# Social Issues Affecting the African American Race and Policies for advancement

I know we can’t talk about issues affecting Africa American without knowing who they are and where they come from. During the 16th and 17th century Africans arrived to North Americans as slaves. History tells that majority of them came from the western and central part of Africa and only a small fraction arrived from the eastern and southern part of Africa.

The fact that they arrived to USA as slaves didn’t accord they any special treatment and therefore when they were released from slavery the white people still felt like they don’t deserve any freedom of their own.

Now our African Americans are faced with so many social issues that I believe is worth talking about. To nurture the future, we are supposed to make peace with the past and do better in our present life. Voicing these issues will definitely give them the motivation to keep fighting for their own rights, and the concerned authorities will take actions where necessary. This will give them the hope of a better future.

So what are some of these issues we are talking about;

## **Systemic racism**

Discrimination based on race and ethnicity takes different forms. African Americans has been affected by it, for the systemic racism has been working on various aspects of the society including education, employment, housing, criminal justice and healthcare. This on its own weakens the African American’s ability to be better and to do better. The policies to address this issue include;

* Implementing and enforcing ant discrimination law to protect against racial bias. This will open up more opportunities to the African American societies.
* Promoting diversity and inclusion in workplace and educational institutions.
* Reforming the criminal justice system to address racial disparities in arrest and sentencing.
* Expanding access to quality healthcare and reducing healthcare disparities

If these polies are enforced, it increases our chances of fighting systemic racism and having the opportunities to benefit from the gifts of diversity.

### Economic inequality

African Americans have experienced high level of poverty compared to their white counterparts. This due to lack of opportunities in better paying jobs, wealth building opportunities and lack of capital to start and run a business of their own. This affect their economic outcomes. Policies that will assist this issues are;

* Expansion to access to quality education and job training programs.
* Promoting equitable hiring and advancement opportunities.
* Increasing minimum wage and ensuring a living wage for all workers without bias.
* Promoting entrepreneurship and providing resources for African American-owned businesses

These will not only help African Americans but also favor the general economy. The added workforce and increased business will be a benefit to the economy. By helping, we find that at the end of the day everyone benefits from it.

#### Education Disparities

African Americans students always face a lot of challenges including the unequal access to quality schools, resources and opportunities. Most of these student have a hard time to compete in the job market due to their education qualifications. And that brings me to this question, is it fair to crucify someone for something that he/she wasn’t given the opportunity to have? There are policies that can be of help are;

* Increasing funding for schools in low income areas and ensuring equal distribution of resources to increase the number of students in schools.
* Implementing strategies to attract and retail high quality teachers in underserved communities to improve the quality of education given to students.
* Expanding access to early childhood education and enrichment programs to have a better foundation for students.
* Supporting initiative that aim to close the achievement gap and improve graduation rates.

##### Criminal justice reforms

Issue like racial profiling, harsh sentencing and over policing in their communities has been common challenges in African Americans societies. The fact that 32% of prison population is African Americans is alarming considering the fact that they only occupy 16% of the USA population. They also have high possibilities of serving longer sentences compared to the white Americans. This shows how so many African Americans are affected by the fact that once you are an inmate a lot of opportunities can pass you by because the law forbids you. Policies to address these concerns include;

* Implementing police reforms to promote accountability, transparency and community policing.
* Ending mandatory minimum sentences and addressing sentencing disparities.
* Supporting prisoner reentry programs to reduce recidivism rate.
* Investing in alternatives to incarceration, such as restorative justice programs and diversionary initiatives.

###### **Voter suppressions**

African Americans have since faced barriers to exercise their right to vote. Some of the voter suppression tactic include restrictive voter’s id and Gerrymandering. Policies to address voter suppressions may include;

* Enacting legislation to protect voting rights and eliminating discriminatory practices.
* Expanding voter registration initiatives and making voting more accessible.
* Supporting redistricting reforms to ensure fair representation.
* Promoting civic education and engagement to empower African American voter.

**Housing inequities**

* Housing discrimination impact the African American community, perpetuating segregation and limiting housing opportunities. Some of the policies that should aim to address housing inequities are;
* Strengthening fair housing laws
* Increasing affordable housing options
* Providing financial assistance for home ownership and rental subsidies.

**Healthcare disparities.**

African Americans face significant healthcare disparities, leading to poorer health outcomes. factors such as limited access to quality healthcare, higher rates of chronic diseases, and implicit bias within the healthcare system contribute to this issues. Policies aimed to reduce or eradicate this issues are;

* Increasing healthcare access through expanded insurance coverage.
* Promoting culturally competent care
* Diversifying the health care workforce and investing in community health initiatives.

In conclusion the African American community continues to face issues rooted in systemic racism and discrimination. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive policy solutions that promote equity, justice and equal opportunities. By focusing on educational disparities, economic inequality, criminal justice reform, healthcare disparities and housing inequities, policy makers can work towards creating a more just and inclusive society. Efforts to dismantle systemic racism and promote policies that uplifts the African American community will contribute to a fairer and more prosperous future for all.