

IS EQUALITY POSSIBLE IN AMERICA?



Matthew Greene

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Tonight, in America by Matthew Greene

I refuse to sing America's blues
I refuse to obey its do's and don'ts

I won't preach a blissful facade of knots
Corruption weaved into its ropes.

The land of the free
I've been lead to believe

That here, we all equal opportunity
But i've lived to see through distant legacies
That people like me have dealt with inequalities.

500 years of chattel slavery
A country built on brown and black backs

A country where those same backs faced fire hoses and trained
dog attacks

A country where leaders are would rather incite violence than to
call their forces back

America is the land of equal opportunity

Broken chains remind you of how far we've come
But broken chains remind me of how far I need to go

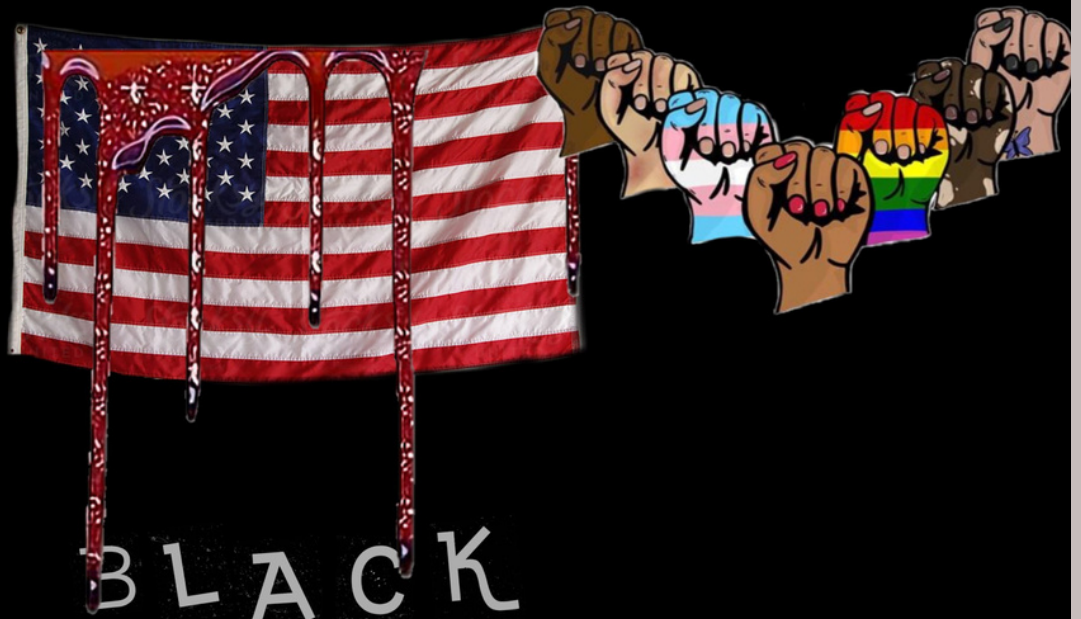
Above the birds
Above the clouds
Is just how far I have to go

To get an equal opportunity in America.

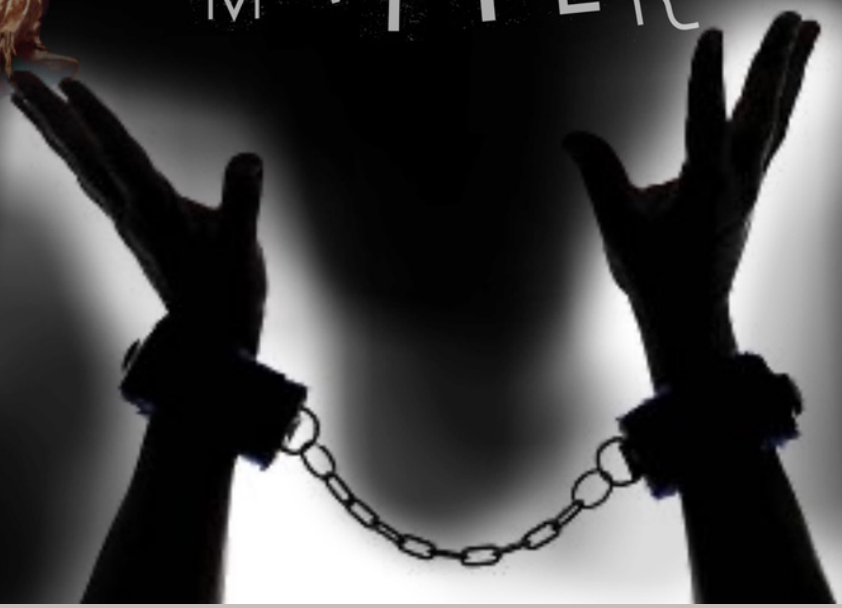
Is equality possible in a country built on oppression?
Is peace really possible in a country built over blood?

Tonight in America, I lay awake and ponder

**EQUAL
EQUAL
EQUAL**



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



Racial Inequality in America

It is said that America is the land of freedom and opportunity. Many people from all over the world journey to the United States in hope of achieving the American dream. Unfortunately, statistics and history prove that the American dream is harder to achieve for people who aren't white. People of color in the United States face inequalities daily but can this change? Can a country built unjustly ever become a true beacon of equality for everyone?

In a 2019 survey, administered by [FederalReserve.Gov](https://www.federalreserve.gov), it was found that the average Caucasian family in the United States has 8 times the wealth as the average African American family in America and 5 times the wealth of the average Latino family. This means that people of color are missing out on these necessities because of an unjust system. This data is alarming but not surprising. Wealth matters because it provides people with security. It keeps your retirement secure, your family and your own belongings as well.

The inequalities in America aren't only financial. There are inequalities in almost all aspects of American life, including its prison system. According to [Sentencingproject.org](https://www.sentencingproject.org), Black people in America are incarcerated 5 times more than White people in America. Latino people in America are 1.3 times as likely to be incarcerated than non-Latino white Americans. This is for a multitude of reasons. One of the reasons is that predominantly black and latino neighborhoods are policed more vigorously than predominantly white neighborhoods.

In conclusion, people of color are financially disadvantaged in America, they are also more susceptible to falling victim to the prison system than white Americans. But this is not all bad news, change can come. There are several ways to end inequality in America such as reparations and rewriting corrupt laws. But its up to you and I to urge our politicians to make America truly a land of opportunity.

Contributor Page



Matthew is the sole contributor of this zine. He was born January 5th 2006 and is 16 years old. he's African-American which makes him connected to the topic question. Being African-American he often wonders if equality is possible in America.

