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**RACISM AND INEQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Racism can be defined as beliefs that group of humans possess different behavioural traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. It may also mean discrimination or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity. On the other hand Inequality can be defined as the state of not being equal especially in status, rights and opportunities. In other words it is an unfair situation in which some groups in the society have more money, opportunities and power than others.

For African Americans in the U.S today, racism is a daily experience and it goes far beyond police shootings while racism harms many groups of people black men are paying the highest cost. One example is being considered unsuitable for a job on basics of skin colour and culture without degree qualifications even looked at, the number of unemployed African Americans is twice that of European Americans and this is appalling given the fact that African Americans only make up about 15% of the total population. Moreover, In situations where black men get employed, you find them taking up lesser or lower paying roles/ranks to their European colleagues or counterparts example the obvious diversity in Hollywood casting, black actors seem to always get the lesser roles and even when given lead roles, they still end up getting paid less than their fellow white actors.

Another area where racism or inequality is shown is in the American Health Sector. African Americans do not to get as much quality health care facilities and benefits as European Americans, this is evident in communities dominated by blacks. A modern day example of this racism is in the allocation of transplantable kidneys. Despite having a greater incidence of kidney failure than European Americans, African Americans are less likely to be the recipients of transplantable kidneys and spend considerably longer periods of time on kidney allocation waiting lists than European Americans. I recently came across an article about a black nurse Deborah Gatewood who worked for 31 years in a Detroit hospital, she died from Covid-19 after being denied treatment by hospital doctors four times. This fatal neglect may seem like a shocking story but an incident like this is one out of many experienced by the African Americans.

One of the most evident forms of racism in America is present in the form police brutality; African Americans have been on the receiving end of a lot of this brutality right from time, from random police stop checks to unauthorized house search and not to forget the various violent acts performed by the police during these various activities. The colour of your skin determines the kind of treatment you’ll get with blacks been generally touted as thugs and menaces to the society as far as they are concerned. A good example of police brutality is in the recent killing of George Floyd, an African American who pleaded with a cop in his final minutes to please let him breath as he was been suffocated by the cop but his cries were in vain as he was killed in the process of being accosted over a false theft alarm that was raised by a store owner, this brutality led to a “worldwide black lives matter” campaign that is still currently on-going. Other examples of African Americans that were victims of police brutality are Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin and so many more, all of whom died as a result of it. The worst part about this killings is the lack of proper justice for the deceased as the police officers involved do not get the deserved punishment or penalties for their terrible deeds and this stills proves the racism we speak about, because if it were to be an European American that was by chance victim of such brutality, it would be handled in a much different and befitting manner. The same Police that is supposed to protect them is a major threat to their existence.

In the wake of recent incidents of police violence towards African Americans, the Black Lives Matter movement has emerged and is increasing awareness of the issue and advocating for equal treatment and protection under the law. It’s an important time to hear the voices and perspectives of Americans across the country to better understand how the general public and those of different racial and ethnic backgrounds feel about this issue. This racism and inequalities among Americans must be stopped.

SAY NO TO RACISM-BLACK LIVES MATTER!!!!!