News Review

MRS CARTLEDGE
Is protesting against racism a duty for everyone?
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• As Black Lives Matter protests swept across the world this weekend, the focus is turning to the role of white people in fighting the injustice.
• Armed with home-made placards thousands stood united at the largest UK Black Lives Matter protest yet.
• They marched against the racism they believe is endemic in society.
• After the death of George Floyd in the US in May, protests spread first around the USA and then the world.
Is protesting against racism a duty for everyone?

• This is not the first-time protesters have taken to the streets against police brutality.
• But this time, there was another message: the call for white people to join in.
• In the UK, one protesters sign quoted Martin Luther King Jr: ‘A time comes when silence is betrayal’
• People often talk about the duty to vote, but do we also have a duty to protest?
• Terrible injustices happen every day, surely it would be impossible to speak out about all of them.
Is protesting against racism a civic duty for everyone?

• **No**, say some.
• Protesting is not part of civic duty.
• The place to enact change in a democratic system is at the ballot box, not on the streets.
• It is not the responsibility of everyday citizens to fight against racism – but the duty of politicians elected on their behalf.
• Protest can cause more problems and lead to violence, which undermines the cause.
Is protesting against racism a civic duty for everyone?

• **Yes**, say others.
• The current system is not working.
• Parliaments are rarely representative and voting alone is not enough to cause change.
• Protests are needed to bring new ideas and new causes to the political agenda.
• It is not the duty of the victims of racism to fight against it; everyone should care about creating a just society.