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Before they are seen as children, many Black youth are often viewed as threats. This harmful perception has deep historical roots, tracing back to the 15th century when racial stereotypes were created to justify oppression and violence against Black communities. Although it is now 2025, many Black people still face harsh encounters with the police, experiences no child or person should endure in a modern society. The system often sees skin colour for danger, this leads to suffering not because of any real threat, but because of vulnerability based solely on existence and the color of their skin. This has caused generational trauma, teaching Black youth to shrink themselves in spaces where they should feel safe, and demonstrates why real accountability and systemic change are necessary for Black children to be seen not as criminals through the eyes of the system but for who they are, talented, deserving of protection, and worthy of a childhood without fear.

This racial bias places Black youth at greater risk of surveillance, harassment, and violence within policing. Before Black youths learn to drive, they learn how to survive. Statistics reveal that Black people are 2.8 times more likely to be killed by police than white people (Mapping Police Violence). This is not due to any greater danger, but because racism has taught the system to see Blackness itself as a threat. Generational trauma follows, as Black youths grow up seeking safety in a system set against them.

Every smile, every laugh, and every heartbeat is brought up as suspicion; innocence is something they cannot obtain, not in a world this cruel that sees Blackness first as a threat, and a child second, if at all. Every day, the struggles black youth face are beyond atrocious because of a scheme that portrays them as violent and a threat. They grow up carrying fear as if it were a birthright, believing that danger is just how the world works. This has made racism even more normalized because the people getting accused, slammed, shamed, and killed are afraid to speak up because when they do, they are just as said a threat.

The world continues to punish black communities for existing, and the regime that is meant to protect them instead reinforces their fear and vulnerability. The system that shapes their lives cannot protect them, not until it sees Black youth as children, not

violence. We as a society need to confront and shame those who continue to treat black youth and communities like they are a threat to this world, all because of their skin colour. We need to destroy the fear that has been built into every institution, challenge the people who justify violence, and demand accountability from those who cause harm. Officers who break the law by racially profiling must face suspension without pay, corrective training, mandatory counseling, probation, or expulsion from the force if severe or repeated cases occur, and the person responsible for this crime must apologize to the victim and their family.

Improvement within the policing system begins when the world stops seeing Blackness as danger and starts seeing it as life. But change cannot stop at words or wishes. It has to take shape in action, in the way we raise children, run institutions, and hold people accountable. Change cannot stop at words or wishes; it must rush through the streets, the schools, the courts, and every corner that has been traumatizing Black youth for generations. We must demand action, not promises and meaningless unfulfilled words, not tomorrow but now. The government and policing system need to listen to the trembling voices of Black children and act as if their lives depend on it, because they do. Protect them, hold them safe, reassure them before suspicion silences them and before fear steals their laughter. We must hold every person who harms, shames, silences, or kills accountable without excuses and without mercy.

The lies, the twisted justifications, the poison that spurs out from the mouths that teach the world to fear Blackness must be torn from the bones of every institution, ripped from the mouths of those who spread it, and left powerless to ever speak or harm again. Until this happens, Black youth will continue to live in survival mode with a world that refuses to see them as children and when it does, when protection flows like water through their streets, when accountability takes hold of the oppressors, and fear no longer lurks behind every glance and every corner, they can finally breathe, run, laugh, and grow with the weight of the world lifted from their shoulders.

But this change and freedom will not erase the nights spent hiding, crying, grieving, the stolen playtime, the moments when their innocence was mistaken for danger. The scars of centuries will linger, woven into bones, whispered into every shadow. And yet, even under the weight of all that they have suffered, there is a flicker of life, a fragile pulse and breath of hope. These children need to be reminded that the world can be forced to bend, that justice can rise from the rubble, dirt, fear, and blood.

Black children can finally claim the simple, unalienable right to exist without fear. The right that should've been there from the start, but only now, after centuries of stolen laughter, crushed dreams, and lives cut short by fear and violence, can it finally, painfully, be claimed. Black children walk forward carrying the weight of every stolen moment, every silence forced upon them, every feared shadow cast over their innocence, and still, they breathe, still, they survive, still, they live.