

Live Your Solidarity.

Philando Castile. Nabra Hassanen. Trayvon Martin. Say their names and then say them again.

It is way passed time we talked about the antiblackness that exists within our communities. Our brown skin is not an invisibility cloak that hides us from our complicity. Given, the murderers of these people acted as agents of white supremacy. Those people acted under the framework that their proximity to whiteness would grant them favor and ultimately forgiveness on an institutional level. Of course, historically, this is rooted in colonial Europe and the conquest of Latin America. That is a given. I get it. But you know what isn't a given? That such antiblackness should continue to thrive unchecked today. The murderers of Philando Castile, Nabra Hassanen and Trayvon Martin are the product of a cowardly silence that puts a proud pueblo of guerreros to shame. White supremacy thrives in silence. One of the most effective weapons white supremacy employs is that of complacency. "I said black lives matters so I'm doing my part". Well friends, I'm here to tell you that it is not enough to say black lives matter. We need to live like they do.

These deaths are a result of people that say black lives matter but don't live like they do. To live like they do we must be willing to do the work that is palatable, tangible and damn hard. We need to live solidarity in our everyday lives. We need to be willing to have those hard conversations with our tio/a/xs, primo/a/xs, abuela/o/xs, hermano/a/xs about why the telenovelas portrayal of black people are problematic. Even games like La Loteria include problematic representation. We need to have the conversation of how religion influences these thoughts as well. This is particularly true when it comes to the othering of Islam and other religious identities. This other effecting can lead to the worst of humanity e.g. the crusades and extreme Christian terrorism in the name of White Jesus. We cannot keep letting it slide because "the time isn't convenient", "they're too old to change", "they wouldn't understand" or whatever bullshit excuse white supremacy has instituted in us. We need to become agents of change. We need to be willing to self-exam. White supremacy is a disease. Like most diseases when we self-exam we can catch it growing in places that are not ostensibly visible. In what ways has this disease infiltrated my life? How does it manifest? Have our religious practices been perverted with white supremacy? These are questions that can only be answered in an honest and open reflection with oneself. Lastly and most importantly we must be willing to listen to our black counterparts. This is particularly true for black/trans/femme women as they often lead and labor the most for these movements. We must listen and sit with what they're telling us. By truly listening we are learning and dismantling our hardwired predispositions. This is key for eradicating white supremacy.

Above all else our silence is complicit and lethal. We carry blood on our hands. Let our actions bring forth the strongest cleanser of all. Friends, let us live our solidarity.

Philando Castile. Nabra Hassanen. Trayvon Martin. Rest in power.