

From: "Lila at KUOW" <lila@npr.kuow.org>
Subject: "We need action. We need change."
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RadioActive's Hong Ta, Essey Paulos and Marian Mohamed stand outside the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct on Capitol Hill in 2019. Photo Credit: KUOW Photo

Hello --

I'm the program manager for [KUOW's award-winning youth journalism program, RadioActive](#), which provides workshops and hands-on experience producing, editing and writing pieces for public radio. Last summer, three youth journalists in our program published a piece titled "[You won't kill me.' The repetitive reality of police brutality cases.](#)"

I'm inviting you to revisit or discover this piece because it is so relevant to the current unrest in our community and across the nation. Below, I've selected three excerpts:

"One of my career choices was becoming a police officer, but looking at that clip [of Eric Garner's killing]... I'm now re-thinking that choice. I wouldn't want to have to represent that kind of broken system. I wouldn't be able to do that to myself."

- Marian Mohamed

"The media stereotypes Black and Brown people as dangerous for their community. Police officers are meant to protect. But who are they protecting if they are killing part of our community? All those things we see in the media perpetuate this idea and continues the cycle of another killing, another acquittal."

- Essey Paulos

"We need action. We need change. That's how we're going to actually heal communities and finally hold police officers accountable."

- Marian Mohamed, Essey Paulos, and Hong Ta

These three young people of color from the Puget Sound region share their experiences with police, and question why officers so often go unpunished for killing Black and Brown people.

The mission of RadioActive is to amplify unique perspectives of youth, as well as teaching them valuable skills that help them become the journalists of tomorrow.

Despite the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, we're proud to be able to continue the intro workshops this summer in an all-virtual format. You'll be able to hear new stories from our incredible participants this month, so make sure you're subscribed to RadioActive Youth Media wherever you get your podcasts, [or keep an eye on our website](#).

Here are two other RadioActive projects you might enjoy, and I hope they help expand your perspective on how youth are processing what is happening in our world right now:

- [RadioActive stories as musicals, produced in partnership with 5th Avenue Theatre's Rising Stars program](#)
- [Black youth in Seattle have a message for the police](#)

Thanks for listening,



Lila Kitaeff Lakehart (they/them)
RadioActive Program Manager

P.S. We've been able to sustain RadioActive because of listener support and generosity. If you appreciate this work, [consider making a contribution to KUOW today](#) - any amount goes a long way toward making this work possible. Thank you.

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