

They Said I'm Hopeless

My name is Antwann Johnson #524659 and if I may, I would like to share something with you that's been weighing on my heart. Something that many have chosen as a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Coming to prison at 21 years old was difficult for me. There was a lot about prison that I was completely oblivious to. But through trial and error, I managed to overcome past mistakes. Now I utilize my time much more constructively by helping those around me, in a variety of ways. For most of my life I've always felt judged, but to actually experience it was painful. The fact that I've continued to maintain my innocence to others about my wrongful conviction, only to receive rejection or no response, has left me feeling as though nobody cares, and that has created a feeling of emotions that I carried and suppressed deep inside.

During our prison Covid-19 pandemic I actually realized how insensible others were towards the wellbeing of prisoners, because inmates were dying and it appeared that no one cared. Even though prisoners are rarely spoken for, I decided to become "the voice of conviction" for us all. I wanted to share my experience of what I endured through these eyes.

I wrote a story/essay that was very compelling concerning the prison Covid-19 pandemic. It was called "Against the Odds For A Worthy Cause". It caught the attention of State Representative Marlene Terry, Ladonna Appelbuam, and it was published on the front page of the Kansas City Star newspaper. But I was then contacted by a local news reporter from ABC 17 news, named Leila Mitchell, who felt society needed to hear my experience based off the story I wrote. That interview was denied because society's news was more important, so Leila Mitchell had to move on with other stories.

Instead of being angry, I began to question who decides what stories get media coverage? So now I became even more determined to write letters. It also became clear to me how society is clueless as to why our youth are committing these acts of violence in the schools and harming themselves. It's because nobody is listening to their needs. And when their needs go unmet, victims are created. It's the self bondage and their mentally challenged minds that makes them incapable of grasping, and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. But again, nobody is listening to me. Is it because of my current condition of being a prisoner?

All I wanted to do was give them a voice and tell their stories, so they may know somebody was listening. I'm only human and I too, have a dream. That America can someday soon become a strong and powerful country once again. That our lives do matter, that one day I won't be judged by the color of my skin, but by the contents of my selflessness. Why is society being denied the truth?

There's one prison experience that took me by surprise. A prison staff told me "Quit your whining with those stories and just do your time, like other inmates." I was furious, but not deterred, it only fueled my ambition to get my voice heard.

Since the pandemic, I've written and designed 3 childrens books. One is about bullying, suicide, and self harm prevention. The other is, in search of Jesus, 3 kids decided to learn more about Jesus. And the last is an educational coloring book that children can enjoy learning and coloring at the same time.

So, out of the 8 Billion people on planet Earth, if you are one of the few people who genuinely care, please support me by contacting the media and ask a reporter to take an interest in the stories and books I have written. If nothing else, at least hear me out.

I am asking you to help me share my experience, strengths, and hopes for the youth with the media.

Antwann Johnson
#524659

When you've done EVERYTHING possible to
EXERCISE A CONSISTANT PATTERN, of doing the
NEXT RIGHT thing. Why do my pleas for help
or ASSISTANCE continue to be Ignored?
HAS HUMANITY lost it's MORALS?..

PLEASE Support my CAUSE!

The Voice of Conviction;
Antwann Johnson
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