

I have never truly known struggle. And I know it. I have never been denied from a program, from a restaurant, from a table in the lunchroom simply because of who I am. And I know that. The system that society adheres to has a very niche idea of who and what you have to be in order to be successful, and I just so happen to fit it. And I know that. I acknowledge that who I am has enabled me to be successful in my environment. But that's why I want to do something about it; because I see the system and its injustices, and it is within my power to change it.

I can't ever claim to have faced the same hardships that many of my fellow human beings have endured merely due to the color of their skin, their language, their culture, the shape of their body, the way that they act, or any other number of differences. The uniqueness of each and every person is what makes us an interesting society, yet it is also what limits many people from having the same opportunities in life that I have enjoyed. A song composed of only one note is monotonous and boring, the harmony of different instruments, notes, and rhythms is what truly makes a masterpiece.

I want to build up those around me who have not had the same opportunities handed to them that I have. It's important that it is not only me playing the different instruments, the different notes, and the different rhythms, but all of us together; no one overpowering the other; harmonizing in unity. Yet, just as a song has to be rehearsed to achieve this beautiful sound, so too do we as a society have a long road of rehearsals ahead of us before we can perform our concerto. I can't play for the other members in a band, and I can't speak on behalf of other groups whose challenges I have never faced; but I can help them. I can let them share their stories; their struggles; their voices and lift them up.

I can't pretend to know what it's like to be excluded due to prejudices that are as much a part of society as society itself. I can't speak on their behalf; I can't be their savior even if I wanted to. But I can do everything in my power to use my privilege to the advantage of groups that are not treated with the same respect.