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Social Justice Issues

In today’s world, there are many social justices issues that has been happening such as being racial profiled, police brutality, and being a homosexual. All three has been a major issue in our community. Many blacks and Hispanics are being targeted because of the their skin color and being judged based on their race. Police officers are using excessive force on civilians, and homosexual aren’t being treated fairly due to their sexual preference.

Police brutality according to Thelawdictionary.org, “is the use of excessive and/or unnecessary force by the police when dealing with civilians”. All around the world, we hear and see news events of police officers using “excessive force” on civilians to control many dispute situations. “Excessive force” refers to the tactics police officers us by beating, shooting or kicking civilians after they have surrendered. This considered a social justice because; police officers are taking advantage of their power by having the ability to abuse civilians at their own will.

In the case of Sean Bell, Bell was shot 50 times by a group of NYPD detectives, who were investigating a strip club for possible prostitution. As Bell got into his car, the undercover officer ordered him to stop. Bell had failed to comply with the order and continued to drive off, one of the detective thought he acknowledge a gun and they began to fire their weapon unleashing fifty rounds of ammo. After a nonjury trial, the judge decided that all three detectives who were involved in the massacre of Sean Bell were not guilty of manslaughter and assault. This proves police brutality because; cops aren’t being trialed fairly and are allowed to walk free after doing something completely wrong and unfair. According to <http://www.theamericanconservative.com/>, consequences for misconduct are usually minimal or almost close to none.

Another case of police brutality occurred to a man named Abner Louima. Louima, who was a Haitian immigrant was arrested by two police officers and taken to the restroom of the precinct and sodomized. One officer took a broken broomstick and abused Louima with it. Although both officers were charged, their initial thought of them being able to do whatever they please to civilians were in their mind and the ability abused their power. This brought great awareness to the fact that officers were violating civilian rights in ways of taking matters into their own hands, and expecting not to receive the consequences of their action.

Some of the solution that can help minimize police brutality in the world today is for police officers to have the proper training in handling none violent situation. According to <http://www.theamericanconservative.com/>, police departments need to start teaching proper tactics to their officers. Also, It’ll also help that; officers needs to be convicted and charged fairly when they make irrational decision which causes a death or abuse of a civilian, when forces isn’t need to be presented. Racial Profiling is another social issue the world is fighting against. Racial profiling is the practice of subjective citizens to increase surveillance or scrutiny based on racial or ethnic factors than reasonable suspicion. When we hear the term “racial profiling” we think of minorities who are the ones that’s getting affected. Racial profiling can have a huge affect how people may feel around an authoritative environment. According to *Racial Profiling and Police Subculture* By Janet Chan, it was stated in abstract that “ Over a long period of time, negative experiences such as racial profiling can lead to specific ethnic groups’ loosing confidence in the police. (cf., Bradford, Jackson, and Stanko 2009).”

According to *Racial profiling has destroyed public trust in police. Cops are exploiting our weak laws against it.* By Ranjana Natarajn, “ In a report, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights found evidence of widespread racial profiling, showing that African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately likely to be stopped and searched by police, even though they’re less likely to be found possessing contraband or committing a criminal act.” This article explain how mainly African American and Hispanics are the only ones be targeted because of the color of our skin and our ethnicity. It’ll be quite uncomfortable to be walking in the streets and have a random officer come asks you question on where you are heading to or where you are coming from.

NYPD controversial **Stop-And-Frisk program** enable random officers to have the right to stop and search you if they feel suspicious of you. Police officers would target African Americans and Hispanics to search randomly. According to Natarain, it was proven that about eighty-five percent of the time, black and Hispanics were targeted and nine times out of ten police officers would find nothing on suspect. The stop-and- frisk program had caused a nationwide concern due to the death of Eric Garner. According to the <http://www.nytimes.com/>, Garner was approached by a plain clothed police officer to be frisked. As the police officers came close, Garner became defensive and didn’t want to frisk by the officers; there was an altercation in resulting the death of Eric Garner. This was a nationwide epidemic because the stop and frisk policy allowed officers to stop anyone they see who looks suspicion, and they’ll target African Americans

Some solutions that can help limit or end racial profiling are removal of the **Stop-and-Frisk program**. This program has affected minorities in thinking police officers are allowed to invade their personal space and search them, due to the color of their skin or how they are dressed. Police departments and cities must understand that, not everyone who dresses in baggy clothes and black or Hispanic are dangerous. Laws on racial profiling should be brought up and presented to the public. It is not fair to the victims who are racially profiled and nothing is being done about it.

Being a homosexual can cause fear to a person who wants to be free with their sexuality, which has become a social justice issue. There have been uprising in the gay community that they need their rights to being gay. In the past, being a Homosexual was a problem, where the public would ridicule people who were gay, which led to many being depressed or even cause suicide. According to carm.org “A new study in the United Kingdom has revealed that homosexuals are about 50% more likely to suffer from depression and engage in substance abuse than the rest of the population, reports Health24.com.” This made homosexuals feel uncomfortable living among other straights because they were viewed as an outcast amongst others.

Tyler Clementi was 18 years old, who went to Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey. He committed suicide by jumping of the George Washington Bridge on September 22,2010 because he was being recorded by his roommate kissing another man in his dorm room. Once Clememti realized he was being watched, he ran to the bridge and jumped. He felt extremely uncomfortable amongst his peers; Clementi felt that what he did was wrong and disgusting. He couldn’t bare the embarrassment that had endowed upon him

There many ways where, we must understand that everyone is equal and not one person is different. Although their preferences may be different, that doesn’t make them different from you and I. In the gay community, they are actively fighting on ways to make themselves seem equal in the world. Gays and lesbians have been proactive in the fight for same sex marriage. Many state have been allowing same sex marriage amongst the gay community.

Work Citation

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