriminated against due to their race, gender, or skin color. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. played a very important role in progressing civil rights and he also won a Nobel Peace Prize as a result of his efforts in fighting against racial inequality. Unfortunately, racial inequality is still happening to this day, causing people to fear getting hurt while doing tasks such as going outside/in the public. However, due to activists such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and their push against racial inequality, protesting and advocating against issues has become more common. His legacy has caused changes that still affect the present, such as his goal of achieving equal rights for all, through nonviolent protests. People should have to be afraid to take a stand against injustice, and they should be able to fight for what they believe in.

A time when I took a stand against injustice was when my friend was being racially discriminated against in school. She had just moved from another country, Mexico to be exact, and could not speak English very well. She didn't really know anyone and I wanted to get to know her so I decided to try to become friends with her. Although she couldn't speak English very well,

she could understand English and over the course of a couple months, I became better friends with her. However, one day when we were in the cafeteria having lunch, a student walked up to our table and started insulting her. He was mocking her English, as she was still learning to speak it better, and making rude comments about her race because she was Mexican. After this, I asked the student to stop being rude to her, but he kept making comments and ignored me as well, even after I asked him again. He was being very offensive and therefore I decided to go and tell one of the lunch monitors about his disrespectful behavior.

This experience shows that racial injustice is very common, and not only happens to adults, but it also happens to children as well. The Pew Research Center states that “More than four-in-ten Americans say the country still has work to do to give black people equal rights with whites.” which is a problem because everyone should have equal rights and no one should be treated differently or criticized. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. supports this by saying “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” which shows that he believed that people should not be judged by their race. The impact that my experience had on me was that I became more interested in learning about how race affects people’s rights and how they are being treated differently. Eventually, I decided to participate in the Unheard Perspectives Showcase at my school because I would get to learn more about innovators in history whose perspectives were underrepresented. I would also like to continue learning about injustices by participating in more opportunities, such as taking part in campaigns, volunteering in local activist groups, and doing more research. Through Unheard Perspectives, I got to learn and research about people such as Mahalia Jackson, who inspired Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to write his “I Have a Dream” speech, which remains one of the most famous speeches in history to this day. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a major impact on the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

which stated by the National Park Service ensures that “The Act outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, required equal access to public places and employment, and enforced desegregation of schools and the right to vote.”. Although this act did not end discrimination altogether, it was a big step that allowed further progress to occur. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said “ Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

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