



SUMMARY

Based on the above, a true reformation of society cannot be accomplished with just the rallies, slogans, and the signing of petitions. A lasting societal change resulting in racial justice can only happen through the moral and ethical transformation in its citizens, with a change in every individuals' moral and ethical mindsets. This change has to be driven by a spiritual transformation, whose focus has to be God, His guidance, and ultimate accountability on the Day of Judgement. Anything less than the above will be short-lived and wishful. We invite you study the Quran and examine the noble life of Prophet Muhammad.

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HOW TO ABOLISH SYSTEMIC RACISM? PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S EXAMPLE

Racism has torn our hearts and our community. Every few months, we hear of another white cop shooting an unarmed black man or another 'George Floyd' type incident, resulting in the black community feeling abandoned and hopeless.

Civil rights groups, public officials, and concerned citizens have proposed solutions, but none seem effective. Racial injustice continues unabated in the US and around the world, and Dr. Martin Luther Jr.'s dream remains to be a dream. But here is the good news...

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So, how did the Prophet Muhammad Root out Racism?

SUPERIORITY IS NOT BASED ON RACE, BUT IN PIETY

In his sermon, known as the Farewell Address, Prophet Muhammad summarized Islam's religious and ethical ideals. **Racial equality** was one of them. Muhammad's words jolted a society divided by notions of tribal and ethnic superiority. He said:

"All humanity is from Adam and Eve; An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab. A white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white, except by piety and good action."



PRACTICED DIVERSITY IN HIS MARRIAGES

Yes, he had more than one wife, as did the Prophets of the Bible. His wives were from diverse backgrounds, including various races, cultures, and tribes. Through this practical demonstration, he broke down many racial, economic, and tribal barriers.

PLACED FORMER SLAVES IN THE POSITION OF LEADERSHIP

Prophet Muhammad identified and empowered Bilal, a former slave, and gave him the honor of being the first caller to prayer (Muezzin). This distinction carries reward, high status, and honor in society.

Another young follower of Islam, **Usamah bin Zayd**, who was the son of a former slave, was appointed as the army commander to lead a defensive expedition against the Byzantines.

FIRST ANTI-RACIST IN THE WORLD

When Prophet Muhammad's Arab follower Abu Dharr called Bilal (an African) 'son of a black woman', the Prophet got angry, called out this racist statement, and told him: 'You are a man who has ignorance in him.' Abu Dharr felt great remorse and repented for wrongdoing.

RACIAL DIVERSITY OF HIS FOLLOWERS

The Prophet surrounded himself with individuals from **diverse racial backgrounds**, normalizing racial diversity and demonstrating racial equality. Some of his followers that he 'hung out with' included: Persians; Romans; ex-Jews; ex-Assyrian, Kurds, and Africans. Muslims stand shoulder to shoulder during their prayer, with people of all races praying together, creating brotherhood and **breaking racial and social barriers**.



EDUCATION IS POWER

The Prophet encouraged his people to obtain knowledge, free themselves from poverty, and contribute to the community. He said: "Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise." of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise."

ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED ALL CITIZENS

The Prophet discouraged begging or collecting money from the state and encouraged everyone to get back to work. Economic independence frees a person from dependency on others and the government and moves them up the ladder of the social strata for people of all races.

