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“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”: Martin Luther King, Jr.

2020 has brought and underlined existing injustices to this year not only in the U.S. but also worldwide, such as the rampaging amount of systematic unfairness towards the African American community, the ongoing unfairness in the workplace happening to women, and the large gap of affected minorities. Internationally, the unspeakable horrors occurring to Uighur Muslims made the headlines as another human right abuse.

The tragic killing of George Floyd, a 46 year old black male was one of the rude awakenings of 2020 and one that affected our nation at its core. The headline didn't make the news until bodycam footage from one of the police officers at the scene was leaked to the public media. The graphic video portrayed a vulnerable man with a knee to his throat; minutes of pain and pleading causing even the most emotionally stagnant people to be overcome with emotion.

The outrage of emotions led tens of thousands of people to protest in their cities and also in other countries, in solidarity with the U.S., against the systematic racism the black community still endures. The echoes of “No Justice, No Peace” could be heard everywhere, yet those protesting a good cause were still attacked by those who once swore to protect and serve the nation and its people. Hundreds of protestors after heroically exposing themselves to the COVID-19 virus were admitted to hospitals or arrested after clashing with the police forces. All of the suffering and the frustrations felt this year related to COVID-19 culminated to one of the largest generational wake up calls.

While the protests slowed down due to the CDC's regulations, people like Breonna Taylor and Miciah Lee are now looking at us from above in hopes our generation continues to fight against racism. So many injustices are occurring in our world, yet blind eyes seem to be

turned to them on the daily, as mainstream news sites haven't reported them all, such as women who are still not equal to the other gender. There are proven pay gaps in the average workplace, evidence of murders and traffickings of women and increasing rape allegations. Our rights to liberty, life, and happiness the founders once guaranteed are being violated and taken away from us as a society.

There are great correlations between race, poverty, and one's level of education. Racial minorities including Hispanics and African Americans are much more likely to experience poverty as well as have lower education levels (or drop out of college and other school levels) compared to the Caucasian race. The minorities of today's society are still pushed aside due to the systematic inequalities, we as a society still face. The educational levels in our society greatly vary, depending on region and race. Students attending these schools in some areas simply have trouble competing with those who attend schools with better/wealthier communities. Educational opportunity is compromised, causing the influx of minorities with little to no education to have a lower quality of life standard compared to those with larger or average education. The larger the educational opportunity gap the less likely these minorities can find high paying jobs. Adding to the lower level of education, lower income allows for even less opportunities for minorities.

There are many ways one can maintain and support the minority groups of our society, even when physically apart due to COVID-19. Because these racial and ethnic minority groups are being negatively affected in everyday life as well as during the pandemic, it is more important than ever to support these groups like one supports their own family members from day to day. Creating community bonds, visiting and volunteering at homeless shelters, and supporting small businesses owned by minority groups are some ways my family and I do. Donating to charities is also another way to sustain minority groups. Every action we take to

make other people's lives better matter, so during the holiday seasons as well as times we usually gather together as a family we think of those who do not have this opportunity, and donate money or volunteer to help those in need. Other ways like donating blood, books, toys, and other materials to stores like Goodwill and charity events and boxes (the boxes can be found in parking lots of stores and malls) is creating an invisible but undeniable bond with those in need.

Standing up to injustices are equally as important during these times, as many are affected. As MLK once said, "We may have all come on different ships but we're in the same boat now." And we should be and act on MLK's words now more than ever! Why not donate to foundations like the Black Lives Matter foundation, or the Femenist Majority? Or sign petitions on Change.org as well as other petition sites? Many of my friends and I have been reposting important current news articles depicting for example, Black Lives Matter, and how one can advocate for change on our Instagram stories. Even though these actions may not seem like a lot, we can all work together as a whole and fight the systematic racism and unfairness our society contains, as "everyday is a great day to make a difference for someone". MLK's dream is still alive in us, embedded into our DNA and awaiting to be fully fulfilled as "darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." United we can make change.