

My name is Demetria Hester, I am a 45 year old African American woman from Memphis Tennessee. I moved to Portland 4 years ago and I was unaware of the hate that white people have for minority people here. On the night of May 25, 2017 I was verbally attacked by Jeremy Joseph Christian for more than 3 stops as I rode the max yellow line train after working a 10 hour shift.

The verbal attack was horrible and demonic, his threatening of my life and everyone that was not white and christian was inhuman. When I asked Jeremy not to threaten people because of their color, religion or sex, he said that he would kill and rape me, that I shouldn't be in his country and that he built this country and I didn't.

When we arrived at the Rose Quarter stop where I had to get off to catch my other train to get home, he also got off before me and reached in his bag and grabbed a Gatorade bottle filled with wine, waiting for me to get off. When I saw him about to throw it at me, I maced him in the face, when he was down I kicked him in the groin. 2 TriMet supervisors watched it all happen and did not help me. While my eye was bloody and black I walked over to catch the green line max to go home alone. As I am sitting for 10 minutes watching Jeremy wash his face out in the water fountain across the street from me, I was wondering if he going to attack me again.

The same 2 TriMet supervisors came over and said "the police are here now, would you like to talk to them?" I said yes after 10 minutes. The officer approached me he immediately treated me like I was the assailant not the victim. He asked for my id and refused to let the supervisor who witnessed it tell him what happened. When I pointed out Jeremy to the police, he said he had already asked Jeremy and he said he had nothing to do with the incident. The police officer still did not pursue Jeremy until a second officer arrived in a patrol car and by that time Jeremy had walked away.

The police refused to treat me with any respect and let Jeremy get away knowing who he was and what kind of hate he was spreading. The police did not care about what happened to me and catching Jeremy and it showed by letting him get away to kill people the very next day with the same kind of hate Jeremy was spreading. He wanted people to feel the same way he feels and the police and TriMet let him do it and this Must Stop!

I am here today to say Stop This Hate from continuing to happen only changing the laws to allow this kind of behavior to be stopped is the way for change! No Human being should have to live a life in a country where you are hated for living your life.