

Beneath It's All Red

The colour of skin, beliefs, and nationality are merely a representation of who we are and our identity. Our true identity is to be human and have humanity. Humanity is to have the core values of compassion, benevolence and the most important. Love.

War, violence, persecution, and conflict are inevitable. These atrocities are woven into the minds of the influential. Unfortunately, this leads to millions left without a safe place to live. Amidst the chaos, these people must find somewhere safer. The people who are forced to leave their countries are precisely called refugees. They often have had to flee with little more than the clothes on their back, leaving behind homes, possessions, jobs and loved ones.

Countries such as New Zealand, volunteer to support these people by opening their doors. The New Zealand Government has done a terrific job of helping these people resettle. However, the common people of New Zealand have done more harm than good. There are three key points that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

The first point is discrimination and the lack of support. Discrimination is genuinely an issue not to be taken lightly, even in New Zealand. I know so, being a person of colour, I have experienced discrimination many times. Racialists of today's society are out there right now, spreading hate towards those who have fled for 'safety' to our country. No one tries to support the refugees trying to settle into a completely new environment, trying to learn a foreign language. All we are capable of is teaching them profanities and foul language. How about we try to teach them simple words and slowly climb up the steps? I believe everyone can gain wisdom if we believe in them.

The second issue all refugees face is finding employment. Employment means finding a job that will aid them to get back on their feet. However, it becomes very challenging for them, not only because of the language barrier, but also because of their ethnic backgrounds and beliefs. It's like an iceberg. We exhibit, we are inclusive of all professions. Underneath, engraved deep in our minds, is the thought that refugees are incapable and alien. This thought is what I suggest eradicating. Using a fresh pair of eyes to look at someone is what we truly should be doing.

The final point is the lack of places of engagement, involvement, and learning. When a refugee is introduced to a new country, there are almost very few to no ways for them to learn about the culture of the country they will live in. Things are so different and confusing that a thousand worries arise, and anxiety takes form. Therefore, I suggest creating engagement programs for the refugees and assisting them in fitting into their new environment. The programs could be held every weekend. It could be something fun and educational, anything that would truly help.

I believe New Zealand can set the standard for the world. We have set standards before in 1893 with women and the vote and we can most certainly set the standard again. We could be a representation of how the entire world should nurture and support the refugees. If we can take these little steps, its sum could be something revolutionary. I hope that one day

refugees will truly be understood as no less, but equal to us. If we change our views, our world will surely change.