

## Black Lives On The Bottom of America's Totem Pole

Black people in America have not witheld any amount of equality in America due to the consistent deaths involving police brutality perpetrated by white officers. In this country, police brutality rates have risen tremendously this year alone, sparking a discussion since the murder of George Floyd. Moreover, a handful of the people fatally shot by police were black. According to Mapping Police Violence, black people are 28% of the 765 people that were killed in 2020 so far, in defiance of them making up only 13% of the population. To add on, Nature's article illustrates that black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than white men. Reading these statistics, it's shown that black people are main targets of police brutality versus white people. This shows that there isn't any equality amongst the two and that black people aren't being defended by this "core value" of America. All things considered, black people aren't equal to white people in America when black people are constantly being killed and mistreated by law enforcement. In these last few centuries, America has inaccurately proposed through the Declaration of Independence that this country stands by their right to equality and dissent/protest, meanwhile today there are thousands of people still fighting every day for the color of their skin.

After George Floyd's death this year, there have been 2,000 Black Lives Matter protests held in America to bring justice for the victims of police brutality, but as many as 10,000 protesters have been unfairly jailed or killed by racists, said by The Guardian. At these powerful protests, white supremacists are standing for the police and hurting/killing civilians defending black lives in the process. In the recent Kenosha protest for Jacob Blake, two men named Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum were killed by a white supremacist on August 25 of

2020. The two men were at the protest to march for the end of systematic racism against black people and to help defend. Even when protesting for rights that everyone should be given in this country, it is still portrayed as a destructive riot. In addition, the core value of being able to protest and dissent is not defended because protests today have become extremely unsafe for anyone to attend. Consequently, the entire idea of protesting is to make the people's voices heard and to make a change. Although people have come together from all races to stand for what's right, it has become difficult to do so because many of these protests have been creating nothing but chaos and bloodbaths.

At this time, black people are continuing to fight for their equality and dissent that America and the Declaration of Independence has written to grant them. America has not been living up to its core values, and that won't be possible until equality is given and justice is served. Undoubtedly, black people in this country have been suffering for too long to bypass the chance to stop more fatal deaths. To conclude, people all across the world should not only do what's right and stand with black lives, but learn to educate others on the stigma around black people and hold others accountable for things like racism. Leaning towards the end of this year and into 2021, change can't be in full effect until people are willing to grow and be a proper ally for equality during these hardships and make a difference for the future.