Artist's Statement

The most factor which led me to select the topic of Black Lives Matter (2020), because systemic racism still persists in the society. I have gone through various articles which made me aware how dehumanizing racism is. The protest was further enhanced by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi. The way they protested was really amazing because it unravelled the inherent discrimination in the society of United States. Their work inspired me to highlight this issue to bring about a positive change in the society by making the audience more aware. They addressed inequality through demonstrating in the streets. This trend was all over the United States and in other nations like Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa. This photo essay includes research conducted by reliable sources, such as the news agencies and the academic research, which discusses the role of social media in amplifying these protests from a local based demonstration to an international movement that needed to be responded to and restructured to bring justice to the people.

I have taken various decisions while doing the assignment. First, I attempted to choose the pictures that showed both grassroots activism and mass demonstrations, as a sign of power, which can be one of the representatives of the movement. Second, I applied the photographs of different countries to emphasize the fact that Black Lives Matter is not the issue at home, but the issue of the world, which demands justice (Silver et al. 362). Third, I have included statistics, links to governmental responses, for instance George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, so as to present some factual groundwork and to add credibility to the visual narrative. These were the ones that added to the emotional appeal.

Among the issues that I have encountered was my determination to not use too many pictures, which would depict the seriousness of the movement. I overcame this by being cautious

about structuring the images in such a way that it depicted different positions, locations, and forms of protest. This practice allowed making the photo essay interesting, informative, and respectful.

Works Cited

Silver, Eric, Kerby Goff, and John Iceland. "Social order and social justice: Moral intuitions, systemic racism beliefs, and Americans' divergent attitudes toward Black Lives Matter and police." *Criminology* 60.2 (2022): 342-369.