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QUESTION: WRITE OR TYPE AN ESSAY NOT MORE THAN 3 PAGES ON A PROBLEM WE ARE FACING IN NIGERIA AND FOCUS ON THE AREA

TOPIC: RACISM AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

THE HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS OF RACISM

Racism appears to be a word of recent origin with no citations currently known that would suggest the word was in use prior to the early 20th century. During the past 500-1000 years, racism on the part of Western powers toward non-westerners has had a far more significant impact on history than any other form of racism [ such as racism among Western groups or among Easterners, such as Asians, Africans, and others]. The most notorious example of racism by the West has been slavery, particularly the enslavement of Africans in the New World [ slavery itself dates back thousands of years]. This enslavement was accomplished because of the racist belief that Black Africans were less fully human than Whites Europeans and their descendants. This belief was not “automatic”: that is, Africans were not originally considered inferior. When Portuguese sailor first explored Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries, they came upon empires and cities as advanced as their own, and they considered Africans to be serious rivals. Over time, though. As Africans civilizations failed to match the technological advances of Europe, and the major European powers began to plunder the continent and forcibly remove its inhabitants to work as slave laborers in new colonies across the Atlantic, Africans came to be seen as a deficient “species”, as “savages”. To an important extent, this view was necessary to justify the slave trade at a time when Western culture had begun to promote individual rights and human equality. The willingness of some Africans to sell other Africans to European slave traders also led to claims of savagery, based on the false belief that the “dark people” were all kinsmen, all part of one society- as opposed to many different, sometimes warring nations.

One important feature of racism, especially toward Blacks and immigrant groups, is clear in attitudes regarding slaves and slavery. Jews are usually seen by anti-Semites as subhuman but also superhuman: devilishly cunning, skilled, and powerful. Blacks and others are seen by racists as merely subhuman, more like beasts than men. If the focus of anti-Semitism is evil, the focus of racism is inferiority – directed toward those who have sometimes been considered to lack even the ability to be evil.

WHO IS A RACIST

Racist is a person who believes in racism, the doctrine that one’s own racial group is superior or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others.

DEFINTIONS OF RACISM

Racism means a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.

Racial politics or race politics is the use of race, as a human categorization or hierarchical identifier, in political discourage, campaigns or within the societal and cultural climate created by such practice.

Racism can also be described as the hatred of one person by another or the belief that another person is less than human because of skin color, language, customs, place of birth or any factor that supposedly reveals the basic nature of that person. It has influenced wars, slavery, the formation of nations, and legal codes.

TYPES OF RACE DISCRIMINATION

Direct discrimination: This happens when someone treats you worse than another person in a similar situation because of your race. For example, if a letting agency would not let a flat to you because of your race, this would be direct race discrimination.

Indirect discrimination: This happens when an organization has a particular policy or way of working that puts people of your racial group at a disadvantage. For example, a hairdresser refuses to employ stylists that cover their own hair, this would put any Muslim women or Sikh men who cover their hair at a disadvantage when applying for a position of stylist.

Victimization: This is when you are treated badly because you have made a complaint of race related discrimination under the Equality Act. It can also occur if you are supporting someone who has made a complaint of race related discrimination.

Harassment: It occurs when someone makes someone makes you feel humiliated, offended or degraded.

IMPACT OF RACISM ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to addressing the factors that affect child and adolescent health with a focus on issues that may leave some children more vulnerable than others. Racism is a social determinant of health that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescent, emerging adults, and their families. Although progress has been made toward racial equality and equity, the evidence to support the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear. The objective of this policy state on statement is to provide an evidence-based document focused on the role of racism in child and adolescent development and health outcomes. By acknowledging the role of racism in child and adolescent health, pediatricians and other pediatric health professionals will be able to proactively engage in strategies to optimize clinical care, workforce development, professional education, systems engagement, and research in a manner designed to reduce the health effects of structural, personally mediated, and internalized racism and improve the health and well-being of all children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO STOP RACISM

Learn to recognize and understand your own privilege: one of the first to eliminating racial discrimination is learning to recognize and understand your own privilege. Racial privilege plays out across social, political economic, and cultural environments. Checking your privilege and using your privilege to dismantle systematic racism are two ways to begin thus complex process.

However, race is only one aspect of privilege. Religion, gender, sexuality, ability-status, socio-economic status, language, and citizenship can affect your level of privilege

Examine your own biases and consider where they may have originated: What messages did you receive as a kid about people who are different from you? What was racial and/ or ethnic make-up of your neighborhood, school, or religious community? Why do you think that was the case? These experiences produce and reinforce bias, stereotypes, and prejudice, which can lead to discrimination.

Validate the experiences and feelings of people of color: Another way to address bias and recognize privilege is to support the experiences of other people and engage in tough conversations about race and injustice. We cannot be afraid to discuss oppression and discrimination for fear of “getting it wrong”. Take action by learning about ways that racism continues to affect our society. The best way to understand racial injustice is by listening to people of color.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labour or sexual exploitation.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

According to the UN’s protocol that was created in order to prevent trafficking [also known as Palermo Protocol], human trafficking is when people recruit, transfer, transport or harbor other people against their will by using force, blackmail, deception, fraud and other malicious means.

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The 3 most common types of human trafficking are sex trafficking, forced labor, and debt bondage. Forced labor, also known as involuntary servitude, is the biggest sector of trafficking in the world, according to the U.S Department of State. Debt bondage is another form of human trafficking in which an individual is forced to work on order to pay debt.

Sex trafficking disproportionately affects women and children and involves forced participation in commercial sex acts. In United States, any child under the age of 18 who has been involved in a commercial sex act is considered a trafficking victim. Women and girls make up 80% of the people trafficked transnationally.

CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA

Human trafficking is a global problem. However, a large portion of victims comes from the African countries, particularly Nigeria. Nigeria is both the source and the destination for human trafficking. Women and children become the victims of human trafficking than men.

Five main causes of human trafficking include;

Armed conflicts

Ignorance on the topic of human rights

Unemployment

Poverty

Greed

SOLUTIONS TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Hold events to create awareness

Beware of the signs of human trafficking

Stay informed

Help survivors

Boycott products and companies that permit human trafficking