Racism in society

“All animals are equal , just some are more equal than others”. This is a quote from the book Animal Farm. The pigs say this quote , it essentially is them justifying there actions for them treating other animals worse than how they are treated. It relates to our society. How sad is that. It seems that white people have been ‘more equal’ for a long time , and I believe now EVERYONE is beginning to realise how unfair that is.

For years , ethnic minorities have been oppressed by white people. It is a sad fact , I don’t want this too come across as this as criticism of ALL white people , it’s the minority of the uneducated and uninformed people that have led to this racist society.

 George Floyd’s death has been a catalyst for riots and protest across the world. In 2020. After so many innocent black lives have been lost due to unnecessary police brutality and other racially motivated attacks. Why has it taken another life to be lost , another family to be effected for the world to wake up to racism. There has been countless incidents of similar events over time but this death struck home with the world , which is a good thing.

9 minutes of having a knee placed upon your neck. ‘I cant breath” cried George Floyd. I refuse to believe that the police officer didn’t mean to kill George. How could he not , it doesn’t take a genius to understand that having your knee on someone’s neck for 9 minutes will kill someone. The video of the incident is painful to watch. I would assume that American’s would feel embarrassed by the treatment of George Floyd by the police officers. Police are supposed to protect and serve , instead they took an innocent life. Left a daughter without a father , left a wife without a husband .

I find it hard to try and place myself in the mind of a racist. How can you look at someone and instantly HATE them for the color of their skin? How! How can these racists think so unfairly and negatively about someone , without knowing anything about them. How can they show no remorse , surely they would show compassion when acting so brutally to a fellow human. A fellow human. We are all the same , yet for centuries we have allowed inequality and allowed pain and suffering to countless lives. Who kickstarted the idea of white people being supreme. I assume that it dates back to the slave trade. Black people were treated like animals , endured unimaginable suffering that we can not imagine. Human lives were treated like a currency , the African coastline was known as the ‘slave coast’. The wealthy white people were using black lives as a way to gain financially. Using human lives in exchange for money. How disturbing is that. Now I don’t know for sure , but there is a chance my ancestors could have been a victim of the slave trade. My grandma is from Trinidad and Tobago where there would have been slavery. I find it hard to believe the suffering that my family could have endured , like I said I don’t know if they were involved in the slave trade or not. Imagine knowing your family members were used and treated like objects. Your bloodline being a victim of slavery , to me that is disgusting.

I am lucky for the life I live. Both my parents come from working class families where they had to learn how to look after themselves very early in their lives. My dads mum died when he was teenager / young adult , he had to help his dad pay the bills and did lots of work to support him. My mum , the daughter of my Carribean grandma. My mum had a childhood that quickly exposed her to reality. Her mum died in a car crash when she was just 6 years old , she had a child , my brother , at 19 and lived alone with him , with next to no money or support for the first few years of his life , before she met my dad. Both of them worked hard and know we live comfortably in a nice house , In a safe area and I am forever grateful for this. I would assume that my grandma would have been a victim of racial abuse , being a black woman in England in the 1970/1980 era. I myself have been racially abused in my life. I have been called various names and racial slurs. I have been called the N word and other offensive names. I am not looking for sympathy , I am looking for change. These verbal attacks occur far to frequently to black and other ethnic minorities , often unprovoked attacks and it needs stamping out of society.

Black parents grow up telling their children that they will need to work harder than their white counterparts , just to achieve the same as them. Black children grow up knowing that they are more likely to be stopped and searched by police , they grow up knowing that they will be given a bad reputation in the media and they will grow up knowing that they might be turned a way from a job because their hair isn’t ‘smart’ enough. Imagine being a parent , sitting your child down and having to tell them this. As all parents would want , they want their child to be happy and to strive to be the best version of themselves. Imagine telling them that they may not be able to achieve what they want in life because of the color of their skin.

We have to actively be anti racist , not just ‘not racist’.

Thanks for reading , please share this too other teachers and all feedback would be appreciated!