



# Black Lives Matter

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**Connect:**

What does equality mean?

What does racial equality mean?

**Note down your ideas.**

# Why are people protesting around the globe?

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- Protests have erupted across the United States and UK in the past few weeks following the death of an unarmed black man in police custody.
- George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer who knelt on the man's neck despite his pleas for air, suffocating him to death.
- Floyd's death, the latest in a line of killings of black Americans by law enforcement officers, has reawakened deep anger at generations of black people who have fallen victim to police brutality - and rekindled a centuries-long struggle for racial justice.
- Protesters are calling for the four police officers involved to be called to justice for the murder of George Floyd, as well as justice for every other victim of police brutality across America.



# Historical significance:

**“Racism Isn’t Getting Worse. It’s Getting Filmed.”**

– Will Smith.

- **Historians are comparing today’s protests to the civil rights movement of 50s and 60s**
- Struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s for black people to gain equal rights under the law
- The Civil War had officially abolished slavery (1865), but it didn’t end discrimination against black people — they continued to endure the devastating effects of racism, especially in the South.
- By the mid-20th century, African Americans had had enough of prejudice and violence against them. They, along with many white people, mobilised and began an unprecedented fight for equality that spanned two decades.



**Find out more: ‘Civil Rights Movement’**

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement>

# Black Lives Matter

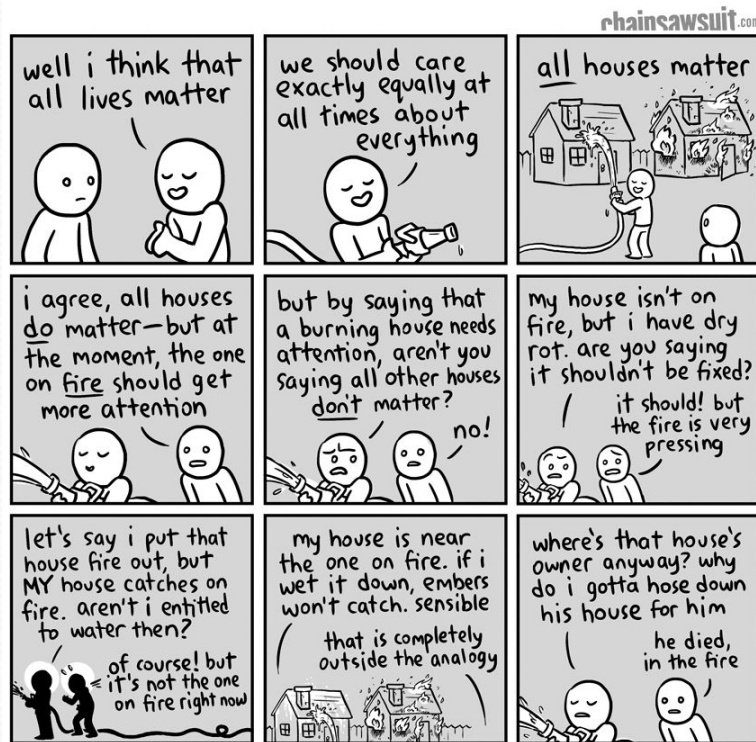
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- Black Lives Matter is an international human rights movement, set up by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi in 2013
- The movement began with the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin in February 2012.
- It campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people.
- BLM regularly holds protests speaking out against police killings of black people, and broader issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system.



**Find out more: A TedX interview with Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, the founders of Black Lives Matter:**  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/alicia\\_garza\\_patrisse\\_cullors\\_and\\_opal\\_tometi\\_an\\_interview\\_with\\_the\\_founders\\_of\\_black\\_lives\\_matter](https://www.ted.com/talks/alicia_garza_patrisse_cullors_and_opal_tometi_an_interview_with_the_founders_of_black_lives_matter)

# Denouncing #AllLivesMatter



**"The slogan 'Black Lives Matter' does not mean other lives don't [...] It is calling attention to the fact that society clearly thinks black lives don't matter" – Billie Eilish.**

**"Anyone who has kept any type of pulse on civil rights and the black human condition in the United States since the transatlantic slave trade would understand the need to emphasize the protection of black bodies."**

**– RACHEL ELIZABETH CARGLE.**

# It's just America, right?

No! The UK too underwent a civil rights movement which saw it's black community fight for equality like the US, and that fight continues today.

- In 2018, 43% of searches were of black people, while 35.5% were of white people, according to official figures from the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) – these figures are disproportionate to population numbers and highlight institutional and systemic racism.
- Figures also highlight that police officers are four times more likely to use force against black people than white people in the UK (Source: BBC)
- The UK Home Office was accused of racism following the Windrush scandal (2018) - when black people who came to Britain as children were wrongly told they were here illegally and deported or threatened with deportation.
- Grenfell tragedy of 2017 has raised a lot of unanswered questions regarding how low income BAME communities are supported and listened to by authorities.



**Find out more: 'Yes, The UK Does Have A Race Problem. And It's Just As Troubling As America's'**

<https://graziadaily.co.uk/life/real-life/racism-uk/>

# Defining key terms

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- **BAME** – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- **Microaggressions** – hostile/prejudicial commonplace daily verbal, behavioural, and environmental indignities whether intentional or unintentional
- **Institutional racism** – a form of racism expressed in the practice of social and political institutions.
- **White privilege** – societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people. White privilege doesn't mean you have not experienced hardship – just not hardship due to the colour of your skin



**Find out more: 'Janaya Future Khan's Guide To Understanding White Privilege'**

<https://www.vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/janaya-future-khan-privilege>

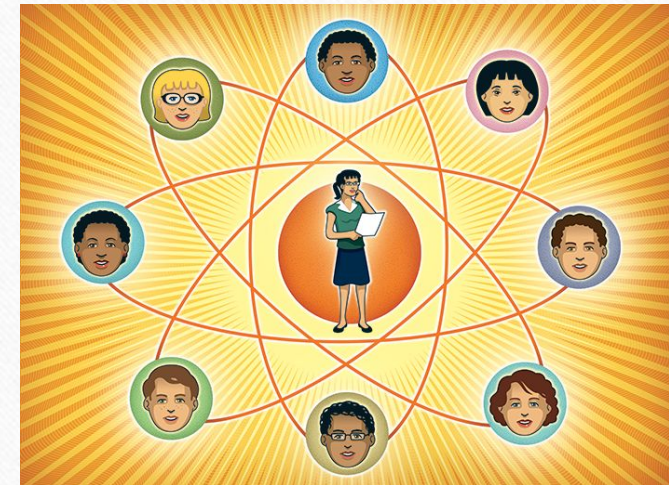
# How can I be an ally?

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**“Being an ally means recognizing oppression broadly and standing in solidarity with anyone who experiences oppression – whether or not the ally belongs to a targeted group.”**

**- CARRIE GAFFNEY**

- Challenge inappropriate comments ‘banter’ amongst your friends/peers
- Report inappropriate comments/behavior online or in person to school
- Continue to educate yourselves and engage in active discussion – ask your teacher’s questions and do additional reading such as the ones throughout this powerpoint and beyond.





# Where can I find more reliable information?

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- American activist Tamika Mallory's 'speech of a generation'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grVdoFoR8Yk>
- Black Lives Matter Protests Bring Teen Activists Into the Streets  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/black-lives-matter-protests-teens>
- Why You Need to Stop Saying "All Lives Matter"  
<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/politics/a27075028/black-lives-matter-explained/>
- Stormzy and Garry Neville on how privilege works in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain  
<https://theconversation.com/stormzy-and-gary-neville-how-privilege-works-in-21st-century-britain-130068>
- Guardian Long Read about the early days of Black Lives Matter by DeRay Mckesson, a US civil rights activist and supporter of Black Lives Matter movement  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/12/black-lives-matter-deray-mckesson-ferguson-protests>



### Task:

Write a speech or open letter to a newspaper about the importance of racial equality and bringing communities together.

Aim for a minimum of 500 words.

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### Points you could consider:

- What is the Black Lives Matter movement?
- Why is it important for communities to come together?
- What has to change?
- How can we encourage racial equality/be an ally?

### Making your writing impactful:

- Opening with a introduction and conclusion
- Facts/statistics
- Rhetorical devices
- Emotive language
- Vary starts and lengths of sentences
- Punctuation for effect

# Self Assessment:

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1. Read your work and label in green pen where you have met the success criteria.
2. Using your labeling, write yourself a WWW and EBI to improve next time.

Have you:

- Included an introduction and conclusion
- Proofread and corrected any SPaG errors?
- Varied the starts of your sentences?
- Used powerful vocabulary?
- Used punctuation for effect?
- Used a range of sentence types for effect: Minor, declarative, rhetorical, long and short?

