

Writing: 6-8th Grade. 3rd Place.

Gabi Adams, Grade 8. Assumption St. Bridget School, Seattle. Teacher: Gerrie O'Leary.

Injustice is everywhere. It is cemented in the history books and scattered in the news. It is spread across recess playgrounds and circulated among the workforce. It seems that no matter where you turn, there it sits, laughing at you maniacally. But although injustice will never be altogether abolished, we simply have no right to look past it. Humanity will inevitably have a legacy, and it is up to us as to what that might be. We must protest injustice, as it gives us something bigger than ourselves to fight for, and commit to, which expands our historical footprint.

Undeniably, everyone has had a taste of a form of injustice for themselves, for it exists on everyday streets around worldly nations, and in the depths of the human mind, but a search for a proclamation of the acceptance of this inequality, especially among works like The Bible, The Qur'an, or The Torah, would be profitless. However, the pain exceeds bearable for some. In the Holocaust, millions upon millions were murdered, beaten, and tortured for reasons unjustifiable in any time period. And yet, barbaric events go on here and now- with all the minorities and marginalized who are forsaken by their very neighbors. The heads and souls of anyone who has faced injustice are flooded with helplessness. We can't keep letting history repeat itself. Common civilians might not have the power to make the decisions, but we can influence them. By expressing our disgust and anguish, by letting the seats of power know there needs to be a change, and by fulfilling our civil and humane duties to protect and stand up for our fellowship, we can come together and form the perennial core of humanity that was briefly lost in the second world war.

Historically, all outcomes and solutions were provoked by action against, or for, and all around, by communities and nations alike. This ignited opinions that went on to shape individual identities and united identities. It is these debates on what is just, that allow uniqueness and prevent a colony of mindless entities from roaming the earth, no different from the robots conducted from ones and zeros. There is a saying, "Don't keep your mind

so open that your brains fall out.” This statement adequately expresses the principle that individuals must take a stance and maintain perspective on situations so that, morally, humanity can stay on track. For thousands of years, philosophers have boggled at the question, “why are we here?” but have failed to come to a conclusion. Reality is that we have to find our own purposes and our own fights to allow meaning and philanthropy when sometimes power is not granted towards the strong-minded. Consequently, even if there is no one to fight *with*, humanity must always protest when there is something to fight *for*.

Ultimately, generations to come will learn about our actions as a society as we have learned about the events and people of the past. It seems as though control is beyond our capability, but who knows what can cause a ripple effect that alters the future forever. In school books, paragraphs upon paragraphs analyze past historical figures, events, and artifacts. Each book and time period are riddled with horrifying stories of death and destruction, giving the minds of young, impressionable students a perspective of what the future history books will contain. We have little effect over the events, but immeasurable influence over the reaction. So, the controls still remain in our hands; we each have the power to change those impending paragraphs with ripple effects that may eventually turn to massive waves or even tsunamis. If, in fact, we sit back and do nothing while injustice is executed, the response will be nothing compelling enough to gather anyone to protest.

Injustice can never be left untouched, for it allows us a purpose now and generates the lesson we want to teach future generations. So, while the power is scattered, protest is impactful. It can minimize the injustice or at least make those directly affected feel less alone and confident enough to speak up. We don't have the right to watch other people suffer and allow it, as ethics are what hold unity among communities.