

Black and White Privilege In Rights Discussions

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Understanding Black and White privilege as it relates to human rights and modern slavery discussions brings forward a profound truth, human rights are not an issue of race but of humanity.

At this time in our nation there is strong concern for Black human rights. While these concerns are important and necessary, the principle of human rights should apply to all people equally. Yet there are many situations where the rights and experiences of White individuals are dismissed, ignored, or abused with very little acknowledgment. When this happens, the issue becomes dramatized as “race war” rather than a shared responsibility to uphold humanity.

No human being’s rights or humanity should ever be in question and certainly not treated as warfare.

Bias against Whites is a real issue. This can be seen in historical events such as the Expulsion of the Acadians, where an entire population experienced displacement, ethnic cleansing, erasure, separation, slavery, and genocide. This history has not only been overlooked but in many ways remains unrecognized in the United States, even though it reflects the suffering of an entire ethnic group of people.

There is a need for acknowledgment and awareness for all histories of harm, including those that are less recognized. Human rights must be applied consistently. Any form of bias against any group weakens that principle.

I stand before you as an Acadian, and I believe that at this time in history, White rights, where they should be a concern, are being disregarded. I also believe that many individuals are experiencing systemic harm during a time that reflects mass slavery and exploitation. My aim is to help others recognize that rights and humanity must apply to all.