

You know what word I am tired of hearing?

But.

I am so tired of people saying things like,

BUT he was walking in the wrong neighborhood.

BUT he was walking with a hood on.

BUT he reached in his pocket.

But he used to...

But one time he...

But did you know that...

But did you hear that...

We use "but" in the most offensive way, because in the face of clear injustice, we try to use "but" to justify our apathy. We tell ourselves we don't have to speak up, that it's just too complicated, that we don't have a responsibility because of "but." The word "but" makes us feel good about ourselves and our privilege and our apathy and let's us sleep through the night safe in our own homes without one worry.

We use "but" as an excuse to get out of the call to justice that God has been so crystal clear about.

I would march for justice, but ...

I would write my representatives, but

I would speak up more, but...

But... but... but...

God, we need to learn to use a period. We need to learn to simply say, "Injustice is here." PERIOD. "A black man was killed unjustly." PERIOD. "Our systems are in need of repair." PERIOD. No if's, and's or but's... Because this is about justice. For Botham Jean, for black lives, for good. PERIOD.