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The Legacy of the Dream: How Far Have We Come?

Dr. Martin Luther King's famous words sparked a time of change for this nation. His well known 'I Have a Dream' speech inspired many Americans to open their eyes to the inequality between races. While his strong words were echoed throughout the nation they failed to reach the ears of every American. As a society, we've made improvements in order to abolish racial inequality such as ending segregation and establishing programs like Affirmative Action. However, it is almost undeniable that racial inequality is still a part of American society. The sad fact of the matter is we still live in a society where individuals are being judged based on the color their skin rather than the content of their character. We live in a society where millions of minorities now fear the simple act of walking by a police officer. We live in a society where such movements like #BlackLivesMatter happened in order to shed light on modern day racial inequality. Steps to make Dr. King's dream into a reality begins with educating the public of what racial inequality looks like and how to stop it.

It is very hard to walk down any street in America without noticing the melting pot of different cultures. People from all walks of life come to America looking for the land of opportunity and are often times met with the harsh reality of hate. Minorities are still treated as second class citizens in today's society. As a minority it's almost as if you're in a constant battle to prove to others that you are not another statistic and are much more than your race. I myself have been on the receiving end of racist

remarks from questioning my legal status to how I learned English. It's microaggressions like these that prove we as a society still have a lot of work to do. Many Americans are ignorant to the fact that the face of racism has changed. It's no longer public lynchings and segregated establishments, it's using someone's race as an insult, the only reason for their success or to discredit them. By choosing to ignore everyday racism is choosing to put the dreams of Dr. King as well as so many courageous men and women who fought for equality in jeopardy. We must educate ourselves on the everyday struggles minorities still face in today's society.

Dr. King paved the way for millions of young men and women to strive for success despite the barriers society had placed. He was able to open the eyes of a nation to see how hard it was to be a minority during this time period. Despite educating millions, some still chose to close their eyes and ignore the harsh reality. They continued in their ways and beliefs with complete disregard for the hardships minorities faced. Many Americans in today's society still have this mindset and choose to ignore the challenges faced by minorities on a daily basis. Even with the huge leaps we've made in order to establish racial equality, inequalities minorities go through as still very much ingrained in American society. If we wish to have an equal society, we must educate the public on the tangibility of racial inequality. An uneducated society is an ignorant society. It is up to us to inform as many people as possible if we ever wish to see Dr. King's dream become a true reality. This is how far we've come and where we need to go.