

Hi, my name is Isley Wilson and i am an upcoming junior. I thought I would share what one of my older sisters wrote about her thoughts on the last weeks and her call to action. For the past week or so, I have observed, engaged in and viewed posts on social media, throughout news broadcasts, listened to protestors first hand accounts, engaged in discussions and took part in a few peaceful protests throughout the Greater Boston area. But what struck me the most was a conversation my mom and i had, she asked me "what is going to come out of this? What happens tomorrow or when the protests die off? What is different now? I've been dealing with this for forty plus years." So I pose the same question to you, what are we going to do to push, maintain and establish change within our communities, our country and throughout the world? What happens when "normal" life starts to become more widespread? When the demands of your job, school, friends or your social life start tugging on you? This is a movement, a call to action and a push for much needed reform. Rosa Parks boycotted for 381 days. Nelson Mandela served 27 years in jail. Harriet Tubman made 19 trips over a 10 year span through the underground railroad. Systemic racism, bias and inequality are deeply rooted- the only difference now is that it is easily accessible due to social media. But this is not new, there were public viewings of lynchings and postcards sent to white family members with pictures of charred black bodies. Each time an injustice occurs, despite how public it becomes, think about the message that it is sending. Think about how black culture is appropriated and used for monetary gain or about how black athletes are praised for winning sports championships- why is it that this love is not as visible or talked about when black men and women are murdered because of the color of their skin. Where is that love when we peacefully gather, exercising our first amendment right, pleading for equality and justice. Why do you think this is happening? It's because America is not the country of the free, the country where all men are created equal or the land of opportunity. It is time that those who are abusing their power and exercising their white privilege be held accountable, whether they're positioned in the government, law enforcement or the medical industry. Yes, black men, women and children are humans too. No longer will we turn a blind eye to the injustices that happen on a daily basis. No longer will our voices be silenced. I urge you to use your voice. Use your voice to speak up, this is not the time to worry about whether you'll lose followers. Use your voice to educate those around you who may not understand why you're hurting or why you are so passionate about black lives matter because black lives do matter, have mattered and will always matter. Go out and vote. Go out and protest. Sign petitions, donate to bail bond funds, call your city officials, support black owned businesses. Be the change because you matter- despite what the world tries to say, you matter. So I'll ask you again, What are you going to do to push, maintain and establish change within your community, this country and throughout the world?