

Good morning,

I hope this finds you well on this beautiful Alaskan spring day. I am contacting you to testify regarding these theories the Anchorage School District wishes to unleash upon the children of this state. Let me begin by telling you that I am a black woman, and I have grown and birthed another black woman with this body.

We are statistics. I am a single parent, receiving no financial aid and her father had been nonexistent in her rearing since her conception. But we are not victims. We are not oppressed. I have a good union job that has allowed me to work throughout this pandemic from the comfort of the house I just bought last summer. I'm a full time student pursuing her dreams. I am teaching my daughter that she can be and do whatever she wants in her life, that color doesn't matter. I am a living, breathing testimony of that. I am not a victim, least of all of something as stupid as my skin color.

One of the issues we have in this great country is that we don't truly know what racism is, and because of that, everything can be labeled as such. A twitch of the eye, an offending tone, a hesitant reply, a statue. What's next? Will it be breathing? Maybe shoes. I think shoes should be added to the list of white supremacy next.

But I digress...do you know what real racism is? I was raised in a foreign country where I was able to look in the eyes of Racism, and it does not live here. True racism is where you can be beaten, molested, spit on, what have you, and look at all the faces around you that look nothing like yours, and know that none of them are going to help you. Knowing that they don't even care. Knowing, in the deepest part of your soul, that there is nothing you can do, that no one will speak up on your behalf. Knowing...that you are alone.

That...is racism. It does not live here. Unless you count my experience with countless black people who deemed me "too white" throughout my life and used that as an excuse to abuse. There are many like me with similar experiences.

But now, simply disagreeing will get you labeled a bigot and a racist. Depending on where you live, these labels can attract violence, sadly even death in some cases. Well...I disagree. As an American first and foremost, I have that right, but you want to teach these dangerous ideas to our kids? These...theories? They're not even facts. Just emotional vicodine to place a fog around the hard truth of personal failure.

You want to teach our children that they are slaves to the amount of melanin in their skin. Why? And further more, since I am a victim here, because I am of the oppressed population, why am I not being heard more than my white counterparts? Why doesn't my daughter receive special attention? Why is my voice being silenced just as hard as the white man and woman? You say you love me, that you care, that you're doing this for me and my people. Then why do I feel forced to snatch my baby out of the claws of ASD and homeschool her going forward? Yes, that is what is happening. Your words and actions don't line up, and your actions say that the only thing you care about is creating a generation of broken people who will funnel everything through the lens of skin color. Something so superficial and stupid as skin color.... Not my daughter. You cannot have her. But I will speak for the other children, as a black woman,

because by default, you have stolen the voices of their parents just because they're white. As if that diminishes their humanity, dignity, or opinion. You're the real racists.

The beauty of it all, is that you're allowed to be a racist. Much blood has been spilled to seal the Constitution. But, what right do you have to usurp the authority of parents? If you choose to believe the lies of the 1619 project and anti-racism, I feel so sorry for you, but that is your choice. But how dare you lie to us and say you love our children and that you care about parents when you are so willing to trample all of our rights! To think independently. To form one's own opinions. HOW DARE YOU!

Do you know what the job of the schools are? To teach English, math, art, history, and science. Not ideology. You've crossed the line. Now fix it before you create a mess that will turn around and eat you like the rest of us...that's equality, you know?

Sincerely,

A Black Survivor, Kevina Mitchell