

## **Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship 2019**

### **Third Place**

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Imagine living a normal life and feeling the same as everyone else until realizing that you get treated different because of who you are and the color of skin you have. Then you start feeling different like an outcast like you don't belong. I mean it's just how the society is right now how it's always been. Racism hasn't ended it's still here. Each decade racism deforms in a way and the world improves better, but while that's happening a new form of racism comes out of the dust.

For me I am a black young woman who has went through racism from time to time. Through on social media, the real world, school and my own neighborhood I live in right now. Now since I'm older how our neighbors feel and what they do don't pay me no mind anymore. A situation that really affected me was when I was playing basketball and my team was traveling away to another school in Oregon named St. Helens. My team and I already knew what they were about. I play for Parkrose High School and every time we go to St. Helens high school there's always a situation or problem happening every year. Not with just basketball, but with every sport anyone could think of. Their school is known for being racist. We thought we would be able to just play basketball and not worry about anything bad happening this time, but we were wrong about that.

Once the JV game started people in the crowds were making monkey noises and being negative. Then once varsity played if anyone did say anything I really wouldn't have been able to hear them because I was sitting where my team was, but once the game was over we were leaving to go to the bus and I hear one of my teammates arguing with the fans then he starts to get loud. I'm thinking I have to defend her I can't just have her out here with no support so I was having her back against the guy. Then we were told to get on the bus. So what I was told the guy we that was arguing with my teammate said some foul language about us right in front of my principal and the supervisor of his school. What was said was "You're gonna take these n\*\*\*\*\* side over us" and that really made me feel some type of way and my team too. I was really affected by what he said because out of all things why would you call us that.

So me and my team wanted to spread awareness across the community and Oregon. First thing the school did was email the parents about it. Then we were interviewed by Fox News to tell our story. I wanted our story to be told. After this we started to get threats and we weren't able to play St. Helens a second time because someone said they were gonna shoot up the school during the game. The athletic director just decided to cancel the game, but I didn't feel safe when I heard that threat.

Some ways that I feel we could work against racism are peaceful protests, sharing stories to bring awareness to the situation or people having a sit down and actually talking about what's

going on in the world and bringing awareness to racism so people can understand it's a problem that needs a solution. Once more people know about it there are more people trying to end it then just ignoring it.