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The Real Podcast: Police Brutality

Amanda Feliz Hey guys! Welcome back to The Real Podcast! I'm your host Amanda Feliz, and today we are going to be talking about police brutality. Recently, the death of an unarmed African-American man by the name of George Floyd has sparked national outrage, especially after discovering that he was shot by Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin. On May 25, 2020, officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, causing George Floyd's death. This story has impacted millions of Americans and has given more attention to the concept of police brutality. So, today, I am happy to say that I have a very special guest that will be interviewing on my podcast. Her name is Roxie Washington. She is the mother of George Floyd's daughter, Gianna Floyd.

Amanda Feliz Hi Roxie! Hi Gianna! How are you guys doing today?

Roxie Washington Hey Amanda I'm ok ... You just have to take life day by day ... Gianna says hello

Gianna Washington Hi!

***Amanda and Roxie laughing together ***

Amanda Feliz First, let's discuss what the listeners are curious to know. How are you dealing with all this?

Roxie Washington *Sigh* I don't know where to start... I have so many emotions wrapped around this situation... I am devastated, depressed, angry, overwhelmed, and just ... lost. I lost the father of my daughter, and she has lost him too. I worry for her because he isn't here anymore... But every day I push to be better for my daughter, to keep going with my life, and I push to be strong, not only for myself but also for my daughter. I have a family that helps me with that because there are times I do lose myself.

Amanda Feliz I am very sorry for your loss and I know how difficult it must be to know how he died in such a tragic way... My deepest sympathies to you and your family. May I hug you?

Roxie Washington Of course. Thank you for your words. Thank you for having me here today.

*** Amanda and Roxie hug ***

Amanda Feliz I just wanted to give you that hug because I can just imagine how hurt you are right now.

Amanda Feliz So, I really want the audience to get a feel for who George Floyd was a person. What was George Floyd's life like? I read this article by The Guardian, for example, where Christopher Harris, Floyd's lifelong friend said: "He was looking to start over fresh, a new beginning," Harris also said that Floyd was, "happy with the change he was making."

Roxie Washington Yes Amanda. That is true. George was a great father and friend. Very dedicated, hard working, and just overall, positive. George had moved to Minneapolis from Houston several years ago. He was hoping to start a new life and find a job in Minneapolis.

Amanda Feliz Wow, Roxie. Seems like Floyd was headed towards the right direction. How else can you describe George?

Roxie Washington Well for starters, George was a good father to Gianna, he always prioritized her. Whatever she needed, he got done. He was always there to help or provide for our daughter. And I want to emphasize this because I want your audience to remember him that way. He was a good man, very responsible ... he was someone I could go to when I wanted someone to talk to ... we had a good relationship overall. He always wanted to make people laugh, had a great heart for sure.

Amanda Feliz That's great! that's great! So what were some things George liked to do? How did he like to spend his time?

Roxie Washington George liked to be around Gianna all the time. He loved being around his family and honestly, George spent most of his time working, he was a very hard worker.

Amanda Feliz What advice would you give to someone who is facing the same situation that you are in?

Roxie Washington I would tell them to talk about how they are feeling to a loved one or a close friend. Sometimes that helps. It could honestly make you feel better to just get your feelings out there. To be strong, and to attempt to have a positive attitude. Believe it not, things do get better, maybe at the moment you might feel like everything is falling apart, but it does get better.

Amanda Feliz What's your definition of police brutality?

Roxie Washington Police brutality to me is harassment, murder, force, and oppression. Some examples of that are racial or ethnic profiling, excessive force, making racist, sexist, or homophobic remarks, illegal stop and frisks, and any form of unnecessary violence towards a civilian.

Amanda Feliz So Roxie, what's your opinion about police brutality?

Roxie Washington Well, police brutality has always been something the black community has had to face. The other day, I was reading this article by “Pew Research Center” and I quote: “Around two-thirds of police officers (68%) said in 2016 that the demonstrations over the deaths of black people during encounters with law enforcement were motivated to a great extent by anti-police bias.” I thought to myself wow! We have a real issue with racism and the police continue to take advantage of their power. It seems like the majority of them don’t see police brutality as being a real issue. There are many stories I have heard of other African American men and women losing their lives due to police violence. Breonna Taylor is also another recent and tragic example.

Amanda Feliz Yes I agree! Police do take advantage of their power. The sad part is that most of them are not being held accountable. Police have been responsible for the loss of thousands of black lives and the problem is they are doing nothing about that. They are either removed and transferred to another precinct or suspended without pay. Most of them receive very little to no jail time.

Roxie Washington Yes. And I am here today to say that we need justice! I need justice. My daughter needs justice! We demand respect. I have to look into my daughter's eyes everyday and tell her that her dad was killed by a police officer because he placed his knee on her father’s neck for 8 minutes.. Just imagine how painful that is.

Amanda Feliz I can just imagine .. *sigh* .. However, do you think police brutality is racist has a bias element?

Roxie Washington Yes! Police brutality is definitely racist. Oftentimes, black men are seen as a threat by police and are targeted even if they are unarmed. The stop and frisk policies in NY are good examples of this. All around the country, Black civilians have been targeted.

Amanda Feliz Do you think police brutality could get better for the next generation?

Roxie Washington Possibly, I think we have a lot of work to do before we get to that point. What do you think?

Amanda Feliz Well... I honestly feel like police brutality for the next generation would just get worse. The police need to be held accountable for their actions. Everyday, I think about how George died in the most inhumane way. What happened to that? What happened to cops treating civilians like people? And I also think maybe if he were white, his fate might have been different. If we don't speak out about these issues, police will continue to target Blacks and Hispanics.

Roxie Washington Yes. I agree. It's almost like you took the words right out of my mouth.

Amanda Feliz What advice you would give to a parent who has an African American son?
Especially in 2020?

Roxie Washington To always support your children, no matter what. Talk to them. Explain. Tell them about their history and about how we can all contribute towards this cause. We have to end police violence towards communities of color. My daughter has lost her father, but the sacrifice was not in vain. He made a difference.

Amanda Feliz Alright guys, if you wanna find more information or statistics on police killing by age, race, and ethnicity check out <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>. For more information on George Floyd, check out <https://www.nytimes.com/article/george-floyd.html>. And if you are interested in ending police violence check out <https://www.joincampaignzero.org>.

Amanda Feliz Thank you for coming to my podcast Roxie and Gianna. Roxie, it was a pleasure meeting you and getting to know you.

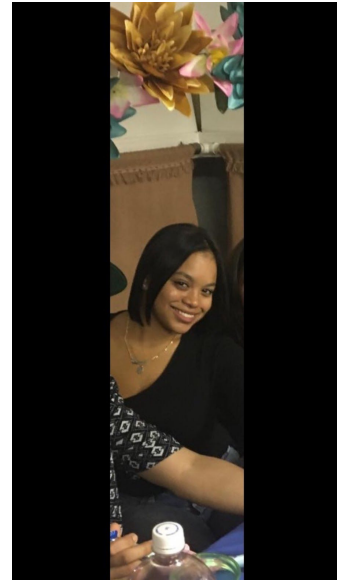
Roxie Washington Thank you and thank you for having me!

Amanda Feliz No, thank you! I appreciate you sharing your truth. Till next time guys!

Amanda Feliz (HOST)

Artist Statement

I'm from Brooklyn, New York, born and raised. I currently attend New York City College of Technology and I am in my sophomore year. My nationality is Dominican. I speak two languages, Spanish and English. Creating this podcast has made me happy. My inspiration comes from people learning something new, and people enjoying the different topics that I discuss throughout the podcast. I love talking about black and hispanic culture, black and hispanic power, black and hispanic independence, and black and hispanic success.



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