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American Studies

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Justice and Equality

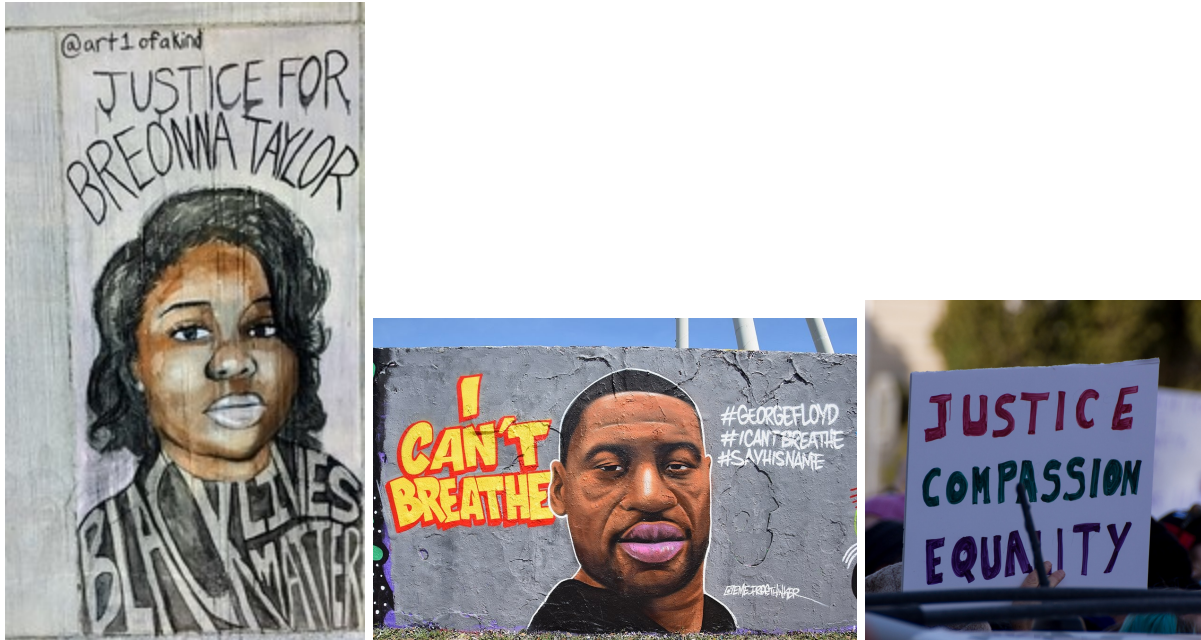
Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal...” but looking at today's society, this couldn't be farther from the truth. Jefferson's historical definition of equality meant everyone was equal under God, but this establishment is not being shown today. Today, black Americans are perceived differently from others and our police officers are using their power for the worse. Our society chooses which beliefs matter more than the others, justice, and equality being the least valued. America is not living up to its core values justice and equality as it is seen through our legal system and African Americans lives.

Police officers get away with misconduct and unnecessary killings almost every day, those affected by them get no justice. We are supposed to trust law officials to serve and protect us. The truth is, most officers use their badge for illegal conduct. “Obtained from thousands of state agencies, prosecutors, police departments and sheriff's, the records detail at least 200,000 incidents of alleged misconduct, much of it previously unreported,” says USA Today Reporters. 200,000 incidents and those police officers are still able to have their badges. Those with less power always fall short to those with power, eventually falling to gain justice. Breonna Taylor, a victim of police misconduct, was killed in March when the Police broke down her door without a warrant in the middle of the night, wrongfully accusing and killing her. The police involved in

the killing of Breonna have not been arrested and the Taylor family has no idea if their loved one will get justice for her life being taken away. Breonna is one of many who has yet to receive any form of justice in cases involved with police officers. Justice being a big American value, those like Breonna should still have their lives, and police officers breaking laws should get their rightful punishment.

If Equality is an American core value, then African Americans wouldn't be racially profiled. Black Americans deal with racial slurs, offensive or derogatory remarks about their skin tone, and racially offensive symbols daily. It is unlawful to treat someone different because of that person's race or color. "Extensive academic research and data collected by the federal government and researchers have documented numerous ways that Black Americans experience life in the United States differently from their white counterparts," stated Business Insider. One's skin should not be something Americans look at to judge someone. George Floyd was an African American man innocently killed by a police officer. George was racially profiled and his life made a nationwide uproar about racial inequality in America. George Floyd's death is just one example of how many African Americans have been mistreated. If "all men are created equal.." African Americans would not be judged or killed because of their skin color. America does not value equality.

America is neglecting those who deserve justice and disregarding black American problems. Americans should have equal opportunity to reach their full potential and have justice served. Living up to these core values is important because it is the foundation of any fair society. Though Thomas Jefferson speaks of equality, we don't see much of it today. America needs to value what's right and prioritize what's important justice and equality.



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