

# "Black Lives Matter" it's more than a movement.

by Azmi Alam Mou

When demonstrations against racial police violence sweep through the United States and spread across the world, chants of "Black Lives Matter" echo through our streets and modern ways.

When we all absorb the news and reflect about how to react and engage in such a pivotal moment, it is necessary to understand what Black Lives Matter actually means—and that the term "All Lives Matter" is controversial.

"All Lives Matter" looks like a joke we're all-in-this-together on her lips. Some might use the term to imply that all races should link hands and stand united against bigotry, which is a thought that comes from a positive place. But the thing is, the expression simply takes away the emphasis from those who require it. Saying "All Lives Matter" redirects the minds of Black citizens who are in risk.

Instead, it's important to consider what fuels the BLM campaign and how to help it—using the word and standing behind what it says. It can be an unpleasant process for all of us, particularly if you're someone who hasn't taken the time to grapple with your own position in the structural injustice that occurs in our culture. But it's just a simple education, no matter where you're on the path.

Black Lives Matter is an anthem, a symbol, a hashtag, and a clear declaration of fact. Although this is not a recent movement, the idea is key to the national demonstrations that are taking place right now. BLM spoke out about the violence of the police and institutional injustice that has triggered the tragic murders of George Floyd, Ahmad Arbery, Tony McDade and Breonna Taylor, as well as the thousands of violent events that happen to Black citizens that are unrecorded, unreported or unrecognized. In the most fundamental form, it argues for a change in figures to the extent that Black people are twice as likely to be murdered by an unarmed police officer as a white citizen. According to a 2015 report, African Americans were killed by police at a rate of 7.2 per million, while whites were killed at a rate of 2.9 per million.

One of the aims of the Black Lives Matter campaign is to raise consciousness that we, as a country, need to revisit our goals. Even now, there are U.S. organizations and processes that behave as if black lives don't matter. For example, according to the American Progress index, in 2015, most of the 10 states with the largest number of Black people recorded state and local police spending of more than \$230 per citizen each year. That's at least 328 times higher than what each state pays on the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation.

Although segregation in the United States stretches back hundreds of years since the creation of the republic, the timeline of Black Lives Matter has began far more recently. The campaign emerged out of George Zimmerman's acquittal after he murdered Trayvon Martin in 2013. Currently, the Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc. is a national organisation that is active in the U.S., the U.K. and Canada, but it has members all around the world.

The BLM guiding ideals are to abolish white racism and engage in abuse against Black people through lobbying, fundraising and schooling. The goal of the organisation is to fight and combat brutality, amplify Black creativity and the Black Joy Core.

Although the purpose of the term "All Lives Matter" might be to place everyone's existence on an equal basis and to express a sense of solidarity, the reaction of "All Lives Matter" to "Black

Lives Matter" is often more divisive than unifying. That's how it eliminates and reduces the emphasis on abuse and injustice that Black people experience every day in this world. It's a normal answer to a community that focuses its experience on, "But what about all lives?" or, "Isn't my safety important, too?" But the fact is, Black Americans are overwhelmingly influenced by police brutality and systemic injustice in our country. Our whole societal system relies on whiteness as a norm. Asserting that "All Lives Matter" merely reaffirms—or at best ignores—that fact. Of course any life is precious, but not everyone's life is in danger because of the colour of their skin. Saying "Black Lives Matter" is not equal to saying that other lives don't matter, but simply that black lives can matter as much as white lives.

Alicia Garza, one of the founders of the #BlackLivesMatter trend, clarified in 2014 how vital Black life is a prerequisite for all life:

"Black Lives Matter doesn't imply that your existence isn't important - it implies that black lives, perceived as meaningless under white oppression, are important to your emancipation. Given the overwhelming effect of state brutality on Black bodies, we recognize that when Black citizens are free in this country, the benefits would be far-reaching and revolutionary for community as a whole. If we are willing to bring an end to the hyper-criminalization and sexualization of Black people and end the poverty, control and monitoring of Black people, any single individual in the world has a greater chance of becoming and remaining free. When Black people are free, they're all free."

Think of it this way: if you get into a car accident where one person gets a major head injury but the rest have a few scratches and bruises, the one whose life is at risk is the first concern when it comes to medical attention. It doesn't suggest paramedics won't support the remainder of the travelers, just the triage brings the worse case first. Or, to look at things in another way, if anyone is lighting the house on fire, you'd like firefighters to do something about it. Wouldn't you be angry if, instead, people were reminding you that "all houses matter equally," if yours were the one that burned?

For all of us who are dedicated to working towards equity for all people, it is necessary not just to see colour, but also to strive for a fair playing field. It's a tragic fact that Black experience in America isn't the same as non-Black experience, both seemingly limited and massively big. If you purchased adhesive bandages, pantyhose, or makeup, you know what the default color range is. Many offices and schools also ban or treat natural hairstyles as less "professional."

More than half of African Americans still acknowledge witnessing ethnic inequality at work, from lower-rate interviews right up to salary and promotional inequalities. And the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which has been set up to combat sexism in the workplace, is too underfunded to react properly. In 2018, the EEOC received \$505 million for victims of prejudice, but the shortage of funding of the Department culminated in a backlog of almost 50,000 charges. Going around the globe is better for non-Black citizens in America, and it's a long time before we understand that. And then would we be able to work to repair things. The first phase in the battle against bigotry in our culture is listening, no matter who you are. It hurts to learn that you might have biases, particularly if you consider yourself an open minded

individual. But instead of being defensive or rushing in to justify your own point of view automatically, listen to other points of view, including that of Black change-makers, government leaders, actors, peers and colleagues. Push hard on racism in your own social networks, even though you need to hold those uncomfortable discussions. And teach yourself of your own unconscious prejudice, particularly though you don't believe you're keeping one. Vote in your state and national polls to help bring about progress on a broader scale. And fund racial justice groups monetarily, if you can, and post their posts on social media so that people can get the content, too.

"Follow the leadership of the Black leadership and your own local city and state, "BLM co-founder and chair of Reform L.A. Patrisse Cullors Jails told Nightline. She appointed Integrity and Strength Now and the Youth Justice Alliance as the starting points. "These are just a few organizations that help in these moments when we have people who are upset and [in] pain, angry, grieving, "She added that. "There are hundreds of thousands more organizations across the country."

We should also work together to eliminate the ethnic bias that underpins nearly every part of our nation and of the planet. It's a rough work. It's very uncomfortable. Nothing worth doing is simple, though. Nothing is more critical than building a community in which our children don't have to be scared to stroll around a new neighbourhood, watch butterflies, purchase a Skittles bag, browse a high-end shop, or even ask a police officer for assistance, no matter the colour of their skin.

Referance :

*Saying That "Black Lives Matter" Doesn't Mean That Other Lives Do Not.* (2020). Saying That. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/smart-living/saying-that-black-lives-matter-doesnt-mean-th-at-other-lives-do-not/ar-BB152qX6>

