

The map of the World, portrays Jamaica as a dot in comparison to the other big countries. The scope of influence this little dot has on the world is amazing, and I am proud to be Jamaican. In preparing for my university transition last year, I was positive I wanted to remain in Jamaica for school and I chose to stay because I knew I had the potential to do well so I could benefit my country as a professional and as a young person passionate about development.

Being Jamaican, to me, means much more than being a citizen, it means walking with a sense of pride, a sense of dignity. I remember saying this to someone recently and they thought I was highly mistaken. I refused to believe that however and during the conversation, I stood my ground and listed out everything I enjoyed about my resplendent culture. Here, our opulence was not achieved from oil or gold, but from our culture and that is indeed something to brag about. Our motto, “Out of Many One People” is a perfect representation of who we are as nation, a combination of various ethnicities, and beliefs, but together we are one.

Before coming to The University of The West Indies, I was very patriotic, and my view of Jamaica was mostly positive. I always took into consideration the negatives of the island, but they were not really that lucid in my mind.

Now, after one year amongst persons of different social classes, backgrounds, my view of my country has been tainted. Trust me, I am still very patriotic, but the social ills of this little island are getting out of control, and I believe that I have a minute, but impactful part to play in changing it for the better.

First of all, as a student from the rural area, classism was never a huge thing. I thought those days were long gone, and were only worthy of mention as a means of moving forward. Back in high school, I read critical plays by Trevor Rhone, Jamaican author that highlighted this social ill, and I was confident that was just Rhone’s commentary on Jamaica in the 1960’s. Since being at university classism has been obvious in the way individuals treat each other and segregate based on who their parents are, and how

much money their parents make. Rhone was commenting on Jamaica then, and the impact our past has had on our current behavior. This has done absolutely nothing for our economy, because it is evident that there is an unfair distribution of wealth in our economy. Scamming a huge criminal problem has made once very impoverished Jamaicans very rich, and can be attributed to persons in the “lower class” comparing themselves with those of the “upper class”, who fail to incorporate others in their businesses, due to stigma derived from classism.

As an upcoming Lawyer, I believe it is my duty to talk out against these things, and clearly depict that I am against it. My individual duty is to not fall in these traps, as they do the country more harm than good. Each of us, have a niche in this society and every role is as important as the other. Thus, we should all bind together and focus on one goal. One goal to make a better Jamaica, free from corruption and other social-ills. My Jamaica, One nation, One Goal, One future.