

Why I March

Latrice Washington

I have seen many human rights violations in my short twenty-one years. I emancipated out of the foster care system three years ago with nowhere to go. My health care would run out shortly after. Being homeless is a burden, and many employers see that are reluctant to hire any homeless person. This is my story and the story of many of my friends. Housing and healthcare and employment are essential for a positive transition to adulthood.

I am marching for many reasons: I am marching for those poor people that cannot march. I am also marching because I feel that we can make a difference. If we as people come together and show that we will not stand to have our human rights violated any longer it is then that we can make a change.

Recently I was in Hollywood as a tourist, and I am so accustomed to thinking that Hollywood is all glitz and glamour. I even saw a star! But near the corner of Hollywood and Highland I saw about twenty homeless kids all bundled up together. Cold and hungry. This is something I know about Hollywood. They have this great economy with all the celebrities and tourists. Is it so hard to open up some shelters and some low income housing, more soup kitchens, community centers? I feel that it is time for America to stop being me, me, me and start being us, us, us!