

growing pains, 2020
#USvsHate

over the last few weeks, i have been consuming a lot of social media.
i have been engulfed with a need to know more, to understand more.
i think i had come to the same conclusion many of my peers had also
come to at this time,

*"we have been negligent and privileged.
we are sorry.
we promise to do better."*

of course, in history class, we learned about slavery and segregation,
and even now in college, we take courses on societal inequalities and systemic racism.
we have seen the news for many years, we have been outraged at the injustice that has
been occurring, & we could not fathom why innocent Black lives were being taken.

but for many of us, it was still not **our** reality, not **our** experiences.

i'd like to believe that no child in this world is born with hate for another person.
but with that belief, comes the awful realization that no.
hate is learnt.

through family, at school, in the media & politics. it is deeply ingrained within our society.
we must acknowledge this, as it is **no longer enough** to think this narrative does not
concern us, that we are not affected and that we are not a part of the problem.

it is not enough to think "oh well. the next generation will do better."

no,
change starts with us.

now.

it is okay to realize you have made mistakes or were ignorant in the past. it is okay to
have unknowingly been a part of the problem. but now, is the time to push yourself.
educate yourself more thoroughly. unlearn the hate that has been internalized within
you. hold yourself & those around you accountable for your actions.

this growth is a lifelong journey because of the unequal society we were born into.
but perhaps one day, when we all grow up,
it will simply be the starting point for the next generation.