

**TOPIC:- What surprised me most about African-Peruvians and the similarities and Dissimilarities between their lives and mine?**

It surprises me that in this day and age discrimination is still prominent in some parts of the world. You would expect that by now people would be more open minded and view the black community as their equals but in some parts of the world the black community is still viewed as inferior and treats their black community as second class citizens. An example of a country such as this is Peru. In Peru, the black Peruvians still have to live with the stigma of the slave trade and are therefore treated without an ounce of dignity or respect. It amazes me how the black community in Peru are treated so differently to how the black community in UK are treated. Although the problem of discrimination has not entirely been overcome racism and discrimination is virtually non-existent where I live. It overwhelms me to think that the life of someone my age and ethnicity living in Peru is completely different from mine.

Not a lot is expected of the black people living Peru. The expectation level is not raised to high not giving the black community a lot to aspire for. Stereotypes confine the average black Peruvian to certain types of jobs such as chauffeurs and doormen. In each of these occupations they are expected to wait hand and foot for others, as if they are below them. In a country where 50% of the black community do not complete secondary education and almost 14% do not complete primary school, it is no wonder that the African Peruvians are believed to not be capable of doing multiple jobs. This is one of the many differences between my life and theirs; I have the opportunity to pursue having an education and in the process create a better life for myself. The African population of Peru simply do not have that chance to prove that they are capable of achieving better. I believe that education is the key to leading a long and successful life. It seems like, especially nowadays, people are constantly judging you on what school you attend and how intelligent you are. Without a proper education employers are more likely to turn you down for higher level jobs as they do not believe that you are capable of such things. The first step in ending discrimination in Peru and stop the rest of the population from viewing the African Peruvians as inferior is creating the same the opportunities for the black community and providing them with a chance to pursue a proper education.

In Peru it seems like inequalities in education are becoming inequalities in human rights. African Peruvians suffer more health problems, are poorer and less literate than the national average. It is no secret that Peru is not a very rich country with 1/3 of the Peruvian population living in poverty, on average these people are expected to survive on less than \$1 per day. Many people live with their illnesses undetected in Peru as they do not feel entitled to health services. This is completely different in the UK due to services such as the NHS people do not need to live in silence. In the UK whether you have a simple cold or a serious health condition you are encouraged to go to your local GP or hospital.

In conclusion, I believe that more needs to be done to improve the lives of the African Peruvians. During researching in preparation for this essay, I was shocked to see that discrimination of the black community to this extent still goes on in Peru. Everyone no matter your gender or race deserves to be treated with dignity and respect yet the black population of Peru are treated as second class citizens in their own country and are neglected by the rest of the population. I think what surprised me the most is the major difference in how they are treated and how I am. Things that I take for granted such as, education, is something that they are still struggling to get. I do not think that in this day and age anyone should be made to feel inferior to anybody and that the people of Peru need to rise above their perceptions and end discrimination.