

["Can't view the email? Click here."](#)



Being Colorblind: Are we improving or perpetuating racial inequality? By a member of the REAC

When my daughter was in 5th grade, after observing one of her basketball practices I was asking her the names of her teammates. Associating names with team member's physical description was the best way for me to make the connection. I remember being proud of my daughter that rather than skin color or hair type, she would describe what the player was wearing, such as the color of their shorts. Why was I proud? Because I believed my daughter was growing up "colorblind" and didn't create labels for people based upon skin color and ethnicity. I now realize that being colorblind, as it relates to individuality and equity, does not have the intended neutrality on how we see the world and actually is a barrier to challenging structural racism and fostering equity.

The challenge with the colorblind ideology is that it may at first sound perfectly logical and reasonable, as I thought it was. If we look at everyone the same, it will cause us to treat them in the same way and create equity, right? Upon further examination, colorblindness does just the opposite by providing a faulty assumption where we deny the significance of race and cultural heritage in explaining disparities. Colorblindness assumes a racial utopia where inequities are perfectly nonexistent, ignoring the current and historical struggles of oppressive practices and the unique perspectives of individuals. Colorblindness can deflect conversations away from race and equity thus suppressing people's ability to address issues and practices, and ultimately serves to preserve the status quo.

In order to challenge racial disparities and inequity, we need to have uncomfortable conversations and acknowledge individuality. Simply stating, "All lives matter" and "I treat everyone the same regardless of what color they are," does not acknowledge that skin color has affected and continues to perpetuate inequities in our society. If you are just starting your race and equity journey or are well on your way, we must all challenge ourselves to have uncomfortable and respectful conversations. By simply saying that I treat everyone the same, will not get us there. Colorblindness makes us truly blind to individual's culture and racial identity and does not foster equality or respect. Looking back at my own definition of colorblindness those many years ago, what I really needed to see in my daughter and myself is the ideology of multiculturalism that acknowledges and celebrates our differences without dismissing the uniqueness our cultures and colors bring to our individuality and quality of life. Now is the time for us to change and grow. Now it is our time to see.

[Click here for more resources on colorblindness](#)

The MRPA Race and Equity Advisory Committee will send articles, images, and quotes to help you move through your race equity journey. Let's learn, grow, and evolve together!

Opt-In to Emails from the Race & Equity Advisory Committee

Minnesota Recreation and Park Association | 200 Charles Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by snider@mnrpa.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!