

Rhandy Weston

American Studies

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No Justice, No Peace

When you think of Equality and Justice what do you think of, what America should be right?

Equality is supposed to represent having the same rights and equal opportunities as everyone else and Justice is so people can live in harmony and peace and have the same fairness for everyone, even for people we don't know. Well in today's society, it seems as though we've lost sight of those key American Values. America is dealing with a lot of racial inequality now and has been since day one. Black innocent lives being ended just for the color of their skin is sad and beyond unbelievable. Being African American is something to be proud of, not having to look over your shoulder or be alert so you don't become the next innocent victim.

African Americans face inequality on a day to day basis. For one, "Black people are twice as likely as white people to be out of work and looking for a job",

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/02/26/america-has-locked-up-so-many-b-lack-people-it-has-warped-our-sense-of-reality/>). Also remember that the employment rate is

only recording the people that are living and currently seeking for work. Then think, the others who aren't living at home and aren't looking for a job, where are they; in jail. Since there is

inequality, "The incarceration rate for African Americans tripled between 1968 and 2016 and is

more than six times the White incarceration rate”,

(<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/>).

America has always found a way to be in control of African Americans with whatever they can get away with. Back then it started with slavery, then after it was abolished, they turned to the Jim Crow Laws which still enforced segregation in the Southern United States. Then after the civil rights movement, that's when they turned to mass incarceration.

There are so many black innocent lives that have never gotten justice for their death, but the most recent that has been causing chaos in America is the Justice for Breonna Taylor. Breonna Taylor was a beautiful 26-year-old emergency room technician whose life was taken too soon by people we thought would protect us. On March 13th around 12:40 am, police had a no-knock warrant to come in Breonna's house. When they got in, without question or explaining why they were there, they opened fire shooting more than 20 rounds and killing Breonna Taylor. They believed that Breonna was involved with a narcotics investigation, but turns out they had the wrong address and the real suspect was already in their custody. The three officers that were present and involved in the shooting that night, "...were all placed on administrative reassignment pending the results of the investigation into Taylor's death",

(<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/crime/2020/06/16/breonna-taylor-fact-check-7-rumors-wrong/5326938002/>).

This shows that killing an innocent black woman obviously doesn't mean very much because they aren't in jail. Now if Breonna Taylor was white and the cops that shot her were black, they would have been in jail and justice would have been served. Lets

compare this to George Floyd's murder; if what that officer did to George was not caught on video, his case would of ended up just like Breonna Taylor's is, ending with no justice.

We do peaceful protests, boycotting, even sometimes violent protests, but even after we do all that and much more, it still feels like no one hears our voices or they choose not to. They feel it's not their problem or they think we have just as much equality as they do. African Americans from the very beginning never had an equal or fair chance at life because everyone's first instinct is judgement and then all of sudden we're less of a person from everybody else. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Allen, Malcolm X and much more wanted America to be equal and to love one another no matter what skin color or where you're from or what you do. The only thing that matters is your heart and treating one another as they should be treated, but it seems America is never going to get that. America is definitely not living up to their core values.

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