

# Why

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Close your eyes. I want you to imagine being on a sidewalk, with a cardboard sign, saying one word. "HELP". Then imagine a person walk right by you with a shirt that says something like "Kindness is not just the best way, it's the only way!", and yet they don't even care that you are sitting there not knowing where your next meal is coming from. I am privileged enough to say I've never experienced this, but I am ashamed to say that I'm part of a race that says they care about oppression and indifference, but most people are too lazy to do anything about this. I'm not perfect either, but I want to try.

The way George Floyd was killed made me sick to my stomach. Yet, nothing seems to change. No wonder people want to riot. Peaceful protest never really got them that far. People always want to say "we've come a long way", and yeah things have gotten better. Just remember, better can be going from horrible to really bad. I feel like this situation is like a shaken up pop bottle. We have been shaking it up for so long that no wonder it's finally bursting open. What did we think was going to happen. A light splash?

I don't understand. I just don't understand why. Why? Why must we punish our fellow man for something he cannot control. I want to sit down with a member of the ku klux klan or a nazi general and understand why they hate the certain group of people they hate. You wouldn't like it if someone threw bricks into the windows of your home and made you feel "subhuman". White people, we need to remember, we are not the oppressed, so when we say things like "I understand what you're going through", no we don't. We just need to shut up and listen to the people who have been oppressed. Same thing goes for things

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like, “All lives matter, not just black lives”, or “Why can’t the rioters just protest peacefully?”. We are not the ones being judged every time we exit the house, or dying at the hands of cops. It isn’t our job to be judge, jury, and executioner. We just need to listen. Slow down, and listen.

It's a terrible thing what words can do to a person. They are a spell used to seduce people. And we wonder why speeches are so important. In my mind, “They who can unlock a words full potential and can apply it on people has the same power as a wizard.

Sometimes I really wish the tables were turned. I wish the indifferent and the oppressors would feel what it feels like to be oppressed and completely ignored. After all, they should experience their own prejudice. But then I remember that no human should have to experience that kind of pain. It is just awful. We shouldn't wish pain on them because then we will become the prejudice we are trying to stand up against. The frustrating thing about the situation is that the people with the most power in these situations don't seem to do anything about it. All parties are guilty of it. Things like oppression and indifference are serious problems and we need to focus more on these things than fortnite or instagram. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world”. I think we could all learn a lesson from this. We want to see change, but we just don't want to do it. I also mean change for everyone, the LBGTQAI+ community, women’s rights, black lives matter, and everyone who has been oppressed for something they can not control. We need a different mindset to take down indifference and oppression, and it starts with us. We the people, are

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**the next generation of people who have the chance to stand up to oppression. I think we should take that chance and stop it so no future generations have to experience it. Thank you.**