

## Black Lives Matter protests take place worldwide

8th June, 2020



Black Lives Matter protests have spread around the world after the death two weeks ago of George Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed black man. Protestors in many cities around the world marched in the streets. They held signs with the words,

"Black Lives Matter" and other slogans written on them. Many people wore T-shirts with the words "I can't breathe," "No justice, no peace," and "Silence is violence". In Ottawa, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joined an anti-racism demonstration. He took the knee alongside thousands of other people who silently got down on one knee. Similar protests have taken place in Australia, Mexico, South Korea, Poland, Norway and many other countries in support of equality.

Protestors told journalists why they joined the Black Lives Matter marches. A primary school teacher in London said: "I have come down in support of black people who have been ill-treated for many, many, many, many, years. It is time for change." An IT specialist said: "We are all human beings. There should be fairness for all of us." She added that Black Lives Matter doesn't mean anyone else's life doesn't. A 21-year-old Londoner stressed the need for dialogue. He said: "There are a lot of uncomfortable conversations that people have been avoiding...but, they're conversations that need to be had if...we want to finally create a kind of society where black bodies are treated equally."

Sources: [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [dw.com](https://www.dw.com) / [nhk.or.jp](https://www.nhk.or.jp)

## Writing

What can countries do to create greater racial quality? Will governments do them?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Black Lives Matter / handcuffed / protestors / slogan / silence / breathe / equality / journalist / primary / support / human beings / dialogue / fairness / conversations

## True / False

- a) The article said protestors marched in every city in the world. T / F
- b) Protestors wore T-shirts with the words "Silence is violence" on them. T / F
- c) Canada's Prime Minister took the knee with other protestors. T / F
- d) The article says protests took place in North and South Korea. T / F
- e) A university teacher told reporters why he joined the marches. T / F
- f) A specialist in information technology called for fairness for all. T / F
- g) A man in his late teens stressed the need for dialogue. T / F
- h) The man said we should not avoid conversations about race. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>protests</b>    | a. abused         |
| 2. <b>held</b>        | b. next to        |
| 3. <b>justice</b>     | c. everyone       |
| 4. <b>alongside</b>   | d. clutched       |
| 5. <b>support</b>     | e. behaved toward |
| 6. <b>ill-treated</b> | f. conversation   |
| 7. <b>time</b>        | g. demonstrations |
| 8. <b>all</b>         | h. backing        |
| 9. <b>dialogue</b>    | i. the moment     |
| 10. <b>treated</b>    | j. fairness       |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Black Lives Matter movement?
- b) Would you join a Black Lives Matter protest?
- c) What do you think of the 'No justice, no peace' slogan?
- d) Do you think that 'silence is violence'?
- e) Why is there so much racism in the world?
- f) How racist is your country?
- g) What experiences of racism have you felt or experienced?
- h) Should all world leaders follow Justin Trudeau and take the knee?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Black Lives Matter protests have spread | a. been ill-treated   |
| 2. an unarmed and handcuffed               | b. of equality        |
| 3. He took                                 | c. need to be had     |
| 4. Similar protests have taken             | d. black man          |
| 5. in support                              | e. for dialogue       |
| 6. black people who have                   | f. beings             |
| 7. We are all human                        | g. all of us          |
| 8. There should be fairness for            | h. around the world   |
| 9. stressed the need                       | i. the knee           |
| 10. they're conversations that             | j. place in Australia |

## Discussion – Student B

- Why is it that young children are not racist?
- What do you think about the Black Lives Matter movement?
- What can we do to end racism?
- Why are people so afraid of someone with a different skin colour?
- What harm does racism do to society?
- Why should people feel fear because of their skin colour?
- What conversations do we need to have about race?
- What questions would you like to ask a racist?

## Spelling

- protests have edsrap around the world
- unarmed and cahfedufdn
- other olsgsna written on them
- an anti-iacmsr demonstration
- people who yiltlnse got down on one knee
- in support of yqiluate
- Protestors told uajlsortisn why they joined
- A miraryp school teacher
- come down in ostrupp of black people
- An IT aesiplicst
- stressed the need for uogadlei
- create a kind of oceyits

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. f	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Street Marches

You think street marches are the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): petitions, boycotts or letters to politicians.

### Role B – Petitions

You think petitions are the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): street marches, boycotts or letters to politicians.

### Role C – Boycotts

You think boycotts are the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): petitions, street marches or letters to politicians.

### Role D – Letters to Politicians

You think letters to politicians are the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): petitions, boycotts or street marches.

## Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to protest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| • Petitions | • Labour strikes         |
| • Sit-ins   | • Street marches         |
| • Boycotts  | • Writing to politicians |
| • Vigils    | • Websites and blogs     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.