Discrimination is a looming force which exists all around us. It exists in the most prevalent parts of our society. In our most educated communities. In our proudest moments of history. It is a rampaging bull with 10 tons of strength and an infinite amount of energy, who has always and will always exist in our “proud American society” unless it is stopped by force. The only way to stop such a thing would be to rid the world of hatred itself.

Discrimination is not just racism towards POC, it affects people of different races, sexualities, religions, your gender, or other identities. In my grandmother’s generation these same prejudices and feelings of hatred which exist now already existed. She was taught that darker individuals are worth less than their lighter counterparts, which is colorism, an idea instilled into her as a child in Mexico, as it was with every single person in her hometown. She knew no better than to hold onto that prejudice because it was the same prejudice held by her mentors.

The same pattern repeated itself, the pattern of the hateful teaching hate, when she moved her family to America, where my uncles and mother faced the ghettos of LA, being targeted for being light colored Mexicans in a predominantly Black neighborhood. These children who targeted my young family did not learn this prejudice on their own, they were taught it by their parents and mentors. More often than not, children don’t take race into consideration, they don't see race, they see everyone as equal. It has been proved by a number of internet videos in which children wear matching outfits with their friends so that “the teacher won’t be able to tell them apart”. The only true difference between them is their race, something that is only taught to separate us when in reality, our differences should only bring us together.

My little brother saw the colorism embedded in our society as he walked to North High School from Magruder Middle School, a less than a mile walk. As he walked, white men stared him down and slowed their cars to watch him. A mother pulled her child inside the house from playing outside all because my brother, a 13 year old carrying his school backpack, walked by. He was only judged because of his brown skin and because he decided to wear his hair slicked back that day. The people staring at him were adults, functioning members of our society who took time out of their day, who stopped their cars in the middle of the road and lifted their sunglasses just to look at him. This is the prejudice engraved in our society, the prejudice that mothers, pulling their children inside in fear, are teaching to their children. Without change, this pattern of hateful teaching hatred will continue in the same way, proved through my brother's experience, it already is.

It is possible for change to happen. My family, despite being raised in a community covered in a fog of discrimination, raised my cousins to all be activists. They are a generation of children raised not to hate others, taught to express themselves and be empaths to others and their different self expressions. My family continues to prove this, advocating and projecting their activism against discrimination in all parts of their lives.

Change only happens by creating this ideal “hateless world”, a place where everyone may not be equal or the same, but they are treated as such and with the same degree of respect. This can be made possible through programs, trying to create less ignorance. However, this method is only effective to those who choose to take part in it. We, as a society, cannot hope to break ignorance while it is already being instilled in children at a young age.

The only way to truly end discrimination, and create the ideal “hateless world”, we must raise our children to have less hate. Some people are stuck in their bigoted ideals to change and perhaps it's too late for our generation, but it’s not too late to help future generations thrive. This isn’t about us, it isn’t about praying and hoping for some immediate salvation which won’t ever come, it is about creating change. To create another generation like my cousins and family, people who lack hatred towards others. Change is not going to happen immediately, it has been going on for all of history and is built into society. Children, little girls playing in their front yards, are taught to discriminate. But change can happen, by working to create the ideal world in our everyday lives. To show kindness to everyone, to teach it to our children, to become a beacon of blissfulness and an exception in our hateful world.