

# Top Eight Social Justice Issues Facing America

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## Abstract

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The research paper briefly addresses the problem of the issues of social justice facing people within the United States. A solution to this problem will establish fairness or balanced relation between persons and equality in factors such as the distribution of wealth, quality health care, gun violence, good education, and LGBTQ, and racial freedom for all people. In order to solve this problem scholars and academia's along with social justice groups mentioned within this document should advocate to local and state legislators to impact change. Taking this one approach will ensure America will be a safer level in terms of fairness in opportunities, equality in human rights, and reduced discrimination in the United States in the coming five years.

**Keywords: Social Justice; Racial Discrimination; Genderism; Gun Violence; Socioeconomics; LGBTQ.**

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## Introduction

This research aims to find and bring into light the issues of social justice facing the United States people (1-5). Social justice is one of the significant concerns to the Country right now, and people require a better solution to social justice matters. Social justice is a term used to refer to fairness or balanced relation between persons and the public and equality in factors such as the distribution of wealth, quality health care, security, good education, and freedom for both the ordinary American citizens and the people in power (6-9). Some of the social challenges facing Americans may be racial issues, income gaps, gun violence, food insecurity, refugee issues, and healthcare inequality issues. The effect of climate change also brings a social threat to the Americans because climate alteration may negatively impact the Country's resources, which resultantly affects the groups' social comfort (10,11). The social justice issues are becoming more concerning as the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak affects vulnerable populations at more significant percentages in both medical and economic aspects (9-12). Thus, equality in America is a significant subject that needs to be highly considered. This research is objected to find; the effects of social justice in 1964. Martin Luther King versus President Lyndon B. Johnson on America, racial injustice in the last decade, gun violence in America, gender issues, evolution into society, socioeconomic matters, being a soldier of social justice

issues, and finally, give out a prediction on social justice issues in the coming five years. The research is purposed to bring into light the prevailing social justice matters, the past social issues, and the policy modifications which will affect social justice in the future.

## Social Justice in 1964. MLK vs. LBJ.

The Civil Rights Movement of 1964 that abolished discrimination and exclusion in public and enhanced personal protection on the grounds of race, color, faith, sexual orientation, and ethnic background is regarded as one of the magnificent statutory victories of the civil rights struggle. Initially, it was proposed by President John F. Kennedy, it overcame intense resistance from Southern Congressmen but then enacted under J. F. Kennedy's predecessor, President John F. Kennedy. During the successive periods, Legislature extended the Act to pass new federal legislation, like the Voting Rights Act of 1965, because the passage of the previous Act was not fulfilling the ordinary civilians' goals (1).

They had to pass it to enhance equality since the new Act mainly aimed to reduce black Americans' discrimination and voting rights. The 1964 Civil Rights act accelerated the demise of Racial Segregation. It provided Black People with a fair right of entry to cafes, travel, and other public amenities. It has helped African Americans, females, and some other disadvantaged groups wash

away differences at their workplaces. The public determination to the Civil Rights Legislation and reduce discrimination has mobilized attempts to integrate schools. It has led to equal work opportunities since a committee was set to ensure a fair recruitment process. There existed some uncertainties as to whether the bill's rules extended to private industries. More or less, public platforms have sought to turn everything into private industry instead of just disassembling and giving a chance to the black Americans (9). These actions have been termed illegal.

### **Racial Discrimination between 2010-2020.**

Racial discrimination has been there in the United States for an extended period. The discrimination goes against various minority groups in the United States regarding their ethnic backgrounds or races. Some of the minority groups facing racial discrimination in America are black Americans, Asian Americans, Latin Americans, refugees, European Americans, and the white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. In the last decade, these minority ethnic groups have faced several challenges. For instance, the Black People of America have frequently encountered limitations towards democratic civil, economic, and social equality for much of this Country's history. Indigenous People in the United States have endured genocide, forced removals, and murders and tend to suffer from racism (4,5). Other groups like the Asians are also encountered with the same issues.

The minority groups have faced various stereotypes over the recent past decade. Stereotypes simply refer to the generalization of a particular group of people. The stereotypes can also be based on gender or age. The stereotypes faced by these minority groups may be named as violence and obsession with guns, good in dancing, singing, friendly and good athletes view on black Americans, unintelligent, and they are also considered to be living in lower living standards. Racial profiling has also been rampant over the last decade in the United States. This refers to the violation of human rights. The disadvantaged groups do encounter profiling in many circumstances. They face police brutality, for instance, the current scenario in 2020 whereby a black man by the name of George Floyd lost his life in the course of police harassment (8). The minority groups also face prejudice. These are attitudes and prejudgements against them that the disadvantaged groups pass through. The Native Americans face terrorist pre prejudice of being

unintelligent. They are judged by their skin color, sex, and religion.

### **Gun Violence.**

Gun violence is becoming more and more worrying in the United States. Mass shootings are in the wake right now. Gun violence is mostly attributed to mental health factors such as depression and anxiety. Mental illness is also on the rise, affecting the people living in the United States and the community. Gun violence has resulted in many injuries and the loss of thousands of lives. In 2018 alone, the statistics showed that the number of people who had committed suicide using guns amounted to twenty-four thousand four hundred and thirty-two. The killings recorded amounted to thirteen thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight (5,6). Gun violence is more common in low or middle-class urban places and is always associated with young male adults. Mass shootings have also resulted in several deaths and injuries in the United States though they are not common. Almost two-thirds of the gun injuries and loss of life has resulted from suicide. This clearly shows that there is a big problem with mental health issues. Mental illness contributes a lot to the gun violence in America. Consequential loneliness from stereotypes, prejudice, or racial discrimination can result in anxiety, leading to suicide by gun. The mentally ill loners also do mass shootings and kill many people (5,6).

To a great extent, gun violence has affected the American community, as shown by the records. The witnesses and survivors harm both mentally and physically from these scenes, which affects their socializing behaviors. Many people lose their loved ones from these scenarios. Productive men are also lost in the course of killings and suicides. Children may remain orphans and may suffer mentally after witnessing mass shootings or suicides.

### **Genderism.**

Gender equality issues are a wanting issue in the Country. There is very much gender-related prejudice in the United States. Sexual orientation is also a matter of concern in the Country since many professional bodies questions an individual's sexual orientation. Men face various difficulties at their workplaces. There exists a lot of stereotypes they face in their professional areas. There is a stereotype of men being masculine, making it difficult for them to speak out about their workplaces' problems

(4). There is a need for gender balance campaigns in society.

There is also an issue of men's violence towards women on sex matters and other workplace matters. Since men are perceived as the breadwinners, they sometimes find it difficult to spend enough time with their families. Most men work full time since women are perceived as raising families, and men are expected to be working. This stereotype makes many men go for full-time jobs, and they find it hard to balance family time and work time. On the other hand, most women go for part-time jobs to find time to nurture their families. The opportunities are also offered with regards to gender and sexual orientation. Research shows that men usually do more unpaid jobs and do less paid jobs while most women do pay jobs rather than outstanding jobs and that most women get time for leisure (4). There also exists a gap in earnings based on gender differences. The recent data shows that women get paid eighty cents for each dollar men get paid, and hourly pay data also indicates that a woman gets paid eighty-three cents for each dollar a man receives.

### **LGBTQ.**

The people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, or questioning usually are viewed differently and excluded by society. They get discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, and as a result, they face depression and anxiety, which lead to violence or suicide. Same-sex relationships started long ago, but did not accept it during the old days. The transgender, gays, bisexuals, lesbians, and people still face many difficulties up to date despite all the individuals' sexual orientations being accepted. Society still views them differently and tends to discriminate against them. For instance, they face various violence from society in 2016, whereby mass shootings were carried out in one of the gay dance clubs in the United States by a single attacker (3). Many people lost their lives on the scene, and some people also survived the attack but got injuries.

There are several movements now in the United States currently advocating for same-sex relationships and equality. The people who are lesbians, bisexuals, gays, transgender, or questionable do face a lot of hate from the community, the activists have made it possible to condemn violence against these people, and LGBTQ is making steps towards equality (3,4). There has been tremendous change both internationally and locally. It is vital to remember that the battle for gays, lesbians, transgender, and questionable people's rights is not a Western singularity. Numerous administrations and

governments at the pole position of protecting same-sex relationship people and fighting for their freedom come from the developing countries. The violence, discrimination, and hatred directed towards these people have reduced to a safer level.

### **Socioeconomics.**

Socioeconomic status factors are occupation, subjective views, education, and income. The socioeconomic factors affect the life quality of the lifecycle for children, youth, and families. The youths with higher socioeconomic status levels typically have higher self-esteem and optimism. In contrast, the youths with lower socioeconomic status are reported to develop social problems and suffer from anxiety or depression, which leads to suicides or homicides. The lower socioeconomic status people are viewed as threats to the society and associated with violence thus are discriminated against. They are always perceived to be prone to various illnesses because their mortality rate is high (2).

People from higher socioeconomic status have a high probability of success in education due to environmental exposure issues and health matters. Another reason is derived from the fact that Kids from areas of lower socioeconomic status start school with a smaller amount of linguistic information. The kids also face many challenges and are likely to be absent from school or drop out. Poverty leads to children's negligence, contributing to drug abuse because of open contact with drugs (2) The people living in poverty are likely to face violence and hatred from society. The people who come from lower socioeconomic statuses suffer much more from the negative impacts of their life status than persons with a higher socioeconomic status. There exist inequalities in the United States due to socioeconomic status in health care qualities and other opportunities. The people living in poverty have inadequate resources to meet all their necessary and different needs.

### **Being a Soldier of Social Justice.**

Social justice simply means equality in terms of the distribution of opportunities, political privileges, economic rights, wealth, healthcare education, human rights, and other privileges. A soldier for social justice promotes socially progressive views such as civil rights, feminism, multiculturalism, and other equality issues. Social justice can be displayed in San Diego whereby in their respective social impact fields, several local non-profit organizations develop strategic goals focused on social justice, such as the California Innocence Initiative for criminal justice, the Community House Association for low - income neighbourhoods, as well as the Impaired

Athletes Foundation for kids and physically disabled athletes (11).

There are several movements and individuals in the Country fighting for equal justice. Being a person who fights for social justice is a major step in one's lifetime and the United States. For an individual to be a warrior for social justice, the individual must do the following. Use social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and others. This is because it is easier to circulate sensitive information on these platforms today due to the numbers. The individual or organization has to donate. Donations may be made either directly to the people or by funding the organizations which fight for social justice. A person may also sacrifice time as a donation to society. Starting from the ground and taking small steps and in the right direction can lead to a government change, which may earn a great positive change in social justice. An essential phase of making progress is to get in touch with Congress on problems and concerns. Another crucial step in the battle for social justice is to vote for leadership that supports key causes (6).

### **Conclusion: Social Justice Next Five years.**

There have been many changes in the policies of America that impact social justice. Social fairness has expanded to a great extent over the past years, and the race to social equality is continuing successfully. This, therefore, shows that in the next five years, social justice will be at its desired or maximum level. The groups who feel disadvantaged in the United States, such as the African Americans, advocate for equality through various agencies. A social security policy protects people from unemployment and provides old age and general human welfare insurance (10,11). There is a policy on building a better home-delivered meal system, which fosters the reduction of homelessness and other welfare difficulties. There is a policy called every student succeeds Act, which ensures there are equal opportunities of getting a quality education for all children regardless of their state.

Criminal justice policies have also grown, and police violence against minority or vulnerable groups has dramatically reduced. America has moved in fighting against drugs by developing public policy to pilot the predominant pharmacological uprising. There have been many changes in America regarding the power structure, political activities, and morals in the right direction to achieve a more social justice-oriented society. There is a policy of affordable healthcare for all people called the Affordable Care Act, which has led to significant steps inequality in terms of health issues. The people who are

lesbians, bisexuals, gays, transgender, and the questionable people also have a movement that campaigns for reduced segregation by society. From these steps, these steps America in the coming five years will be at a safer level in terms of fairness in opportunities, equality in human rights, and reduced discrimination (7). The changes in policies have led to a society of zero or less racial inequalities, bridging of the income gap caused by gender issues, the reduced refugee crisis, better healthcare for all, equality in political practices and rights for voting, the food security has also gone up in the United States. Gun violence is also slowly going down. Parity continues to improve from the positive changes in the policies, which promises a better future.

### **Author Contributions**

Author researched and wrote the discussion topic based on the continued inspirational professional development project which continues in discussion within the criminal justice department. This is the second paper based on these discussions. The Author explored this topic as a criminologist and advising board member participating in this professional development topic to identify areas of concern within the criminal justice system briefly. Mindfully so to progress the conversation to all people with the courage to discuss this sensitive yet critical topic.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Author would like to use this opportunity to express gratitude to his family and fellow academia's who supported him throughout the course of this research project. He is thankful for their aspiring guidance, invaluable constructive criticism and friendly advice during the project work. He is sincerely grateful to them for sharing their truthful and illuminating views on a number of issues related to the project.

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