In 2012 police killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed seventeen year old in Florida. The police officer who killed him did not go to prison.

In America black people are often treated as second class citizens by the police, and can experience violence and discrimination. Black people also face injustice at work, from other citizens and because of old government laws.

Black Lives Matter was started by three women: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi. They wanted to change this situation.

The women organised protests and educated the public trying to change people’s attitudes. Their focus was to include black women including black transgender women in the protest.

In 2014 Black Lives Matter held a protest in Ferguson after another young black man, Mike Brown, was killed by the police. When the people of Ferguson protested, the police reacted with unreasonable force.

In response, Darnell Moore and Patrisse Cullors organised the ‘Black Life Matters Ride’. Over 600 people attended. The protest was against violence in Ferguson and represented black communities everywhere.

Now Black Lives Matter works to stop inequality across America. Their main goal is to stop violence against black people and help make life better for black people around the world. The movement fights for all black lives including black transgender people, black queer people, black disabled people, black undocumented people, black women and black people with police records.

In 2020 the death of George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin caused protests across the world. Black Lives Matter protests forced the arrest of Chauvin.

Black Lives Matter made people pay attention to racism. They continue to fight for justice and equality.