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## "Outside the Box"

Granted, laws, policies, rules are not being followed by many - everywhere. Our once freedoms of expression (and speech), are being taken away. Everything now has to be "politically" correct least someone might be ~~offendd~~ offended.

But have those who feel offended stopped to realize they are taking personal what's not met to be?

It's a known fact that countries without freedom of speech, like China, N. Korea, produce a people who don't and/or won't, "think outside the box." It's also a well known fact that "thinking outside the box" is what has produced research results, invention, and innovation - things that make our country great. Entrepreneurship drives our economy because of our rights to free expression and speech ("Thinking outside the box").

But now we are no longer able (it seems) to use names we choose, have works of art we want (like statues), seemingly, because of mistakes our forefathers made over a century ago.

Some of us Americans haven't been able to move on and take advantage of our "freedoms". (Which we are on a "slippery <sup>slope</sup> slide" of losing.)

Many want to blame our President for the separation of race we are seeing. But come on, do you really think, in this country, one man can have that kind of power and influence? (You are giving him a lot of credit!)

When violence is used to try to get change it doesn't

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usually give the desired results.

When you use a race oriented slogan - instead of one like "All Lives Matter," what is really being promoted?

Part of prison life is the suppression of expression and control of information - a limited freedom of speech. Isn't that the exact thing those outside are demanding in their efforts to make changes? They are limiting the rights to freedom of speech and expression - just as they do in prison (and some other countries).

The very demands being made are not only costly but are the very opposite of "freedom."

The real way to changing names, statues, etc. - given for what was thought of as remembrance of history or achievements - is to go out get an education, take advantage of this country's opportunities, and make some historical achievements you can be remembered for too. Stop living in the past - use the means this country gives to make change happen within the law - without violence and racism.

Obviously there is enough support out there for these changes. But when you refer to each other using what you yourselves consider a derogatory slang - how can you hope for respect? If you only want to "tear down" and not "build up" a country - living within its rules and constitution - what can you hope for? Certainly not respect. And isn't it the very thing that you are exercising (freedom of expression and speech) that you are protesting when you want statues removed and names changed? Can we have it both ways??

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1 Change does need to happen - but its a much bigger picture than races. Accountability is lacking because our government, in granting itself "immunity", has created a false sense of impunity from its laws and those in government think they can do whatever without consequences. That's the real bottem line - not racism! So perhaps some "thinking outside the box" is now needed to get accountability that's lacking - but it isn't thru violence and looting!!!