



The murder of George Floyd

George Floyd died on May 25th 2020 at the age of 46.

He died whilst under police custody for an offence of allegedly purchasing cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 note.

“No justice, no peace”

There has been a huge public outcry as a result of George’s mistreatment and death (which has now been charged as murder). The US, and now other parts of the world, are seeing large protests against police brutality and ingrained racism still prevalent around the world today. These protests are largely peaceful but have turned violent on some occasions.



What is happening in the USA and why?

<https://youtu.be/yEBnsgGA3Rc>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52813673>



What is happening in the USA and why?

About 1 in 1,000 black men and boys in America can expect to die at the hands of police, according to a new analysis of deaths involving law enforcement officers. That makes them 2.5 times more likely than white men and boys to die during an encounter with the police. The analysis also showed that Latino men and boys, black women and girls and Native American men, women and children are also killed by police at higher rates than their white peers. "That 1-in-1,000 number struck us as quite high," said study leader Frank Edwards, a sociologist at Rutgers University. "That's better odds of being killed by police than you have of winning a lot of scratch-off lottery games."

Cause of death	Mortality rate
Assault	94.2
Accidents	52.1
Suicide	17.5
Heart disease	14
HIV	6.8
Cancer	6.2
Police use of force*	3.4
Diabetes	2.8
Influenza and pneumonia	2
Chronic lower respiratory disease	2
Cerebrovascular diseases	1.9

Annual mortality rates are reported as deaths per 100,000 black men ages 25 to 29.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015. *Figure is the median of 2013-2018 mortality rate calculated in PNAS study led by Frank Edwards.



What are protestors asking for?

1. A change in societal norms.
2. They want to see a genuine equality between the races.
3. Transparency from the government and justice shown by the police.
4. To be free from discrimination and prejudice.

How does this link to our lives?

Have we ever had similar experiences?

Are we able to help this situation in any way?

Can we be a force for good?

Are there any instances where we are sometimes subconsciously prejudiced or stereotypical and need to change our actions?



"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion.

People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

*Nelson Mandela
Long Walk to Freedom*

What can we do?

Join a peaceful online protest (considering the current pandemic). This might be an online petition/movement.

- Show your support online.
- Speak out against injustice in your life and the lives of others. Stand up for what is right.
- Think about your history lessons where you have learnt about Slavery and the Civil Rights Movement, have we made any progress?
- Think about your history lessons where you have studied the Nazis and the racism and discrimination that became prevalent in Nazi Germany and other European countries. What can happen when people remain silent and become bystanders?
- Compassionately support people who are being mistreated in your local community and the worldwide community.



What lessons can we learn from social media?

1- Make space for and listen to voices of people of colour

You may have seen black squares on Instagram on Tuesday, with the hashtag “blackouttuesday”. The aim of this movement was not silence, but rather for white people to take this opportunity to listen to the experiences of people of colour as well as using their platform to share and support the voices of the people who experience this discrimination first-hand.

Only through listening to the voices of all people, not just the people who look like us, can we develop empathy and tolerance for each other.



What lessons can we learn from social media?

2- Understand "white privilege"

It might be hard for some people to understand "white privilege", as they might not feel privileged at all!

[A video to watch to help you understand "privilege":](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CAP90X-nIEG/>

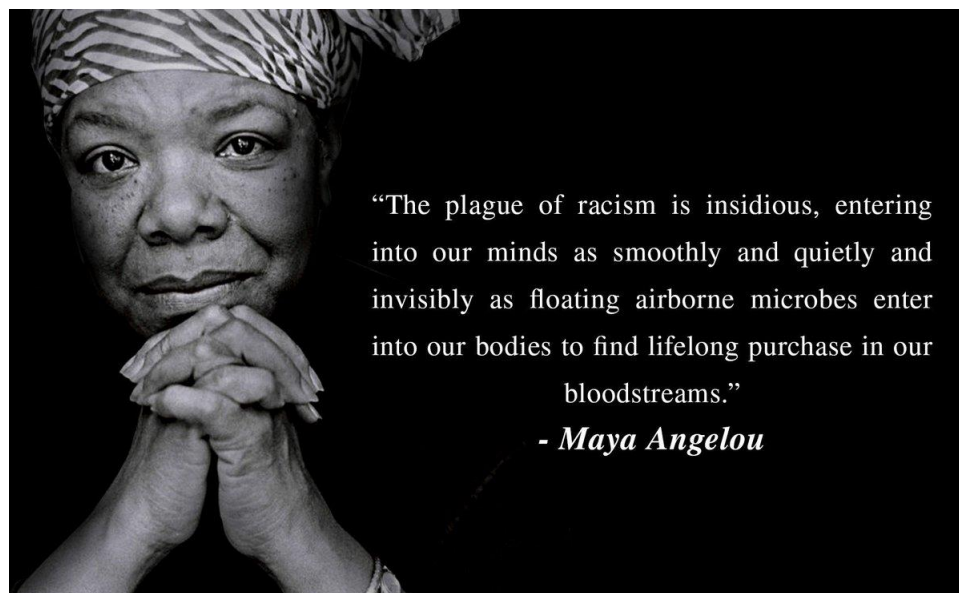
I. WHITE PRIVILEGE
DOESN'T MEAN YOUR
LIFE HASN'T BEEN HARD,
IT MEANS YOUR SKIN
TONE ISN'T ONE OF THE
THINGS MAKING IT HARDER!

THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER PRIVILEGES
(SOCIO-ECONOMIC, MALE, HETEROSEXUAL
CISGENDER, CHRISTIAN, ABLE-BODIED)
BUT WHITE PRIVILEGE IS PERHAPS THE
MOST ENDURING THROUGHOUT HISTORY

What lessons can we learn from social media?

3- Educate yourself

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we educate ourselves on this issue. It is not the responsibility of people of colour to teach us what is happening in our society. It can be difficult and uncomfortable to learn about, and some stories can be hard to hear. You do not need to watch a traumatic video to educate yourself. Learn about history, learn about government, learn about the laws. As you grow older and start navigating the world by yourself, it is important to remember this. There are tons of resources online, podcasts to listen to, films and documentaries to watch to help us understand what is systematic racism and how we can stop it.



“The plague of racism is insidious, entering into our minds as smoothly and quietly and invisibly as floating airborne microbes enter into our bodies to find lifelong purchase in our bloodstreams.”

- *Maya Angelou*