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Paper 3

As we enter the different fields in the social justice context we realize certain equities and inequities to people in society who are discriminated against. It is important to shut down all of the inequities we may see and focus on creating equality and having equal opportunity for all. We see a various amount of inequities, however one of the biggest one is discrimination in race, gender, sex, social status and much more.

We have the power to make change and create the difference between awareness and ignorance. Change starts from one within, however some people have the ability to make those changes and create that awareness easier or avoid the reality completely. We sometimes do not see the problem because we are the problem or we can not relate to it. Achieving the sense of social justice is not easy and persistently needs work.

The history of this country itself has been denied and mistold. Innocent people killed, raped, abused, a country built on the back of indigenous people, on the back of slaves and immigrant labor and yet we continue to see the same patterns and not creating a solution. Repeating moments in history that we ignore because we turn our heads away. We avoid people that have existed and created changes. A great example is viewed in the world of education, many people are not talked about because they are forgotten or their work is treated of lesser value.

We dehumanize and treat people, particularly minorities, like they are some sort of creature never seen before. We destroy who these people are, making them lose their dignity, as though they are less of a person or if they are not equal as everyone one else. In her book, *Sex and Social Justice*, Nussbaum talks about the idea that we possess human dignity, which is normally, “taken to involve an idea of equal worth: rich and poor, rural and urban, female and male, all are equally deserving of respect, just in virtue of being human, and this respect should not be abridged on account of a characteristic that is distributed by the whims of fortune.” Essentially the idea is that we are all equal and should have the same respect, however the sense of dignity is also violated based on sexual orientation, sex, color, race, the way we look our body and many other things.

There exists a vast amount of information that demonstrates both equity and inequities. What better way to learn about such through people and their first hand experience. Through the different videos the point of focus was the exposure to social justice within society. Listening to the different stories helped illustrate that we are exposed to in different inequities and how we can change the way we looks at things. One of the stories that stood out was to me was learning the incident the english teacher had when one of her students wanted to learn about African American poets. She mentioned that she was unaware of the different poets and never thought about why she did not learn more about who they were.

What I took the most was the way they describe their encounters and how it changed their perceptions on their wealth, opportunities, and privileges. The core of the videos resonated the most with the discrimination they encountered or discrimination they committed against someone. Needless to mention they all were from different places and backgrounds but were

exposed to a very similar inequity. Needless to say some of the people tried to make a change and create a better equality amongst everyone.

After watching the news outlet “Democracy Now” and listening to Bree Newsome it was eminent and powerful what she talks about through the segment. Newsome decided to take down the confederate flag and show that it can take an action to create a change. As she mentions some people who have the power do not make take an action for a better change. However, sometimes it takes someone with limited power to “stir things up” and start the change.

There were different points she mentioned and had great examples that supported what she was addressing. One of them is how the media does coverage, “CVS gets burned down. Every news outlet shows up. 7 black churches burned, 1 ... burning right now. Silence” (Newsome). She describes a store which burned down and how the media shows all the possible angles and the numerous amount of news outlets. Meanwhile little to no media cover the different churches that burned. This shows that we are limited to what happens and that we get told the different stories.

Another point that is described is how these items can signify, fear, intimidation and for different reasons continue to prevail today. Newsome did what many people would not have done. It is unique how we can connect and feel the relief of eliminating or trying to create a change for the better of everyone. Generating change can have those retaliations and fear however, seeking those changes can also come along with the support of those who have the power, those who can make change happen easier, those who are looked upon.

Once we identify the problem or the area where things need change, we are able to understand and create actions toward community justice. Different methods and ideas are put into place to prevent and reduce violence, delinquency, and crime among other things. One of the main focuses is to create and increase partnerships within communities, to make and maintain health, just communities and safety for everyone. Society is constantly and continually changing ideas, viewpoints, and many other concepts. It is up to us to become more aware and help create the equality amongst everyone.

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