

## Still Lingerin

It is known that racism is the hatred or intolerance of another race or other races. The unknown is when racism is going to end. How is it going to end? How would the world change? Racism is lingering throughout the whole world and throughout different races. The wave of racism flows through the communities of blacks, whites, Native Americans, Muslims, and many other ethnic groups. Racism travels far beyond discrimination against blacks; but, that is the one I am going to focus on being that I am black and I have experienced the ugly hand of racism and racial discrimination.

It is known that my ancestors, among other blacks, were slaves; they were only property; household pets have better treatment than slaves did. My ancestors were starved, beaten, raped and had many more harsh things brought upon them that would be hard for anyone to relate to today. Slavery is long gone and the racism and discrimination is not as bad but it is still among us. It is still something that hurts a black person. Racial discrimination is a knife cutting through that person. I know from experience how sharp this knife is.

In my sixteen years on this earth I have been cut with the knife of racism many times. I have been called different racial slurs and looked down upon just because my skin is a couple shades darker. I have been a victim of racial profiling more times than I can remember. I have been told that all black people do not have manners and that we have to act crazy wherever we go. I am a black female soccer player; I cannot count all the times that someone has come to me and said "YOU play soccer, I never would have thought". She is black and play soccer is written all over their faces. I have actually had someone come right out and tell me that black people do not play

soccer. In the inside I am hurting but I bravely and calmly say "Really? Well this black girl has been playing soccer since she was seven". Racism hits me mentally and emotionally. Once you have been racial profiled or discriminated against the pain is excruciating. It hurts to be put down because of the color of your skin. It hurts to be told that you are really pretty for a black girl. It hurts to not be able to brag about one of the sports you love because someone would tell you that it is not for your "kind" of people. What is my kind of people? What is your kind of people? Are we all not just people? Those questions swim through my mind all the time.

If it would work I would sacrifice myself to kill racism against ALL races. I want to prevent the next generation from experiencing it. I do not want any children up at night thinking about the racial slurs they have been called or the discrimination they felt. I do not want any children being put down by the color of their skin. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, I too have a dream that "children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character". If that happens the world would be more peaceful and a much better place. If sacrificing myself would do all these things I would do it in a heartbeat. I would give myself for a better environment for the next generations to come.

I wish the world did not have any discrimination, racial profiling or any racism at all. I would do anything I can to stop racism in this world; also, to stop phrases from spreading like all blacks are "ghetto", all Muslims are terrorists and all whites are racists. The world would be a much better place with just one race, the human race.