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Course

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Racial Profiling by the Police

Racial profiling by the police still remains one of the biggest problems in the United States of America. Law enforcement officers continue to target people of color while conducting searches without evidence proving criminal activity; interrogating people without any proof, as well as humiliating them based merely on their skin color, ethnicity, race, or religion (American Civil Liberties Union). What is vital to mention is that racial profiling is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States of America. However, it keeps happening all over the country. Besides, it has been proven many times that this tactic is completely ineffective.

Black Lives Matter is an activist movement that started as a reaction to the systematic racism and constant violence towards black people. The movement has become national in the United States of America and has helped to draw more attention to the problem of racial profiling by the police.

The most typical examples in which a person is profiled by the police based on their race include:

- being stopped on the street for an ID check for no apparent reason
- having their house searched without a warrant
- strip searches
- being followed or monitored by the police
- unnecessarily heavy-handed treatment
- excessive use of force

- arrests with no proof of guilt.

(Ontario Human Rights Commission)

As a result of such profiling, a lot of people lose faith and trust in the police force. They no longer believe they can rely on police officers when they find themselves in dangerous or life-threatening situations. In case a child has been systematically treated negatively by the police, they quite often report having mixed feelings towards the police.

Here are the ways it is possible to address the problem of racial profiling by the police: participating in constant anti-bias training; monitoring the work of the police force, developing specific policies, guidelines and procedures; communicating with police officers, explaining what racial profiling is, as well as leading by example.

Racial profiling remains one of the biggest problems nowadays, especially in countries where different nationalities reside. That is the reason why it is so important to take action and to be more engaged to have this problem solved once and for all. There is still a lot of work to do, including educating police officers and implementing new laws to make sure racial profiling is 100% punishable by law. Police are here to protect us from the harm that is out there. Every single person on the planet should be sure that they can rely on the police force in case they encounter a dangerous situation. In addition, no one should be judged based on how they look, where they come from, what religion they believe in, as well as what their ethnicity is. Racial profiling affects a huge amount of communities of color. It needs to stop.

Works Cited

“Racial Profiling.” *American Civil Liberties Union*. <https://www.aclu.org/issues/racial-justice/race-and-criminal-justice/racial-profiling>.

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<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/under-suspicion-concerns-about-racial-profiling-police>.