

A Revolution Is on The Horizon

By Liliana Villar

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement is a powerful movement that has forced our nation to pay attention to the lives of those who built it. Throughout the entirety of our nation's history, the lives of black Americans have been negotiated, bargained with, and thought of as less than their white counter parts. Our country was built on the backs of black slaves and we have taken for granted everything that were forced to give us. Finally, after lifetimes of abuse, neglect and betrayal the Black Lives Matter movement is truly gaining traction and forcing each and every one of us to take a cold, hard, look in the mirror and fight for reform.

It is no longer enough to “not be racist”. It is no longer enough to support Black Americans from the sidelines while they mobilize and demand respect. We have learned over the last year, that it is now time that we stand with our black friends, family, and fellow Americans and propel the movement forward. It is time that whiteness become a shield used to protect our fellow Americans, instead of oppressing them. It is time that we allow our voices and platforms to amplify the voices of Black Americans.

This year has shown us that we cannot stand idly by and allow our friends, neighbors, and colleagues to be attacked and persecuted for existing while Black. It has awoken within our country a level of outrage, awareness, and unrest that we have never seen. After years of divide in our country, the BLM movement has united hundreds of thousands of Americans and is only gaining traction. I believe that this movement has set in motion a movement towards revolution and liberation.

We have shown that when we come together and take action, the government, police, and citizens must take us seriously. I believe this movement will ultimately end in much needed police reform, the restructuring of government agencies and laws, and increased representation in all professional fields including, but not limited to, legislature and politics. However, I do not believe this will be the end.

In a country where Black people were not even believed to be people until the late 1800's and were not granted the right to vote until the late 1900's, acceptance and retribution come slowly. I believe we are going to have to continue the movement for many years to come, however, there is strength in numbers and the BLM movement is only growing by the day. I am confident that we are moving in the right direction, and quicker than we have in the past.

We are at a tipping point in the United States, with Millennials being the largest generation in the US since the Baby Boomers, and Gen Z following closely behind we have a large group of young to middle-age, open minded, individuals ready to stand up against discrimination and oppression and tear down anything standing in there way. Millennials and Gen Z make up roughly 42% of this country and we are a force to be reckoned with. What we do now, will decide the future for our children, families, friends, and generations to come.

We are choosing to stand up and to fight for what is right, we are setting the precedent for our future. We will continue to demand anti-racist behavior, we will continue to demand people be held accountable, and we will force our broken government to reform in order to provide equitable opportunity for Black Americans.

It is no longer enough to "not be racist". Challenge the people around you, challenge the system, and make a change. We're doing this with or without you, but you're going to want to be on the right side of history.