

## PIP Title – Racism is just a PIGMENT of your imagination



"What's the matter?  
It's the same distance!"

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<sup>1</sup> Mejia, L. (2016). We Must All Talk About White Privilege. [online] POPSUGAR News. Available at: <https://www.popsugar.com/news/What-White-Privilege-40523831> [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

# CHAPTER 1

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN VIOLENT

White privilege involves a transparent ideology where unintentional entitlement and access to power is inadvertently given to those who carry whiteness.<sup>5</sup> White people are granted institutional benefits that POC are not fortunate enough to receive.<sup>6</sup> Throughout history, POC were viewed as uncivilised or “primitive.”<sup>7</sup> Films like *Birth of a Nation* (1915) depicted African Americans as “cannibalistic” and expressed white people as heroes.<sup>8</sup> As time progressed, the racial caste system was redesigned into legal practice<sup>9</sup> and segregation and Jim Crow Laws were introduced in the USA, which prompted the poor treatment of African Americans. This was evident in Australia through the assimilation policy and the Stolen Generation where the government forcibly removed Indigenous children from their families to “protect” them and were “white-washed, through assimilation.”<sup>10</sup> Over time racism became systematically embedded into western culture and unintentional white privilege became part of the history that undoubtedly moulded racial oppression.<sup>11</sup>

Racial profiling involves the act of targeting individuals based on race rather than an individual action.<sup>12</sup> Tamir Rice was a 12-year-old boy who was killed for playing with a toy gun by police officers after reports came in that Rice was handling a “gun.”<sup>13</sup> Unable to give Rice the time to obey, Loehmann (one of the police officers who attended the incident) shot and killed the young boy. The presence of white privilege within this case is an outcome of the “irrational fear”<sup>14</sup> of young African American boys and further incites the impression that they are perceived as threats.<sup>15</sup> These traits that men of colour are illogically “entrenched” to

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<sup>5</sup> Teaching Tolerance. (2018). On Racism and White Privilege. [online] Available at:

<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/on-racism-and-white-privilege> [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

<sup>6</sup> Cpt.org. (n.d.). Understanding White Privilege. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpt.org/files/Undoing%20Racism%20-%20Understanding%20White%20Privilege%20-%20Kendall.pdf> [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

<sup>7</sup> 13th (Documentary). (2016). [film] Kandoo Films, Forward Movement.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> En.wikipedia.org. (n.d.). Stolen Generations. [online] Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolen\\_Generations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolen_Generations) [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

<sup>11</sup> Feagin, J. and O'Brien, E. (n.d.). White Men on Race: Power, Privilege, and the Shaping of Cultural Consciousness.

<sup>12</sup> En.wikipedia.org. (n.d.). Racial profiling. [online] Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial\\_profiling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_profiling) [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

<sup>13</sup> En.wikipedia.org. (n.d.). Shooting of Tamir Rice. [online] Available at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting\\_of\\_Tamir\\_Rice#Wrongful\\_death\\_suit\\_and\\_settlement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Tamir_Rice#Wrongful_death_suit_and_settlement) [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018].

<sup>14</sup> Anon, (n.d.). Tamir Rice was killed by white America's irrational fear of black boys | Steven W Thrasher. [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/29/tamir-rice-killed-by-white-americas-irrational-fear-black-boys>.

<sup>15</sup> Anon, (n.d.). Looming large in others' eyes: racial stereotypes illuminate dual adaptations for representing threat versus prestige as physical size.

have creates an unfair notion whereby their death is considered acceptable because they are observed as aggressive due to distorted social norms.<sup>16</sup> The limited course of action to deter white people from such fears further promotes these entrenched beliefs. This idea that young black males are viewed as older and less innocent than their white counterparts,<sup>17</sup> further reinforces the presence of white privilege due to their socialisation process.<sup>18</sup> The lack of time given to Rice to obey Loehmann’s call to put the “weapon” down (approx. 2 seconds) outlines the presence of white privilege<sup>19</sup> compared to Dylan Roof’s (Charleston Church shooter) calm arrest and his ‘free meal from police on his way to jail.’<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Anon, (n.d.). Black Boys Viewed as Older, Less Innocent Than Whites, Research Finds. [online] Available at: <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2014/03/black-boys-older.aspx>.

<sup>17</sup> ibid

<sup>18</sup> Washington Post. (n.d.). Why white people see black boys like Tamir Rice as older, bigger and guiltier than they really are. [online] Available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/12/28/why-prosecutors-keep-talking-about-tamir-rices-size-36-pants/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.39a979522092](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/12/28/why-prosecutors-keep-talking-about-tamir-rices-size-36-pants/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.39a979522092) [Accessed 15 Apr. 2018]

<sup>19</sup> miamiherald. (2014). Leonard Pitts Jr.: The meaning of ‘white privilege’. [online] Available at: <http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/leonard-pitts-jr/article4249431.html> [Accessed 17 Feb. 2018]. <sup>20</sup> Silverstein, J. and Silverstein, J. (2015). Cops bought Dylann Roof Burger King after his calm arrest. [online] NY Daily News. Available at: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/dylann-roof-burger-king-cops-meal-article-1.2267615> [Accessed 17 Feb