

# iacc mag

JUNE 2020 ISSUE 1



IG: @qavi\_creations

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**THE UNITY  
ISSUE**

Youth Magazine  
team:  
writersclub@planom  
asjid.org

# A NOTE FROM THE YOUTH MAGAZINE TEAM

Assalamalaikum, and welcome to IACC's Youth magazine!

We proudly present to you, the June 'Unity' issue! This issue focuses on how we can all come together and uphold the idea of oneness during these strange times.

We had a lot of fun creating this magazine and learned a lot from the community's contributions.

We hope that you enjoy reading this magazine just as much as we did putting it together.

Jazakallah khair & happy reading!



## Editor in Chief:

Nabeela Iqbal

## Social Media Manager:

Adeena Sheraz

## Design Team:

Nabeeha Qazi

Aarej Syed

The cover Artwork was made by Zainab Qavi! (IG: @qavi\_creations)

She is 16 and currently attends Lebanon Trail High school. She graduated from IACC's full time hifz program in 2017.

She also has an Etsy shop called "QaviCreation" where she sells Arabic calligraphy paintings and donates 25% all sales to Helping Hands for Relief Development.

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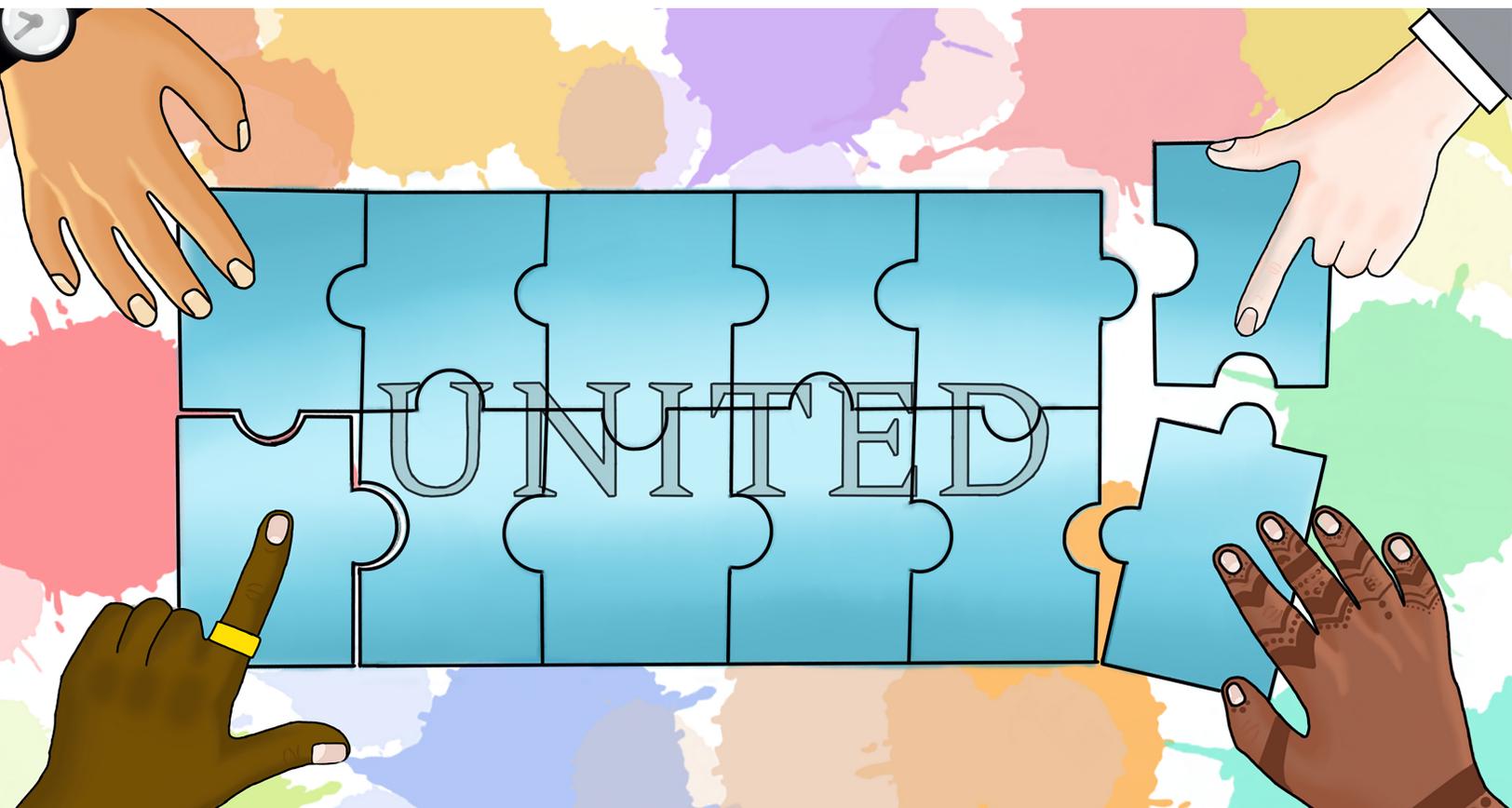
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America is a beautiful mosaic of different cultures and races. Now more than ever, it is important that we all come together as one

Artwork by Hajrah Iqbal, age:12





Artwork by Yaasir Mohammed Age: 10

# FAMILY

“

*The Prophet (S.A.W) said: “ He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him maintain good relation with kin”*

*[Al Bukhari and Muslim]*

”

# HOW DO YOU SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY?

Eshal Ahmed

Age: 10

Assalamualaikum, my name is Eshal Ahmed. Today I will write about how I have spent time with my family.

During the weekdays, our schedule is pretty busy. To get ahead in class, over summer my siblings and I learn the materials of the grade we will be going into. After that, we read the Quran and have dinner. When the weather starts to cool down, we go to the field and play soccer and a little bit of cricket. Once it starts to get dark outside, we head into the house to pray Maghrib. After Maghrib, we go on a drive to roam around the city for about 20-25 minutes and come home in time for Isha. After Isha, we get ready for bed and go to my parents' room and play there for a little. Once we all get tired, we head to our own rooms to sleep.

My favorite day of the week is the weekend because we are all free from work! We get to do whatever we want to do. On Saturdays we do the homework from the IACC Summer Camp Class. My siblings and I play board games, hide-and-go-seek, or play with a small foam ball. We sometimes make a fort or set up a tent in our house. We also go for walks or play in the field outside. During the weekdays, we go for short drives, but since we have more time on the weekends, we go for long drives.

Our family likes to do these things. You and your family can do this too! I hope you now know how I spend time with my family.

# Eid Day

Zaynah Yousuf

Age: 8



Artwork by Aasiya Abeer Age: 8

Assalam alaikum,  
My name is Zaynah Yousuf. This year, my Eid celebration was very different compared to the years before. Usually, my family spends time with my cousins and has a big feast. We also pray at the masjid and then meet each other to exchange gifts and play games. However, Allah (SWT) changed our plans this time and we had to enjoy our Eid by ourselves. Alahmdulillah, it was still fun.

The day before Eid, my sisters and I blew balloons and put lights on our stairs to decorate our house. After vacuuming and dusting the house, my sister put mehendi on my hands, while my mother prepared to make Biryani and Sheer Korma for the next day. Finally, I got my beautiful clothes and jewelry ready for the next day.

I woke up, excited that it was finally Eid. After I got dressed, I prayed Eid prayer with my grandparents and then we made dua together. Our masjid was giving KFC meals and some sweets so I went with my family to pick it up.

We came back home and ate the delicious food. Later that day, we waited for my cousins to come to our house to hang out. I was really happy to see them and play with them. I also received candy and money from my aunt!

Since I used to live in Saudi Arabia a couple years ago, my family and I took turns video calling our cousins who live there and wishing them Eid Mubarak. We all really missed them and hope to see them soon, Insha Allah. The day after that, more of my cousins came over, I got some more Eid money, a bag of candy, and a small cute purse from my aunt. We had a lot of fun even though we couldn't all meet at once! I learned from this experience that just because you can't meet a lot of people does not mean that you cannot still enjoy your day. You can still spend time with your close family or friends and have just as much fun. The most important part is coming together and spreading love.

# My Eid Party

Aisha Ahmed Age: 8

Asalamoalaikum,  
I am Aisha Ahmed, and I want to tell you about my Eid.

On Eid, I got to have a lot of fun. When my siblings and I woke up, my mom gave all of us a shower. After that, we put on new clothes and headed downstairs. We got to eat something yummy for breakfast. Because of Covid-19, we didn't get to pray at the masjid, so this year we prayed at home. When we finished, we got goody bags from the Masjid! I thought that Eid this year was going to be boring but it went pretty well, and it was going to get even better! After a while, we all got hungry so we got to eat from the goody bags and I liked it. I am very thankful for the volunteers who took the time to make the goody bags.

Later on, my siblings and I got bored so my parents let us watch TV. It was a lot of fun. After watching TV for a little bit, my dad told me to get the hair straightener. I was a little confused at first, but then he told me that my mom is going to straighten my hair. I got excited! First, my mom told me to come upstairs with her. I was wondering why only me? Then she gave me a pretty necklace that was made of feathers, it was so pretty that I put it on right away. I went downstairs and my mom straightened my hair and I looked great.

My dad called us over to get our Eidi, and we each got a \$20 bill. That's a lot of money! Every year, we always call our relatives to wish them a happy Eid. I was delighted because I got to see all of my cousins dressed up and looking happy.

For dinner, our parents gave us a big surprise. We were having our cousins over for dinner! We had 2 dishes, one was Gyro Rice and the other one was Chicken Korma. But before we ate we got more Eidi from my aunt and uncle! I got another \$20 bill and now I have \$40. We also got Eid gifts from my cousins. I got balloons which all popped because of my little sister. It was okay though because it was my Eid gift. My younger sister got a yoyo, my younger brother got a new shalwar kameez, and my older sister got a new dress. We all ate up and it was really good. After we had dessert and then my cousins went home.

I was sad that the day was over but I was happy that I had a great Eid! I thanked Allah (SWT) for blessing my family and me with a great Eid during these hard times. I hope that everyone can have a great Eid like me!

# 5 ways to spend time with your family

## baking & cooking

Come up with theme food days to create a sense of fun and excitement



## crafts

Pinterest and Instagram offer ideas of crafts to do with your children regardless of their age or interests.



## get active

Free fitness apps include: SworkIt, Addidas Training, 7 Minute Workout and Map My Fitness



## virtual events

Eventbrite helps find free virtual events happening all around the country



## gardening

Growing herbs and vegetables is also a fantastic educational opportunity for children.



# Covid-19



“...And whoever relies upon Allah – then He is sufficient for him. Indeed, Allah will accomplish His purpose. Allah has already set for everything a [decreed] extent” (65:3) ”

# Covid Our Unifier

Alisha Hasan Age: 16

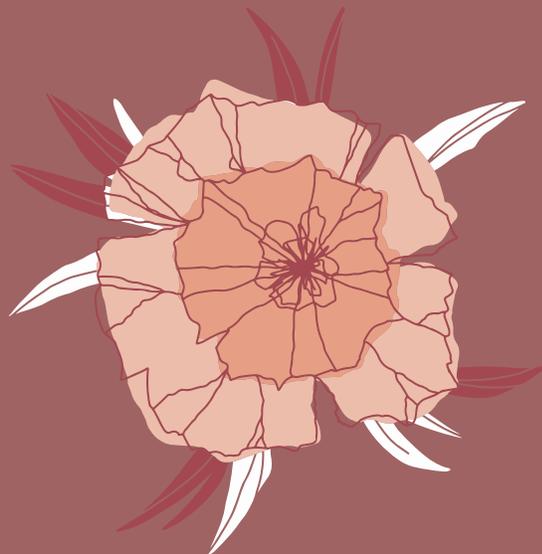
Spring break came, school was almost done  
Only two months away from having some fun  
Summer was just around the corner  
But a big change was also in order

Just when we were planning our vacation to our favorite place  
We were held back in our homes to wait  
Many saw this as a punishment from god, but perhaps it wasn't  
That at all

Could it be a blessing to get closer to our Rabb, to continue on  
The straight path and not fall.  
Could it be an end to our excuses of not praying from being  
Busy  
Now I know it might sound silly  
But didn't we yearn for a break from our repetitive lives  
To lay back, relax, and just strive?

Now that our wishes have become a reality  
We must ALL obey the rules so they become a formality  
This is the mighty word of UNITY  
Everyone must do their part  
To ensure that we don't break apart

Everyone can make a difference  
Standing together makes us stronger,  
Spreads the word, and our goals  
Put aside your differences and focus on the  
similarities of our destinations in our intentions  
So the problem won't be here no longer  
Pray and obey are the two best ways  
To make our troubles go away



# Persistence During Quarantine

By Naweed Uddin Age 11

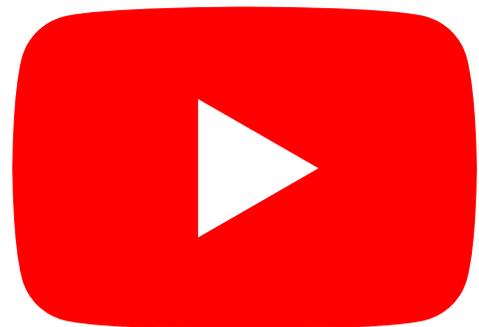
I woke up one day, and the thought came to me. I want to start a youtube channel! I always considered making one because it seemed a lot of fun. Not only that, but some of my friends had channels. But what should my topic be? There are so many topics out there such as sports, gaming, art, vlogging and more. I wanted to do something that I was good at, so that ruled out a lot of topics.

I kept on thinking and thinking. Then, my friend told me about his origami channel. That sparked an idea. I should start a drawing channel! I was interested in drawing and pretty decent at it too. I knew I wouldn't get bored, and also this would help improve my drawing skills. When I made the drawing channel NinjaDraws, I was so happy.

The very next day, I made my first video on the channel about how to draw a dog. But the video was sideways! This annoyed me, but it was my first video, so I made an exception and eagerly uploaded it anyway. I was determined to get the angle right, so I made many test videos, all at different angles to find the best one. Once I found the best one, I uploaded a few more videos on this channel. I managed to gain some subscribers in the process as well.

Then one day I purchased a video game called Minecraft. That is when I thought of the idea of making a gaming channel. So I started a channel called NinjaBuilds and again uploaded the very next day. But in this video, there was a watermark covering some of the gameplay. So I did some research on different softwares looking for the best one. I soon got much better at making videos on both channels and started gaining more subscribers on both channels. I felt ecstatic and had a sense of achievement as well.

So throughout the process of creating these two channels, I learned the importance of patience and being persistent with something you really want to do. Nobody is perfect. If at first you don't succeed, try again and again until you get it right.



*"And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided."*

*[Al-baqarah: 186]*

# DUAS FOR WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH

أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

*"Indeed, adversity has touched me, and you are the Most Merciful of the merciful".*

*[Surah Al-Anbiya - 21:83]*

اللَّهُمَّ رَحْمَتَكَ أَرْجُو فَلَا تَكِلْنِي إِلَى نَفْسِي طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ وَأَصْلِحْ شَأْنِي كُلَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

*"O Allah, I hope for Your mercy, do not leave me for even the duration of an eye blink (duration) and correct my total condition. Besides You there is none worthy of worship".*



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

*"O Allah, there is none worthy of worship besides You. You are Pure, definitely I have oppressed my soul by sinning".*

يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ

*"O Alive and everlasting One, I beseech You by Your mercy".*

حَسْبُنَا اللهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيْلُ

*"Allah is sufficient for us and He is the Best Guardian".*

( Surah Al-Imraan)

اللهُ اللهُ رَبِّيْ لَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئاً

*"Allah is my Lord, I do not ascribe anything unto Him".*

*Abdullah bin Abbas (R.A.) narrates that Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) stated that if a person constantly makes "Astaghfar", then Allah removes every difficulty, frees him from every sorrow and makes a means for him to receive sustenance from places that he never thought of.*



# United, We Stand; Divided, We Fall

## Unity, Current Social Unrest and What We Can Do

Zaid Mohammed Age: 14

### Unity

The Prophet (PBUH) stated the following:

“Believers are like a single person; if his eye is in pain his whole body pains, and if his head is in pain his whole body pains.” (Muslim)

What the Prophet (PBUH) is saying here is that the Muslim ummah should be united like one body; if there is a fitan (trial) anywhere in the Muslim world, whether it is Syria, Palestine, China, India or anywhere else, the whole ummah should feel the pain and try to ease their brethren’s hardships; for all Muslims are united by their Islam. In my opinion, one does not need to look any further than Islam’s golden days in order to see what true unity looks like.

During the Abbasid caliphate, the Islamic empire, having risen magnificently from the barren desert lands of Arabia, now encompassed a massive region stretching all the way from Spain to India, even including North Africa; it stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indus River. Many different cultures populated the empire, including Greeks, Copts and Persians, not to mention Indians, Arabs, Egyptians and more. And yet, despite all of these cultural differences, their unity based upon their belief in Islam allowed for an explosion of new ventures in fields such as mathematics, science, astronomy, medicine and physics.

Therefore, I believe that unity means different, diverse people working together, pooling their resources and benefiting from each other’s unique experiences in order to achieve common goals. It means the elimination of racism, prejudice and social barriers, therefore forming a tightly knitted community capable of overcoming any obstacle together.

### Social Unrest

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was brutally murdered in a textbook example of racism, a problem that the black community has faced for centuries since the time of colonialism. In a video taken by a bystander, a policeman could be seen kneeling heavily on a clearly unarmed and unaggressive Floyd, nonchalantly crushing Mr. Floyd’s neck, ignoring his pleas of “I can’t breathe,” words that have become a slogan for those that are combating racism right now. Nearly overnight, the video went viral on social media and within days, riots and protests on an unprecedented scale erupted all over the U.S.

As a result, some cities have tried to create curfews in order to prevent protesters from gathering in the evening and night, as they had been doing so, but to no avail. Recently, police have been using tear gas and violently pushing the protesters back, even in situations where the protests were peaceful.

All of this social unrest could not have come at a worse time, as the U.S is struggling to fight against the coronavirus and with it's economy at a depressing low.

### What We Can Do to Help

If you look at the Prophet (PBUH)'s success in bringing out his community from the darkness of jahiliyya to the light of Islam, therefore laying out the groundwork for the rise of one of the world's most powerful empires in history, things can seem daunting. After all, those are some pretty big shoes to fill and indeed, no one can perfectly emulate the Prophet (PBUH). But if you were to closely inspect the Prophet (PBUH)'s way of preaching Islam, two very fundamental things were key to his success, other than the help of Allah (SWT).

One of them is that he started small. He started preaching Islam only to his closest family, like his wife Khadija (RA) and his closest friends like Abu Bakar As-Siddiq (R). After that, upon Allah (SWT) orders, he preached to his extended family, like his uncle Abu Lahab and others. The other quality that the Prophet (PBUH) had that made him so successful in his da'wah was that he never, ever, gave up. Not even when the people of Ta'if made him bleed, nor when the enemies of Islam boycotted him, not even when, in the Battle of Uhud, his own people injured him so badly that the Muslims thought he was dead and lost hope.

Thus, we can learn two things from the Prophet (PBUH)'s life. The first is to start small, to try to bring about change in whichever way we can.

First, we have to start with ourselves; we must discipline ourselves and rid the diseases of racism and prejudice from our hearts.

Then we move on to our families and friends. We have to remind them every time they use a racial slur or anything of the sort that such things do not have a place in Islam.

Then, we can move on to the community. We can help organize events aimed at raising awareness of the deadly effects of these diseases and help people overcome these obstacles. And so on.

Finally, do NOT give up, no matter what. You may be harassed or looked down upon for promoting these ideas, but remember that the Prophet (PBUH) went through much worse... remind others to have fear of Allah (SWT) and above all, remind yourself that your reward does not lie with these people of the dunya; rather, it lies with Allah (SWT).

*Perhaps it is only after we mend our communities and reunite them that Islam can relive its glorious days of the past...*



# Why Black Lives Matter

Aamina Abeer Age: 12

Around the world, people are taking to the streets protesting police brutality, especially African-Americans.. The killing of George Floyd, an African American, has sparked unrest, encouraging people to speak out for freedom and the end of discrimination. As we witness this from our homes, we have to think about why this movement affects all of us as a community.

There are several examples of African American people that have changed the society we live in. Martin Luther King was an important person who played an essential role in the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968. Others include Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, Sojourner Truth, and more. All of these people worked hard to end the segregation that was taking place in America at the time.

But did they protest and risk their lives for nothing? They brought unity to their society, by honoring people of all races and bringing them together. Let's honor their work and stop discriminating against African Americans living in our communities.

There are several examples of Africans that have had an impact on our religion. Bilal (RA) was an African slave from Abyssinia (modern day Ethiopia) and was the first muadhin in Islam, appointed by Rasullallah (SAW) himself for his strong and clear voice. Wahshi, also african, was the killer of Hamza (RA), but upon accepting Islam, he killed the false prophet Musaylama. Umm Ayman was the closest example of a mother to Rasullallah after his own mother died when he was a child. And Sumayyah Bint Khabbat was the first muslim to be martyred for the sake of Allah. So there are many prominent examples of Africans who definitely matter in islam.

After looking at all these examples, you can see that, yes, black lives DO matter. They have helped shape our religion and society. Without these prominent lives in the US and in Islam, we would still be living in a racist America, and a religion without a solidified foundation.



# Black Lives Matter

Fatima Shakeel Age: 12.5

Black, white, brown -- all colors that should not mean anything different in the eyes of humanity.

In the Qur'an, Allah (SWT) said: And We have certainly honored the children of Adam (17:70). This Ayah tells us that no matter what our ethnicity and color are, we are all the same in the eyes of our Creator and every human being has an honorable status in front of Allah (SWT). In America, there is a long history of racism, especially against people of color. From years of segregation to the civil rights movement, and to present-day protests, the situation hasn't changed.

The Black Lives Movement (BLM) is an organized movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality against African-American people. An example of brutality against black people is what happened on May 25, 2020, with George Floyd. George, a 46-year-old black man, was killed in Minneapolis, during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. This man changed the face of America in just one day.

Demonstrators in Minneapolis and other cities, including Los Angeles and Memphis, have been marching in outrage over the death of Floyd. Thousands protested peacefully across the country, though some demonstrations continue to be marred by acts of vandalism and clashes with police, including near the White House.

In small towns and big cities across the country, people are giving voice to the grief and anger that generations of black Americans have suffered at the hands of the criminal justice system. Young and old, people of all colors, family, and friends have joined together to say: discrimination has to end today.

We, as Muslims, owe an immense amount of gratitude to the black community. One of the greatest saviors of the Muslims in the time of early Islam was a black king.

The unbelievers of Makkah had made life very difficult for the Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was worried about the condition of the Muslims, so he advised a group (about 83) of his followers to migrate to Abyssinia (Ethiopia), which was ruled by a kind Christian king named Negus. When the chiefs of Makkah found out, they became worried that the Muslims might turn Negus towards Islam. They decided to send some gifts with two men to the king and his ministers to convince the king to send the Muslims back to Makkah. The king questioned the Quraysh if the Muslims had killed anyone, stolen anybody's property, or committed any crimes in Makkah. They replied that their only crime was 'inventing a new religion'. The king then announced, "I cannot hand over the people who are living under my protection without a proper investigation."

He called upon Muslims to share their side of the story. The spokesperson for the Muslims was Jafar bin Abu Talib. The king was very impressed with the sincere speech of Ja'far, and he asked him to recite something from the Quran. Ja'far recited a few verses from Surah Maryam of the Holy Quran. When the king heard the words of Allah, tears started flowing from his eyes as he recognized the truth. The king declared that he would never surrender the Muslims to the Quraish.

Hundreds of lives of the earliest Muslims were saved by that noble black king and he eventually converted to Islam secretly and died as a Muslim.

The heart of every fair-minded American is crying at what's happening in our country. The dream of the forefathers of our country was to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for every citizen. The purpose of these protests is to demand the attention of the leaders/politicians and help them realize that white people shouldn't have power over the black. Innocent black lives are being taken away just because of their skin color. As a young Asian American Muslim, I am neither black nor white, but my heart is always with what is right. I have been given the freedom of speech, so I am going to use this opportunity to raise my voice and make a difference.

One can never be too young to stand up for what is right, and I, Fatima Shakeel, will stand up for the oppressed.

Black Lives Matter.

# Malcolm X

Ibrahim Muhammad Age: 15

Malcolm X is a true inspiration for the Muslim community. He was an African American activist, minister, and promoter of black nationalism, during the civil rights movement. He raised awareness about racial inequality and social injustice towards black people in America through protests, numerous motivational and uplifting speeches.

As a young teenager, Malcolm and his friend used to deal drugs and burglarized houses. At the age of 21, he was caught and sent to jail. It was in prison where Malcolm X first came across the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, founder of the 'Nation of Islam' movement. He converted to the Nation of Islam in prison. After serving 6 years in jail, he moved on to become the minister of a mosque in Harlem. Because of his exceptional oratory skills and sermons in favor of self-defense, he gained many followers. After spending time as a follower of the Nation of Islam, he decided to go for Hajj and that's when he converted to become a mainstream Muslim.

He formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity in June 1964 which described racism as the enemy of justice, not the white race. His more moderate philosophy became influential, especially among Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee members.

Although Malcolm had a criminal background, he was always determined to change himself for the better. He knew that that one starts with oneself to improve society. His life shows us that we can turn things around for the good at any stage of our life.

Malcolm's legacy was that his words passed the test of time. He was teaching people how to be courageous and stand up for what they believe. Malcolm showed us to be brave and fight for justice. He inspired many of our contemporary Muslim activists like Imam Omar Suleiman, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, and many more.

I look up to Malcolm X because he started off with a very humble background but he turned his life around to later inspire millions of people to work for justice and racial equality.



# BLACK LIVES MATTER: IN PICTURES

SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL  
IMAGES FROM THE BLM PROTESTS

Images sourced from: CNN.com & Cosmopolitan.com



***New York, NY***



**Las Vegas, NV**



**New York, NY**



**Boston, MA**

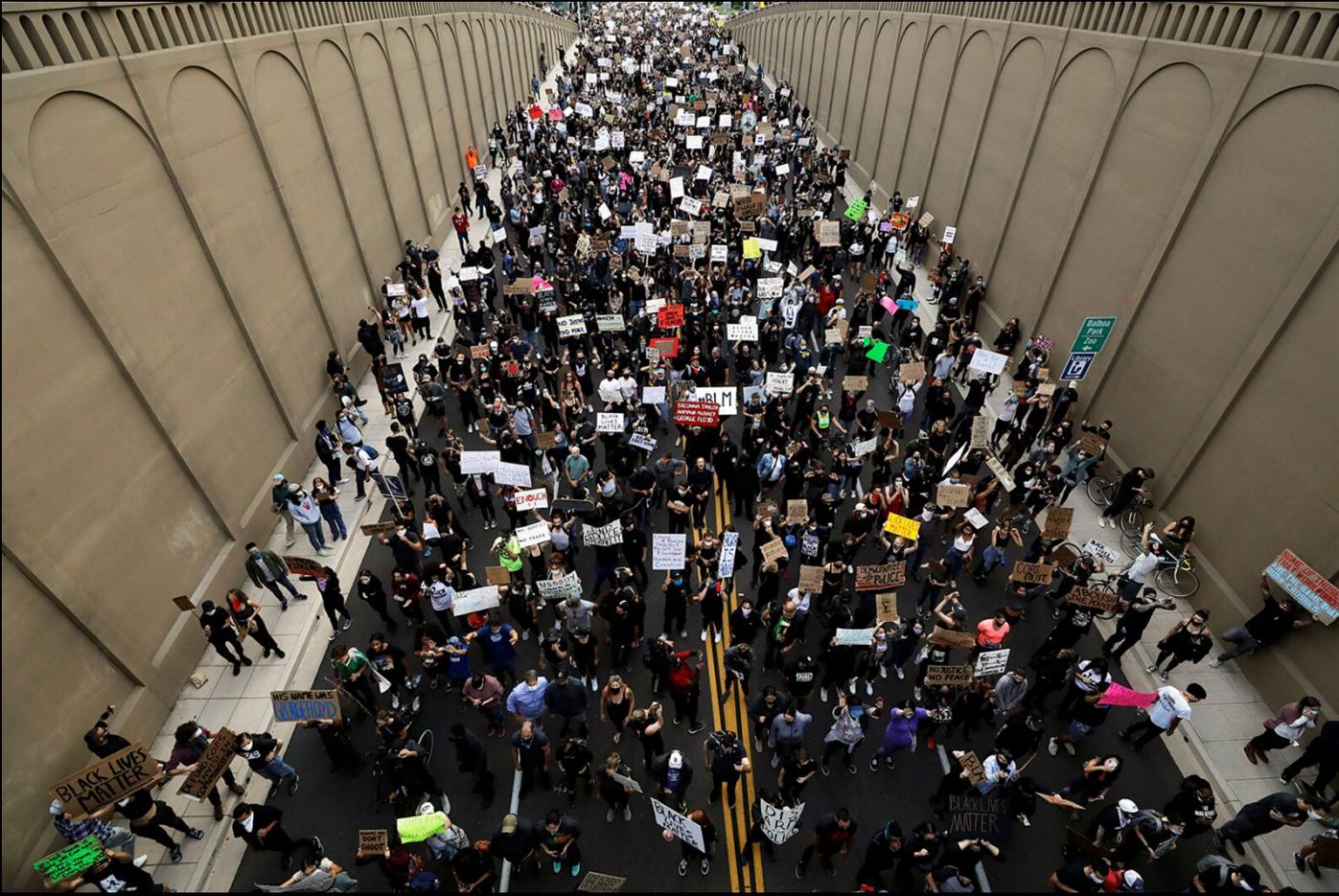


**Washington DC**

# Brooklyn, NY



# San Diego, CA



# WHY DO WE NEED BLM?

a comic showing a case of police  
brutality against African  
Americans

## TAMIR RICE

On November 22nd 2014, 12 year old Tamir Rice was at a local park in Cleveland, throwing snowballs with his sister and a couple friends.



This comic was created by @thefakepan on instagram

Earlier in the day Tamir had traded his cell phone with another friend for a pellet gun which he thought made him look cool,



After he made the trade he shot at trailers and car tyres, showing off to his friends.



In the park he posed with it, shooting pellets at his sister.



A few witnesses state seeing Tamir and thinking little of it. A woman in her kitchen nearby glanced out her window and saw a "little boy" playing by the gazebo.

Another witness sitting at a nearby gazebo got a different impression, calling the police stating a person, most likely a juvenile was pointing a gun at random people. Twice stating "it's probably fake".



The info was relayed to the dispatched officers, Loehmann and Garmback. Although the 911 responder made no mention of the callers assumption the gun was "probably fake".



Tamir picked up the pellet gun from the gazebo table and placed it in his waistband, wandering around the park.



He might have been wandering aimlessly,

or he might have been distracted by the sight of a police car skidding onto the lawn.



Officer Loehmann shot and killed Tamir within 2 seconds of leaving the squad car, without any verbal warning according to witnesses.

The Cleveland Division of Police eventually deemed the shooting "reasonable and within guidelines." The officer, Timothy Loehmann was eventually fired for lying on a portion of his hiring application, not for the deadly shooting.

# WHY

# "ALL LIVES MATTER"

## IS NOT THE RIGHT RESPONSE

An editorial piece by Nabeela Iqbal

The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was started in 2013 after George Zimmerman, a police officer, was found not guilty in the killing of African-American teen, Trayvon Martin.

Ever since the birth of this movement, many have come forward to coin the term, 'all lives matter'. But what's so wrong about saying that? If we are all fighting for equality, why should we differentiate? Shouldn't *all* lives matter?

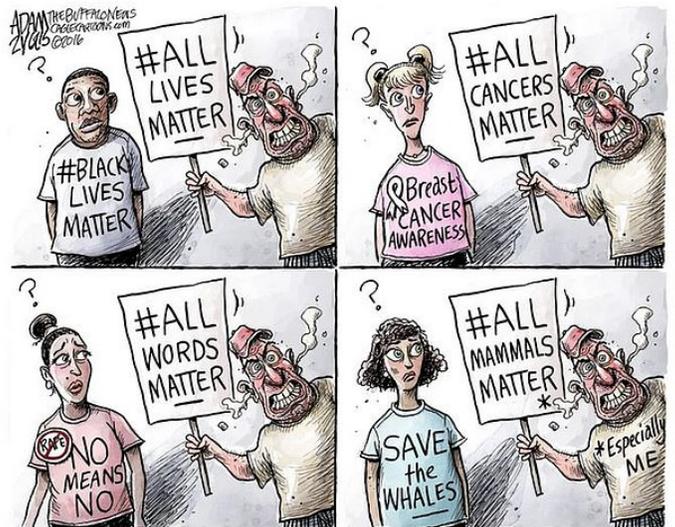
Let's look at the slogan again, "Black Lives Matter". The phrase simply points out the fact that the lives of black people matter. Why is this being pointed out? It's because black lives in America are in danger.

Black people have been 28% of those killed by police since 2013, despite being only 13% of the population. It is obvious that black lives in the US are undervalued and are more likely to be ended by police than any other life.

So, saying 'black lives matter' doesn't mean that black lives matter *more* than other lives, it just means that the country needs to recognize and put an end to this inequity and black lives need to start to matter.

Which is why the phrase 'all lives matter' is offensive and damaging. It was started as a counterargument to BLM and disregards & diminishes the focus on the violence & discrimination faced by black people every day. This doesn't mean that no other life faces discrimination, but right now no other life is in as much danger as a black life.

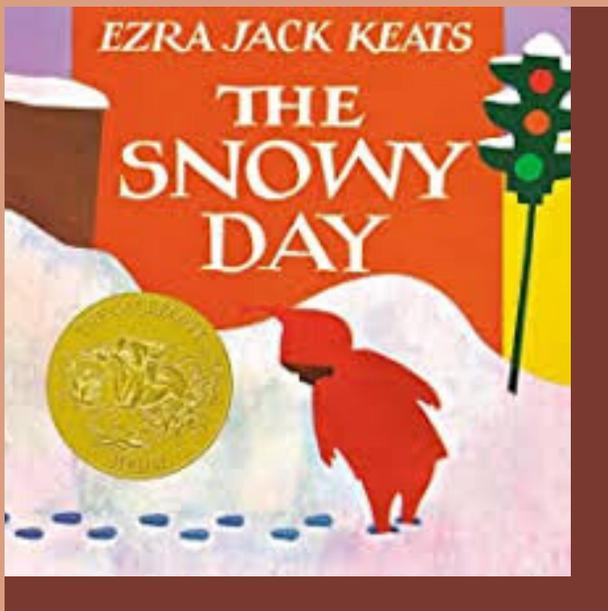
Black lives matter



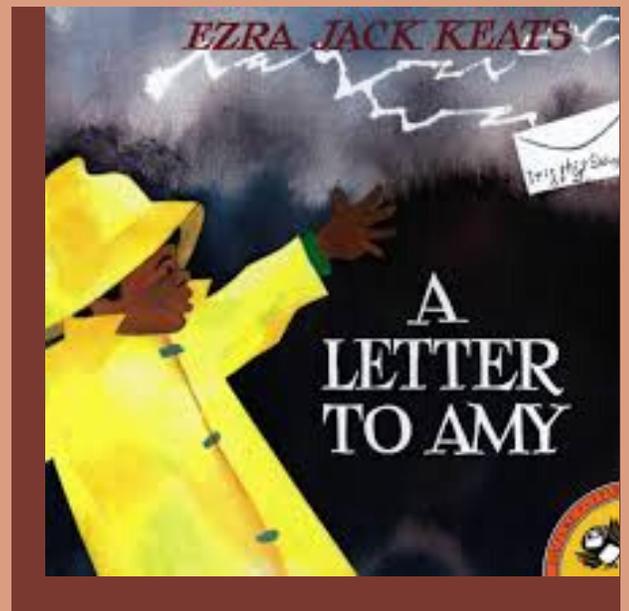
© Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News

# Let's Learn

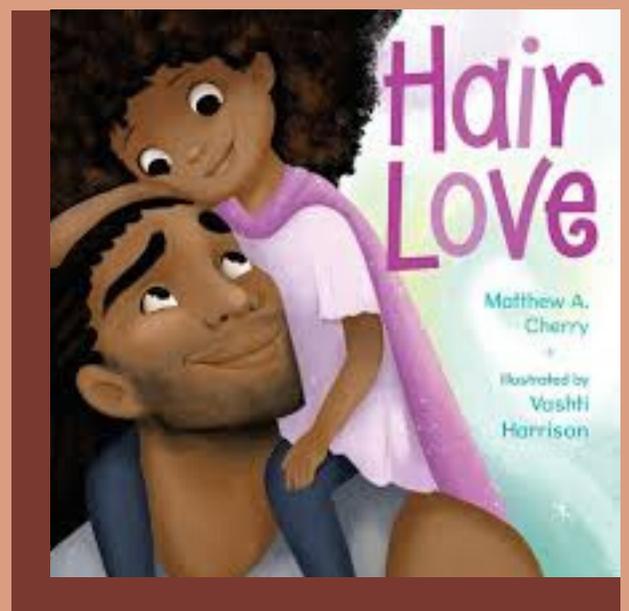
A LIST OF ANTI-RACISM BOOKS FOR ALL AGES

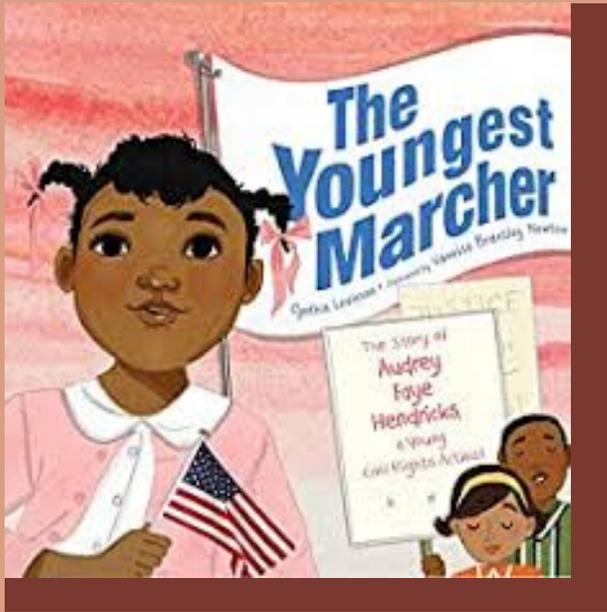


Ages  
0-3

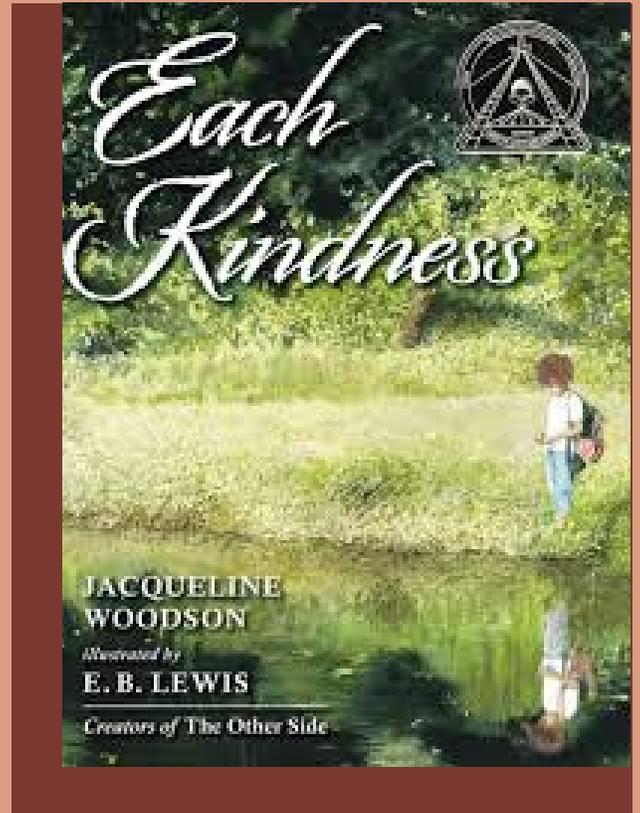


Ages  
3-5

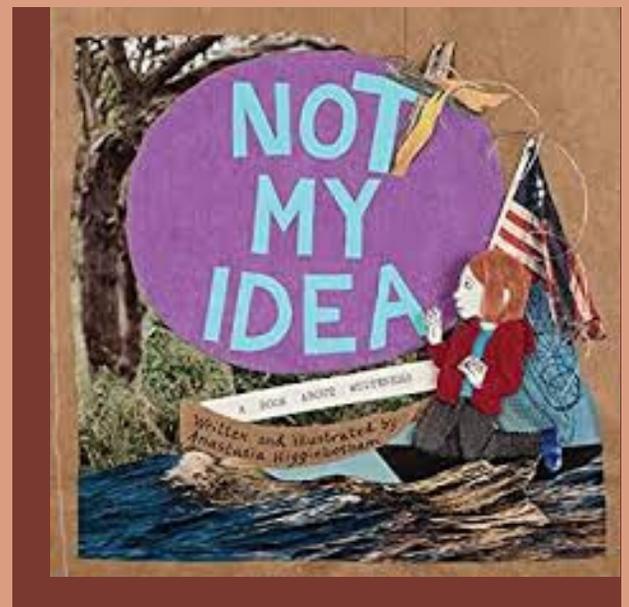
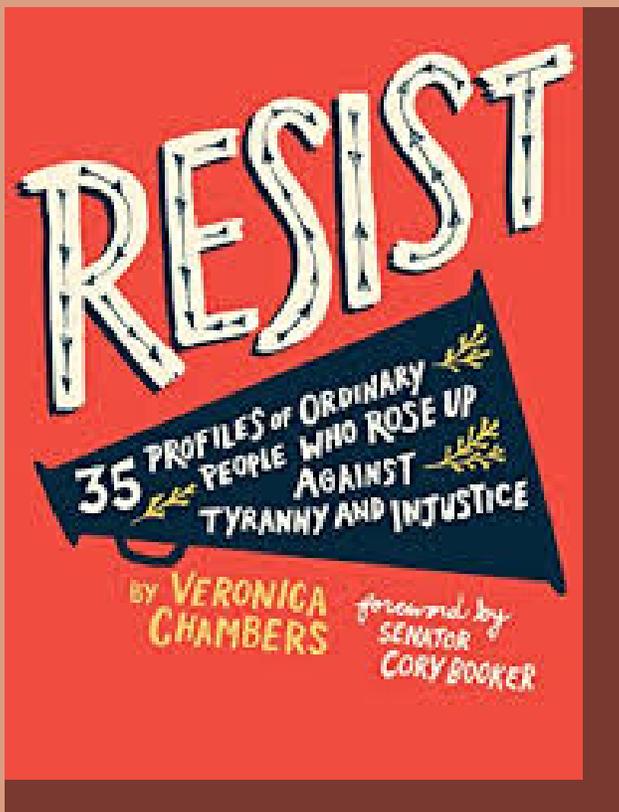




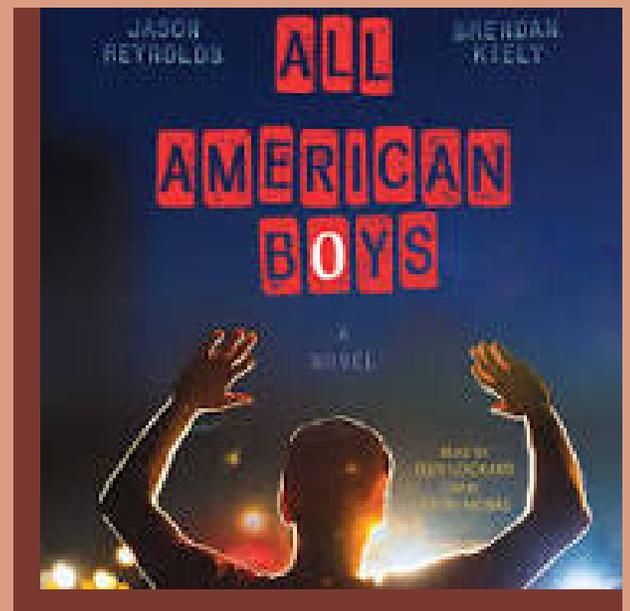
Ages 5-8



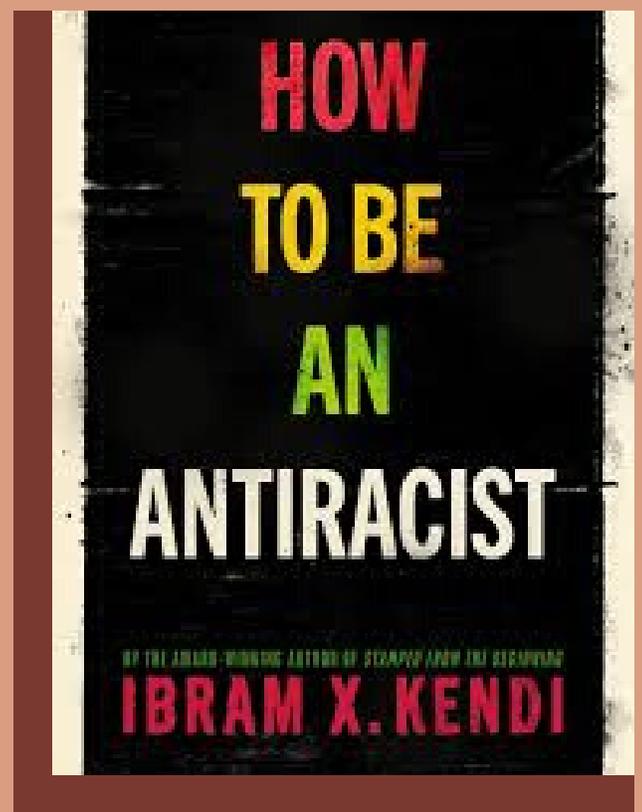
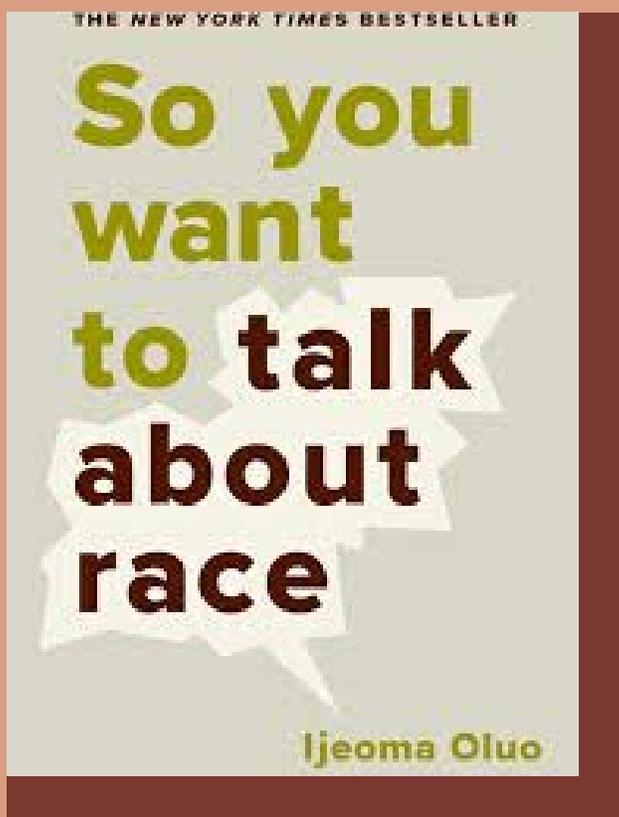
Ages 9-12



## Ages 13-15



## Ages 16+





Like branches on a tree,  
we all grow in different directions,  
but our roots remain as one

Artwork by Mariam Saiyed Age: 13

# UNITY

“

*“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers.” [3:103]*

”

# The Leaky Faucet

Labiba Uddin Age: 16

“Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart - and that is the weakest of faith.”  
~ Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

*Drip.*

There's no doubt that we are making history. In every waking moment, our communities seem to be hit with one challenge after another. There are individual challenges that face us every day. The transition to virtual schools. The inability to see friends. The quarantine boredom. And there are weightier challenges that affect our whole nation. A pandemic. A surge in unemployment. An equality movement. In the past several weeks, I've often asked myself, how did we get to this point? How was it possible that in the span of just six months, our entire lives were flipped upside down? Our day-to-day routines would be unrecognizable to the people we were in December. How did it all happen so fast? Well, the answer to that is that it didn't. All our recent situations are rooted in problems that have pervaded society for years now. And at the heart of the problem is our lack of unity.

*Drip.*

For too long, our nation has gone about in the false security of its oblivion. We have continuously chosen to turn a blind eye to the issues that surround us every day. None of us are immune to the virus of ignorance. We've seen countless black men and women discriminated against, and yet we turned a blind eye; we have lied to ourselves for millennia, claiming it was not our problem because they were not “one of us”.

We saw the dangers of the novel coronavirus as it wreaked havoc in other nations, and yet we turned a blind eye; we lied to ourselves that it was not our problem because the virus was not in our nation. We suppressed social distance warnings and mask mandates, claiming it was not our problem because the virus was not infecting us. So, though we as a nation stood united, we stood united in our ignorance.

*Drip.*

And all at once, our ignorance tipped the scale. Drip. It is no longer enough to protect ourselves, to cower away in our own safety without ensuring the safety of our brothers and sisters.

*Drip.*

It is no longer okay for us to turn a blind eye, to lie to ourselves that there is no issue because we are not directly affected.

*Drip.*

It is no longer enough to be silent.

*Drip.*

It is time for us as a community and as a nation to turn the tide of our unity. We must take a stand if we wish to rewrite the narrative. Now more than ever, it is vital to make our voices heard. When we speak up, then, and only then, will we be able to bring real change. We must work to move away from being united in ignorance and move towards being united for justice.

*Drip.*

A leaky faucet that drips water once an hour doesn't bother anyone. You pass by the kitchen and hear a single drop fall, and you think nothing of it. But a faucet that drips water by the minute - everyone will notice it, and eventually, it will get fixed. A single voice cannot be enough to bring change. We need more voices and more frequency if we wish to establish justice. If we unite in our desire to bring change, our voices will be heard and our faucet can be fixed.

*But I am only one voice, one drop. What's the point? What difference do I make?* I leave you with this: Billy Graham once said, "Courage is contagious. When a brave man stands, the spines of others are stiffened." I encourage you to be that first brave man or woman. Take a stand. Spread courage. Know that you will not be alone because when one drop falls, another is sure to follow.



# Changing Back to Unity

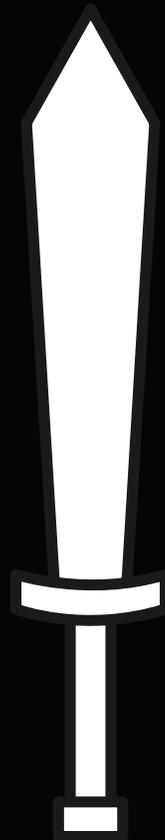
Ridah Farooqui Age: 12

Swords upon spears  
Rifles aimed high  
Words back and forth  
No peace and no rights

One better than other  
Happiness overlooked  
Masks worn to cover  
Every bit of truth

Sugar coated words  
Every turn is a lie  
Faith destroyed  
Betrayal far and wide

One small step  
That's all we need  
To change our world,  
Bring back humanity



We'll charge together  
Until their bullets ricochet  
There are no separate teams  
There's only one way

Forget old words  
No turning back time  
We're stuck with each other  
Till the end of the line

This is our battle cry  
From today forward  
We live in unity  
We live with honor

So harken the trumpets  
Turn old tides  
Never give in to hate  
Regain our glory

# The Emerald Forest

Rida Zaki Age: 14

It was a nice and dewy morning in the Emerald Forest, home to all animals. But not everything was well in this beautiful forest. This story is about a conflicted species, who had ongoing disputes for many generations - but one day, everything changed.

A drought had stricken the Emerald Forest causing it to be a little less emerald than usual. As each day and night passed the forest only became drier and drier. With the drying lake being the only source of hydration in the forest, the animals were suffering.

As the lake became shallower and shallower, the disputes between the animals grew worse. The giraffes were the largest, so they announced that they got to drink from the lake first. At times there would be so many animals trying to get water, that it was difficult for everyone to quench their thirst. The smaller animals, like raccoons could easily squeeze through, but it was hard for bigger animals like bears.

This did not change the fact that they were all animals who had the basic right to drink water. They simply needed it to live. This major water shortage brought out the worst in all the animals in the forest.

As the dry days turned into weeks, the animals had had enough. The giraffes and hippos were tired of the raccoons sneaking through and some animals like the gorillas couldn't even find a spot to drink. Soon enough, the giraffes spoke up and addressed the issue.

“These fights are getting out of control,” spoke the tallest giraffe.

“I agree. This needs to end,” piped up another giraffe.

One hippo responded angrily, “easy for you to say as you have the best access to water, not all of us have long necks!”

The hippos were not very fond of the giraffes, and the other animals knew there was going to be another fight. So the peacemaking raccoons jumped in,

“What if we work together to solve this issue? Let's put aside our differences and think about the problem we are ALL facing.”

A murmur passed through the animals, no species had ever spoken up like that, and it was compelling. The hippos immediately responded with hope,

“Change would be a good thing. That's what we need to do, come together and at least try to get along.”

The other animals began to chime in. As they all compared thoughts, a conclusion was made. In the end, the giraffes made the announcement.

“We have come to the conclusion that the only way to face this difficult time is to work together and not against one another. It has been decided that we will assign a time for each animal to come and take a drink from the lake. That way everyone can get their share.”

The animals began to cheer as a solution was found. As the crowd began to disperse, little droplets started making ripples in the lake and it began pouring by the time they realized it was raining. The days passed and soon weeks were gone, and the Emerald forest was peaceful and green again.

# Dreaming for Unity

One branch of a sycamore tree  
That we can snap so easily,  
When united with its kin  
Can withstand the greatest wind;  
One handful of soil from the ground  
That crumbles without a sound  
When welded together with fire  
Holds up the cities of empires.

One man oppressed in the country of  
freedom  
With a vision of peace and equality,  
Will be ridiculed, injured, and  
suppressed,  
Until courageous people stand in assent;  
The swelling waves of supporters rapidly  
grow  
Crashing down upon the tyranny below.  
The difference between people with  
dreams  
Is whether they stand up for what they  
believe.

One honeybee above flowers flying  
Can be crushed with but a sting;  
When united with its hive,  
Will take on animals of any kind;  
One droplet of water from the sky,  
Seems inconsequential to the human eye,  
When amassed into vast clouds  
Brings forth life all around.

One woman suppressed in a  
beautiful valley  
With an aspiration of educational  
equality,  
Stands up for her beliefs strongly  
But gets shot down by her  
oppressors wrongly.  
United the world condemns this act;  
The woman's dream is becoming  
reality.  
When people stand firmly together  
They bring change to whatever the  
endeavor.

One person with a vision  
Might never see to its fruition  
When united as a movement  
Brings change and improvement  
A hero standing up for the oppressed  
Can be pushed back and suppressed  
When courageous people join the  
hero's cause  
Hope and freedom shine bright as  
stars.



# Congratulations

TO ALL THE CHOSEN SUBMISSIONS

The process of choosing between wonderful and insightful submissions is a painful one, but we had to do it! Congratulations & jazakallah khair to all the youth writers and artists whose passion made this magazine a success!

We would like to give a special shout-out to everyone who decided to submit their pieces; we appreciate your hard work and your effort and would love to see your contributions in future issues!

Remember, this is not the end, but rather a marvelous beginning into a platform specifically meant for youth voices.

**We need you and your thoughts!**

## **STAY CONNECTED !**

follow us on instagram: @iaccmag

write to us with ideas and suggestions:

writersclub@planomasjid.org

Keep an eye out for next month's theme!

- Youth Magazine  
Team