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## Racism Is Still Alive in the USA

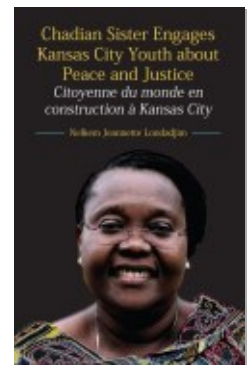
### Published by

Londadjim, Nelkem.

Chadian Sister Engages Kansas City Youth about Peace and Justice.

Langaa RPCIG, 2020.

Project MUSE. <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/78585>.



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[148.135.83.86] Project MUSE (2025-02-16 13:30 GMT)

## **Racism Is Still Alive in the USA**

One of the things that most shocked and surprised me, in my meetings with students, was to learn that racism is virulently present in the USA. I thought it was old history and that the ancestors' fight for freedom had liberated their children. But alas, nothing could be further from the truth.

It hurts me to see that racism is practiced toward Blacks and that it poisons daily life. The coming to power of President Trump seems to have given a new impulse to groups of people who call for white supremacy. I also wonder why Black Americans call themselves "African Americans," as if they are guilty of being American.

I felt helpless in front of these youngsters. I tried to know what they are made of, their dreams, and their aspirations for happiness and the future:

- I got the strong impression that they want to put an end to racism in their country but are disheartened by persistent structures, which do not change, and which carry on a sense of servitude. Some are torn, between hope on the one hand and despair and abandonment on the other.

- They have a strong desire to reach out to their fellow citizens but are maintained in their community security, or non security.

- They long for happiness and for realizing great things for their country, their community...

- But the persistence of racism means that these young people have no common, community dreams, in the broad sense; they yearn for personal accomplishment and success, and for rest.

- They carry on their shoulders the vestiges of centuries of systemic racism. It is disheartening to see and sense the strain and the toll it takes on them, even in their young adulthood. And to see others so unknowing and carefree.

The dream of these young people for equality and justice is not dissimilar from the yearnings made famous by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 1963 March on Washington, and subsequent marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. Those built on the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 and 1956. Will these young people achieve the dream?

A turning point and a makeover are necessary. Social peace and the stability of America's democracy depend in large part on establishing new relations based on justice, between the heirs of those who enslaved people and those of the victims of decades of servitude. My hope is that young Americans all together, Black, White, Arab, Asian, Hispanic, and Native, espouse and realize the dream of Martin Luther King, and of Ella Baker, for a still greater America! This is what I wish for them with all my heart.