

I AM NOT “OTHER”

I AM NOT “OTHER”
I AM NOT BLACK
I AM NOT JEWISH
I AM NOT ARABIC
I AM NOT ASIAN
I AM NOT GAY
I AM NOT EVEN GINGER
I HAVE NEVER BEEN
BULLIED OR ABUSED
PHYSICALLY OR VERBALLY
STOPPED AND CHECKED
ASKED TO IDENTIFY MYSELF
ASKED IF IT IS MY CAR
SEARCHED, HUMILIATED
I AM NOT AFRAID
THAT MY CHILDREN WON'T RETURN HOME
THAT A GUN WILL BE POINTED AT ME
THAT I WILL BE ARRESTED
THAT I WILL NOT BE BELIEVED
THAT I WON'T BE TRIED FAIRLY
THAT I WILL BE MURDERED BY A POLICEMAN
I HAVE BEEN
IN MANY COUNTRIES OF OTHERS
AND NEVER FELT “OTHER”
BUT MY, WHITE, WORLD
IS FULL OF “OTHERS”
WHO HAVE NO JUSTICE
JUST FEAR AND PAIN
I HAVE NEVER
MARCHED
DEMONSTRATED
STOOD UP TO BE COUNTED
BUT SHOWED MY SUPPORT
ON THE SIDELINES
IN WORDS ONLY
THE TIME FOR WORDS
FOR SIDELINES
IS OVER.
BLACK LIVES
REALLY
REALLY
MATTER

Author: Constantine “These words came out spontaneously in the wake of the George Floyd murder.”

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