

“I think there’s just one kind of folks. Folks.”
Lee Harper, *to Kill a Mockingbird*

There are many different kinds of people. People can be any colour, any race, any culture, with roots from all over the world. But essentially we are all the same. We all have 23 pairs of chromosomes. We are all homo sapiens. Yet, throughout history, in all countries and all walks of life, someone has been prejudice against someone else. Since the beginning of the human race there has been prejudice.

Judging people is something that nearly every person on the planet will do at some point in their lives; whether it be avoiding that weird person on the corner of the street, or asking a woman with children to help you find a bus station. In some way this is unavoidable; just part of an instinct to survive. But the fact that ‘Gay’ is used as an insult in schools, and ‘Paki’ or ‘Jew’. This is not an instinct – this is an insult to the lives and culture of these groups of people.

Surely we should have learnt by now – every child is taught history at school and learning about events such as the holocaust and the slave trade are on the national curriculum. Isn’t it time that we looked back on history, and all the things that we, as the human race, have done in the past; and this time learn from it. Stop people stabbing someone simply because they have black skin, saying that someone will go to hell because they are not Christian. Small things like this seem insignificant when they are placed next to huge tragic events like the holocaust. But they still matter. Prejudice cannot be removed completely, neither can it be reduced all in one go. Tiny little steps with individual, groups, villages, are the only way to stop the epidemic of prejudice that has overcome the world.

Isn’t it time that we looked back and changed the way we see the world, and speak to people, instead of just saying sorry?

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