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The Significance of Black History Month

The significance of Black History Month in February highlights and acknowledges outstanding black people. This month appreciates and shows exactly how black people have contributed to their community and the world. History shows how black people were treated terribly. For example, in the southern part of the United States they had to sit in the back of the bus just because of their skin tone. What happened to these people was disgraceful! It is completely wrong to treat people like this. Everyone is the same, no matter if he or she is black, white, yellow or green. It does not matter how much money you have or how much money you don't have. Everyone should be treated the same. We are all equal in this world. People like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks stood up for not only their rights, but all black people's rights. They made it happen, even though they suffered trying to change things. Sometimes we have to take a stand to make people listen and understand. Black History Month makes people aware of the suffering black people went through and should never have to go through again. Certain black people took charge and made it known that they should have a voice and not be discriminated. They proved that they are capable to do what white people can do.

In Bermuda there was a gentleman by the name of Richard Saunders, who was a black photographer trying to get a job. But he wasn't accepted due to his skin tone. He was a very good photographer and worked hard to prove that he was good enough. As he continued to work harder, he became a police photographer. In a "Royal Gazette" article by Chris Gibbons on February 14, 2022, it stated, "Saunders briefly worked as a police photographer, but disturbed by the social injustices in Bermuda society, became more determined to use his camera to communicate and educate." After doing this, he entered many of his photographs in an exhibition and because his work made such an impact in what he was expressing, they asked him not to enter anymore of his work again. He became very frustrated in the way he was being treated. So, he left Bermuda to study abroad and be more established. In this way, he was able to meet many professional people that eventually introduced him to photojournalism. Saunders was able to produce such amazing work that he received prizes in "Life Magazine." Moreover, he enjoyed taking photographs so much that he spent nineteen years in Tunisia and travelled to more than sixty assignments in forty-eight African countries where he said, "It was like going home." In 1982 Saunders earned the Black Photographers Award. Unfortunately, he died before he was to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bermuda Arts Council. It's sad that Bermuda finally acknowledged his work after he died, but now his work has been shown at the Bermuda National Gallery.

Reading articles like this one demonstrates why we have Black History Month. The significance of this month is a part of history that should be recognized along with all the black people that made a difference and succeeded despite the challenges facing them. Saunders was recognized later in his life. How else would we have learned about his wonderful accomplishments? This article demonstrates that if you are brave and strong enough to stand up for what you believe, anything is possible. Richard Saunders is an inspiration, not only to black people, but also to all people. Live your dream and stand up for your beliefs.