Responses to Racial Violence: Unequal Expectations of Black Forgiveness
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INTRODUCTION
• Normative expectancy of Black forgiveness (Johnson & Fisher, 2019; McFarland et al., 2011).
• Racist actions that are forgiven, no longer need to be addressed or prevented (Wedderburn & Carey, 2017).
• Perpetuates implicit biases involving Black forgiveness

METHODS
• N = 219 undergraduate participants (Male: 86, Female: 131, Female to Male Transgender: 1, Prefer not to say: 1.
  White/Caucasian: 61.4%, Hispanic-American/Latino: 20.9%, Asian American/Pacific Islander: 7.5%, Native American: 3.8%, African American/Black: 3.1%, Multiracial: 1.6%, Other: 1.6%, Arab/Arab-American/Middle Eastern: 1.2%)
• 2 (White Victim/Black Victim) X 2 (Forgive/Not Forgive) between subjects design
• Dependent variable: tendency to forgive (Brown, 2003; α = 0.60), positive emotions (admirable, comfortable, etc.; α = 0.90), negative emotions (hostile, angry, etc.; α = 0.90)

RESULTS
• Forgiveness story viewed more positively and non-forgiveness story more negatively
• Higher tendency to forgive when Black victim forgave vs did not forgive

DISCUSSION
• Student sample
• Black forgiveness is seen as admirable and exemplar
• Effect but not consequence

Tendency to forgive increases following exposure to Black victim forgiving racial violence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Number of Responses</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forgive</td>
<td>Forgive the cashier</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>25.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Forgive</td>
<td>Not forgive the cashier</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Seek legal action against cashier</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Attitudes</td>
<td>Angry and avoidant attitudes towards the situation</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Comment</td>
<td>Responses not applicable</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>Choose not to make public comment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity</td>
<td>Forgive due to religious reasons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THEME EXAMPLES
Forgive: “I would work very hard to forgive the cashier, just as the victim did.”
Not Forgive: “…you don’t owe forgiveness to anyone who has wronged you.”
Justice: “I would want to press charges and have compensation for that event.”
Negative Attitudes: “I would have been extremely upset, and certainly not as forgiving. I would probably feel deep anger towards the person…”
No Comment: “I don’t think I would comment.”
Privacy: “Personally, if I were the victim in this news story I would try to keep away from media spotlight.”
Religiosity: “I would do my best to forgive the cashier because that is what Jesus calls us to do…”