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Congress
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Action Against Racism

Dear Honorable,

Hello. I take this opportunity to express my views regarding the ever-increasing acts of racism in the country, particularly against members of the African American discourse community. Honorable Speaker, I enormously admire and have faith in your leadership. This is why I chose to seek solutions from you as opposed to other institutions. It is disheartening that the saying "all men are created equal" as per the articulation in the US independence declaration is not a reality in the US anymore due to the embedded racism against black people and other people of color (Burton and Brett, pg. 3). The lack of respect for the black people has fueled many injustices against black people, as witnessed by many killings such as George Floyd's. Racism against the African American community is a serious issue that needs immediate address since it has led to discrimination against black people for a long time.

Notwithstanding that the United States of America is regarded as the melting pot, there are still disparities among the different races in the nation, more so against the African American community. Long-standing differences in inequalities and health access have become evident during the COVID-19 pandemic in the country (Holmes IV and Oscar, pg.10). Based on the COVID-19 data, many African Americans are more likely to die from the disease than Caucasians. Additionally, job losses resulting from coronavirus are higher among the African Americans as compared to White people. Even though pre-existing conditions are among the reasons cited for the higher mortality rates of African Americans due to COVID-19, the given conditions are attributed to the embedded disparities in healthcare. Poverty and the environmental ills are also among the factors attributable to the high mortality rates among Blacks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since many African Americans are low-paid workers, they had no choice but laboring throughout the pandemic with little or no protection. When they get sick, the chances of getting top-notch medical attention are unlikely hence increasing their

chances of dying from the COVID-19 pandemic as compared to their Caucasian counterparts. African Americans rely on a failed healthcare system that rarely values them. The access to hospitals, specialists, and urgent care centers is also limited due to fewer distant availability of healthcare facilities and specialties.

Similarly, racism against African Americans is a serious issue that requires addressing by the Congress because of the life-and-death impacts of racism span beyond police shootings. Even though there is racism across the different races, the African Americans are paying the ultimate cost (Dreyer et al., pg.30). Due to racism coupled with injustice and poverty, the life expectancy of African American men is 71.9 years, while that of White men is 76.4 years. Moreover, the life expectancy of African American women is 78.5 years, while that of Caucasian women is 81.2 years. The variation in the life expectancy is mainly due to the African Americans' higher chances of dying from many types of conditions like HIV, homicide, cancer, and stroke (Kirkinis et al., pg.8). Despite the reducing rates of homicide in the country, homicide has remained a fundamental cause of death among the African American men aged between 10 and 24 years. Many studies have associated the poor mental health and deaths of African Americans to racism. Madam Speaker, this is a serious issue because, for African American men in the country, racism has become a daily experience that affects their health and results in poor health and chronic conditions. It is estimated that approximately 66 percent of African Americans report day-to-day racial discrimination (Kirkinis et al., pg.8). An example is African Americans being turned down for jobs on racial grounds. The community faces blocked opportunities and other discrimination instances that are consequential in their lives. All these discriminatory experiences due to racism make lives shorter and more problematic for Blacks than other races (Burton, and Brett, pg. 3). African American men experience increased racial discrimination compared to other racial groups, including the African American women.

Despite racial equality being ingrained in the law, from the societal level and the mindset of people, there is a potential racial conflict that is brewing that requires immediate address through legislation and policy making (Dreyer et al., pg.30). Racism against my community is a serious issue that warrants your honorable intervention through legislation and sober discussion. The discussion should entail exploiting the possible measures for mitigating the brewing racial conflicts that would ultimately occur one day if nothing is done towards racism in the USA (Holmes IV and Oscar, pg.10). Months of increasing concerns for individual freedom and unemployment lockdown and the future worries, coupled with age-old racial discrimination, has led to the bomb fuse lighting and explosion into the violent protests that were witnessed following the death of George Floyd (Dreyer, Benard P., et al., pg.30). It was an illustration of the long-standing bitterness that has existed for many years that would one day boil into racial conflicts if not well addressed in time by your Honorable house.

The death of George Floyd is among the latest incidents of the existing racial discrimination that African Americans endure against the police and other law enforcement agencies. The massive protests are just a reflection of the fixated tension between African Americans and the White police. Different studies of interactions between African Americans and the police have shown that the officers tend to speak with less respect when dealing with members of the Black community than the Caucasian people (Holmes IV and Oscar, pg.10). This discriminatory handling by the police is a serious issue that has called for the defunding of the police, which in my view, would not solve the problem of racial discrimination towards African Americans by the police. There is a need to solve the underlying issues of racism and stereotypes with sobriety without letting our emotions guide us. I raise this issue of police brutality and killings against members of my community, African Americans, because it is so disheartening, losing many young men and women in the hands of the police every day and year. It makes us feel not part of the society and builds emotional bitterness towards the police as it creates the thought and notion that the police are our number one enemy (Brian, pg.5). Our cries and protests seem not to yield the much-needed turning point in the society where everyone is respected and treated equally despite our differences in race, gender, age, and religion, among other vital societal differences as envisaged in the constitution.

Madam Speaker, there comes a time in each generation when a wound becomes highly infested that the entire body is unable to stand it. I strongly pray this is the moment and urge you to help solve racism in the country. Doing so will make us remember you as an honorable speaker that guided the Congress to find a lasting solution to the decades-long racial issue that has negatively affected our country for many years. We will forever remember you, our hero, for helping us live in this country as equal people as stipulated in the constitution.

There is no doubt that tremendous progress has been achieved in addressing racism in the country. However, I think the latest killings of George Floyd and other young men have demonstrated that our efforts have been incapable of addressing the negative perceptions, beliefs, and feelings that underlie the systematic and progressive bias against African Americans (Tyra, pg.3). Therefore, my prayer is that this is the infection moment that fundamentally makes all of us reevaluate our strategy of approaching the issue of racism. Even though there is a lot of research concerning various ways or measures of reducing racial discrimination among the society, there is little that has been implemented for many years to solve this menace that has, for many years, affected my community.

Madam Speaker, I firmly have faith in your leadership and capability of the Congress in solving this longstanding racial issue. Given that it is indisputable that racism has been a part of us for many years and led to the loss of lives and other blocked opportunities for members of the African American community, it is time we find a long lasting solution to the menace. I look forward to hearing from you and am readily available for any assistance or support that may be

required from my side and my community as you endeavor to solve this issue in the American society. We, as the African American community, will forever be grateful to you if you help solve this issue.

Regards,
Yours Sincerely
Sumon Alam
Community Leader

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