

It was instilled in me from a young age that police can be trusted, that I should call for them when in crisis. As I have grown older, I have seen the more grim reality. These people that I trusted to uphold justice and to protect the people have their own agendas. Their organizations are full of corruption. Many of them harbor hate for people with my skin color, gender identity, and other facets of what make me, me. Not only that, but the bar is set incredibly low in terms of the training and mindset required for police work. How can I place my trust in police when I am constantly being shown the kinds of people being allowed to become police officers? How can I trust police with ties to white supremacist organizations to truly act in the interest of people like me? It's not enough to see police participate in pride, or to acknowledge MLK Jr. These seem very performative and superficial. I want to see real change that reflects that real thought is going into our policing system.