

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

# SPEAK UP!

JUNE 2019

*"Serving in the Four-State area for over 15 years"*

Speak Up Community News promotes the Culture, Health and Success of the community. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers Who Care, 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone (301) 393-9290. Download a full-color copy of this news publication at: [www.brotherswhocare.org](http://www.brotherswhocare.org)

## SUCCESS NEWS

### **The Gap In Wealth: How To Change It**

*By Brother Andy Smith*



*A Facebook friend wrote the following remarks on Facebook about the gap in wealth along with the photo above that they included in the post:*

*“The discrepancies in overall wealth per household based on ethnical background are immense. We can do better. Life is not always about the fanciest wip, newest sneaker release or the hottest vacation spot. Are you saving for your future? Are you building generational wealth for your children and grandchildren? How can we change the narrative of this picture? What are your thoughts?”*

***I thought it would be useful to share my response here to the Facebook post, especially with the upcoming observation of Juneteenth, a Black American tradition, coming up on the weekend of June 22, 2019***

According to Tim Wise this gap in wealth accumulation is a systematic process that gave the Caucasian race a 400 year head start to building wealth and maintaining the social economic gap between Black Americans.

(Link to Tim Wise commentary: <https://youtu.be/6JErESW-CQI> )

Foreigners are given more access to wealth than the descendants of Black American slaves. Plus keep in mind this social economic disadvantage, suffered mainly by the black population in America and suffered by blacks around the world, is a systematic design that continues to interfere with blacks advancing and becoming self determined.

It also appears from statistics that the black population is: manipulated in into bad credit ratings; black have a higher chance than any other population in America to be arrested and winding up with criminals records which limits opportunities. The system was known to restrict blacks from opportunities for higher education or getting into higher paying careers which brought about the need for Equal Opportunity laws. Reducing the racial unfairness is now hindered by the inconsiderate and unprofessional behavior by national leadership that appears to pardon and condone the senseless killing of black citizens in the United States of America.

Not all of whites in America condone the social economic unfairness and racist atrocities that have unfolded in the United States, however I do not believe that most white Americans will do anything effective to rectify the circumstances caused by these problems, some even feel and say that Black Americans need to get over what has happened in the past and move on, even though racial injustice continues to currently emerge.

Some blacks believe that reparations in the form of monetary compensation and/or the redistribution of real estate can compensate for the injustice caused by slavery and the racist acts that followed creating this discriminatory economic divide.

Until reparations there are steps that can be taken which may help the neglected and disadvantage (blacks or other peoples) to find ways to become self sufficient and less depend upon money. Making or growing your products and bartering reduces dependency on a monetary system and the exclusion from building wealth.

However, I will warn you that if a community successfully manages to thrive off the grid, and even more manage to do so as a sovereignty, you may come under attack, maybe even get infiltrated and then destroyed. This destruction happened years ago to a religious leader who was branded as a cult leader and murdered along with his flock after departing from the United States and establishing a self supported community not based or driven by a money system.

The original Black Panther Party for Self Defense was knowingly targeted, attacked and murdered for arming themselves using state laws and helping others become self reliant. The Black Panthers basically did what some whites have done and still do today openly without reprisals or fear of attack.

Please help others if you can, yet I challenge you to start with your own blood relatives. If you can succeed in pulling your family together by sharing and in ways that don't require the use of money. Start taking steps to make your tribe better and be a productive part of the entire human family.

I'll leave you with the words of John Lennon, ***“Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can. No need for greed or hunger, a brotherhood of man. Imagine all the people sharing all the world...”***



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CULTURAL NEWS

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