

We. As Ourselves

Shaping the narrative about Black Survivors

Created by: Priska



Summary

My project is about the "Me Too" movement and how the media changed the narrative from Black women suffering from sexual violence, to a larger focus on white women. The media played a big part in how the narrative of this movement changed. Although this movement began with a Black woman, many of the stories told are not from a Black woman's perspective. Because mainstream media often silences Black women, I want to explore this topic to give a voice to this group. I want to shed light on how the media can influence our opinions, and how a story is told.

The "Me Too" movement was founded by Tarana Burke, a sexual assault survivor and activist since 2006. The movement's "Me Too" hashtag went viral in 2017, which allowed people to express their concerns and stories about incidents of sexual misconduct. To this day, they continue to do amazing work for every person, no matter the sex, or gender. This movement wants to make sure that there is a change, that they won't have to say "me too" again.



Summary

According to the American Psychological Association, "For every Black woman who reports rape, at least 15 black women do not report it". Tarana Burke, the founder of the "Me Too" movement, states in an interview with Tonya Mosley from WBEZ Chicago, "We are socialized to respond to the vulnerability of white women, and it's a truth that is hard for some people to look in the face, and they feel uncomfortable when I say things like that. But it is true...There is a stark difference in what it takes to get attention around Black women and girls."

This topic connects to the ERA because this amendment will provide protection and equality no matter the sex, or gender, of a person. All individuals should be given the same rights as their counterparts. I learned from exploring this topic that white women are often seen as the protagonist in movements that originally focused on people of color, or issues affecting people of color. Some solutions to this issue would be to give more platforms, and opportunities, for Black women to be representatives for their own communities.

This topic affects me because as a Black woman growing up in Chicago, I know the struggles I have to face and the hard work I have to show to prove myself. I am already facing colorism, texturism, racism, and many more injustices. I am tired, but I still have the confidence to move forward. It is clear that the media profits off of Black culture. When will this end?



Interview

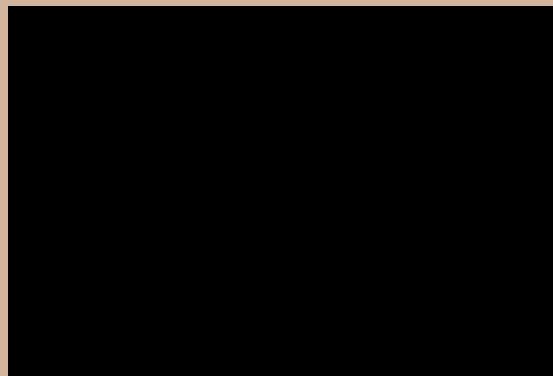
Name: Precious

Age: 16

School: Holy Trinity High School

"It is sad that society views white women's struggles as more important. I hope one day that white women and Black women's struggles will be both equally important, even if coming from a different standpoint."

Audio recording:



More Resources

1. <https://weasourselves.org/>
2. <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>
3. <https://metoomvmt.org/explore-healing/resource-library/>

Works Cited

1. <https://via.library.depaul.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1201&context=jsj>
2. <https://www.apa.org/pi/about/newsletter/2020/02/black-women-sexual-assault>
3. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/11/09/the-waitress-who-works-in-the-diner-needs-to-know-that-the-issue-of-sexual-harassment-is-about-her-too/>
4. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/left-out-metoo-new-initiative-focuses-black-survivors-n1258846>

"This project was made in collaboration with Global Girl Media-Chicago, The Fund for Women's Equality, and the ERA Coalition"

About the Author



My name is Priska. I am sixteen years old. I love classical music, rom-com movies, and dogs. I joined GGM-CHI to get a sense of journalism and to give a voice to my community by telling their stories that need to get more attention. When I grow up, I would like to be a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.