

# #102 A TedX Talk, Ted Lasso & Racism

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

white, treated, racism, speak, lives, mothers, tedx talk, people, educate, black, uncomfortable, stand, raising, ted, moms, hear, son, simplified, friends, woman

## SPEAKERS

Michelle Glogovac

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- M** Michelle Glogovac 00:01  
You're listening to the mind simplified life podcast and this is episode number 102.
  - M** Michelle Glogovac 00:12  
Welcome to the My simplified life podcast, a place where you will learn that your past and even your present. don't define your future. Regardless of what stage of life you're in, I want you to feel inspired and encouraged to pursue your dreams, simplify your life and start taking action today. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac, and I'm excited to share my stories and life lessons with you will taking you on my own journey. This is my simplified life.
  - M** Michelle Glogovac 00:46  
Hey friends, welcome back to another episode. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac, I want to share with you my personal experience of what it's like to stand up for what you believe in. I'm very open. And I'd like to think outspoken when it comes to the fact that I believe we need to do better in raising our kids to be anti racist. I also know that I'm not someone who has extensive experience on the topic. But I do know what my beliefs are. And I know they're right. In my mind, in my heart, there is no right or wrong when it comes to judging anyone or treating them differently because of their skin color. It's simply not a topic that's up for debate. This is definitely something that I feel strongly about. And I want

other human beings to step up and fight for the rights of our nine white friends, especially our black brothers and sisters. No one can turn a blind eye to what history has looked like, or what we continue to see going on in our country. And yet, there are still a ridiculous amount of people who choose to look the other way, and live blissfully in their ignorance. I came into direct contact with some of these individuals this past month, and it rocked me to my core. Maybe you can notice the title of this episode is about a TEDx committee, and Ted Alaska. And it's got you curious, we recently started watching Ted Lasso. And my goodness, it's my favorite show. Now, I could gladly sit and watch episodes all day and all night long. I've laughed and cried and taken to heart what Ted Lasso and AFC Richmond are about. It's a football team, or soccer as we know it over here. And it's made up of a variety of individuals from all over the world. And from all types of backgrounds. Ted Lasso was the coach and he's the most optimistic person you will ever meet. He sees the good in others, he works hard for them to see it in themselves. And in others. He encourages everyone to be a team player. And to lift each other up. We need positive people like to have Lasso. And here's why. I shared in Episode 83 about how I'm working to raise anti-racist children. I also spoke about how I believe that white moms need to really lead the way in ending racism. Because it's a learned behavior. I want my children to stand up for others to see color, acknowledge it, and for history to never repeat itself. I feel called to spread this message far and wide. And so I decided to apply for a TEDx talk on this topic. I applied to a few and made it to round two of interviews for a TEDx talk in Utah. I was beyond excited to have the opportunity to speak to the planning committee and share my story of how I explained racism to my son, and how as a white Mom, I feel we need to do more, to educate ourselves, and to relieve black mothers from the weight that they've been carrying for so long. Let me share with you what this interview experience was like. The panel consisted of two white men, two white women, and one Filipino woman. So obviously not the most diverse of panels to start with. The welcome message to me, was that the title of my talk, why white moms are the answer to ending racism should be changed to an answer, because white moms aren't the only thing that will end racism. I nodded my head and simply said, okay, because friends, I wasn't going to offer to make an offer to make that kind of concession in changing my talk title, especially after we had just said hello. Prior to me sharing what my entire talk would consist of the committee chairperson decided to tell me why he thought my talk probably wasn't right for their venue. Obviously, this was not going to be a positive conversation, but I continue to be optimistic. He said The city he lived in, had a non-white population of approximately 4%. But that 4% were all treated really well. So there's no racism. Let me repeat for you what he said. We have a 4% non-white population here, but we treat them really well. So we really don't have racism here. And I'm not sure if your talk would be applicable.



Michelle Glogovac 05:27

Do you see what is so wrong with this statement? We treat them really well. What in the actual fuck my friends? That's like saying, Yes, I own slaves, but they're happy. So it's not a big deal. I shouldn't have to explain why this is so wrong. But on the off chance that someone listening doesn't get it. Let me break it down for you. No one has a right to say how someone else feels. And in fact, when you claim to treat another person really well, it says to me that you probably actually treat them like crap. And you are absolutely ignorant to what someone is going through. How dare anyone try to speak for a group of individuals who have continued to be treated as less than for centuries. My response to this comment was that I to know what it's like to live in a predominantly white community. Because where I grew up in Paradise, there was only a handful of black people. But I can assure you that although some may have treated them with kindness, I saw crosses burned on front lawns, therefore, I know that they weren't all treated well by everyone. And that's not a statement that we can say. With this, I was then able to go into detail around my proposed talk. I shared how my son saw George Floyd murdered because the news happened to be on one evening, and the questions he had around it. I shared the honesty in which I answered those questions, that there are good people and bad people that George Floyd did not deserve to die. And that although police officers are his buddies, and for the most part, there are good ones, there are also bad ones. We discussed how George Floyd was a black man. And because he was black, that meant that officer Derrick shovin hated him, because of his skin color. I told him how we see skin colors and how those colors have meant that not everyone has been treated equally over the years. But that now it's our job to do better. I encouraged him to speak up and stand up for anyone who has ever been made fun of or treated as less than, and that is okay to speak up and out. And to tell an adult, how we have books that also discuss the differences and others, whether it's our skin color, or something else, and how we all have the right to be treated equally everywhere. I was given five minutes in total to speak on all of this, including how racism is a learned behavior. Therefore, if White mothers are teaching our children to do better, then we have the potential to end racism. I heard Derek savons mother's speak at the end of his trial. And it certainly sounded like she did not raise her son to stand up for others, to treat them with dignity and respect. And the plain fact that I do not want my son to grow up to be another Derrick shaven. As I wrapped it up, the committee chair thanked me and said, although I'm a single white man, and this talk doesn't apply to me, it is something I'd like to hear more about. Today this, I replied that I don't want to assume but as a white man, possibly you have a white mother, is that correct? He said yes. And I said, well, then this talk would apply to your mother, whom I assume raised you properly and to be an anti racist. Therefore, this talk does apply to you. That was met with silence and what I hope was a mic drop type of moment. The other committee members were then allowed to ask me questions, I was met with rave reviews from the only non white committee member who shared her stories of working in diversity and equity, and how racism is certainly prevalent in Utah, as well as a

big thank you and great feedback from one of the white females on the panel. The only two that were left was an older white man who finally turned on his camera to say that he had no questions and promptly turned his camera off again. Obviously, he was enthralled with what I had to say. Last was a middle aged white woman who started off by saying, quote, let me preface my question by saying that I'm not saying that instead of black lives matter that all lives matter. But why shouldn't all mothers be responsible for raising anti racist kids?

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Michelle Glogovac 09:58

The fact that she prefaced Question with that statement said to me that she very much so was saying that all lives matter. And I knew that it was now my time to not only fight for what I believed in. But to try my best to educate the ignorant. I stepped up to the plate. And I explain how all mothers do have that responsibility, but in a very big, but as white moms, we haven't had to educate our sons on how the tone of their voice can get them into trouble, or how they need to keep their hands at 10. And two, when they're pulled over by a police officer, or not to put a hoodie on over their head. We haven't had the burden of trying to educate other moms or live out a history of racism and segregation. We don't see black officers out killing white men simply because they're white. No, we've seen white cops killing black men for simply being black and having such hatred in their hearts. As white moms, it is way overdue for us to carry some of that burden and lighten the load of our black sisters. We need to pick up the slack and do better by educating our children. Friends, I made this woman physically uncomfortable, she started to grab it her blouse and move in her chair. And I kept going. I have talked about getting uncomfortable getting comfortable with being uncomfortable. But at this moment in time, I was really damn comfortable and it felt good. Yet it also made me feel sad and angry that I would have to take this opportunity to educate the ignorant. But that's what my TEDx talk was ultimately all about, wasn't it? White moms are the answer to ending racism. No, I didn't get accepted for the TEDx talk in Utah. Go figure. But I gave my speech to a panel of people who needed to hear it most. It would appear that I didn't change minds for at least two. But hopefully it laid the seed to make them think a bit more. And to be less comfortable with their blatant ignorance. Have you heard of people saying they're exhausted, exhausted by the news, exhausted of having to educate and talk over and over about the same thing? Only for others not to understand? Well, I'm privileged. for 38 years, I didn't feel exhausted. But now I do. And now I understand how my black friends must feel. They've been living this reality, all of their lives. I've only just stepped up. I haven't been fighting this fight for long. And yet I'm tired. Tired of having to explain to grown people why it's important that we do better. Why the history of racism still rages on today. I'm going to be blunt and say that if you still don't get it, you're stupid. You aren't listening, you don't care. You are turning a blind eye and a deaf ear on what is right in front of you. It

doesn't take being an adult or a scholar to understand this. I have young children who get it. And if they can grasp this concept that everyone should be treated equally than dammit grown ass adults should be able to understand it. I just said something that I want to talk more about. I told you I'm privileged. Let's talk about what privilege actually means. There's a lot of types of privilege. And lately, we hear more and more about white privilege and white fragility. white fragility is discomfort and defensiveness on the part of a white person when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice. The woman that I made visibly uncomfortable showed her white fragility. She didn't like being told that our history of racism has sucked. And those of us around today need to do better. I later looked her up and discovered that she has a blue Lives Matter badge on her Facebook page. I'm not anti police. I'm grateful for the men and women in blue who protect us. But I'm not naive in my thinking that black people have had tough lives and continue to fight for their place in the world when they shouldn't have to. Maybe her son is an officer and she put herself in the shoes of Derrick Shannon's mom whose son is now in a prison cell. If she is, then she should have done better than raising him.

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Michelle Glogovac 14:33

white privilege are inherent advantages possessed by a white person on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice. I am a privileged white woman because I didn't come up against racial issues for the vast majority of my life. I didn't speak out against it. It wasn't singled out or discriminated against because I was white. And for anyone who doesn't like these words, let me remind you that This isn't about you. This is about standing up for others, for black men and women, for those people who continue to wake up every single day and face such hatred. And why? Because they have a different skin color than others. I'm saddened that I won't be taking a stage to let this all be known and to try to change the mindsets of those who need it. But I am proud of having that moment in time in my life, where I was able to face individuals with their backwards thinking and meet them head on. I want racists to feel uncomfortable. They shouldn't have the opportunity to be okay with saying things like all lives matter. And why isn't this up to all mothers know, it's time for those who've been comfortable with discriminating to be uncomfortable, and to be the minority. I honestly don't know what it will take to change people like that. But I know that I have found my voice, and I'm going to use it every chance I get. There is no room for ignorance or racism or bigotry. For those of you who are trying your hardest to make your voice heard and make a difference, I hear you. Please don't give up. Because I'm not going to give up. I'm going to keep talking and working hard to ensure that the world changes that our neighbors change, that TEDx panels become more diverse and encompassing of topics that really do affect their small minded communities, that the words we use are more carefully chosen, that blanket statements aren't made, that we listen when others speak,

and not just to the words, but to the experiences and meaning behind them. We've all seen this play out on TV with events like the white couple armed with guns and illusions that black people were trespassing on their property to get to them. But when we see that, we just think wow. At the same time, that's not our neighbor, nor are we the person they're aiming their guns at. There's a distance between those events in our real lives. And yet, these people are out there, they are more than okay with standing up for what they believe in, no matter how incredibly asked backward and wrong it is. It's time we take that lesson from them. It's time we stand up for what we believe in and make it known. We need to be more vocal, especially as white moms. Start by talking to your kids at home, have honest conversations with them. Don't be afraid to speak up. I'm not saying that it won't be scary when you do it. But I will tell you that if you truly believe in equal rights, the words will simply flow out of you. You won't need to worry about what to say because you will just say it. My hope is that if more of us speak up, if more of us correct others when they spew the bullshit they believe then we can finally see change happen. There is right and there is wrong. And I'm on the side of right. Until next week, my friends, speak up, make the ignorant, uncomfortable and be the change