

## Anonymous

*'I think they feel like we're invading their community.'*

Sometimes you have to look at the area where you're going to live, so you don't go through what we went through. We moved to have more of a community for our children and for their well-being. But we didn't think that there could be racism here. For example, this area has a lot of black people from Belize, who are similar to African Americans; they act like them. Sometimes it's racism, like, *they don't want us*, as Latinos. I think they feel we're invading their community. But I think there's all kinds of people everywhere, right?

When we started living here, we had problems with a neighbor. We'd just arrived, and we didn't know much about the area because we only lived in apartments before. My husband said it's safer. A few days later, our next-door neighbor's dogs--I don't know how--made a hole under our fence and got into our house. This lady came over knocking and yelling, really angry, insulting us, telling us that we were thieves because they'd lost their dogs. Asking how we could steal something that didn't belong to us. Saying that as soon as we Latinos arrived, things went missing. One of my family members told her that we didn't have anything of hers; she could come in and see for herself. Truthfully, how were we going to take them? They're vicious.

We were frustrated. I mean, she didn't even know us and started calling us names. That's one of the reasons that we felt a little racism towards us. Little by little she started getting to know us and now we sort of get along. We say good morning, and that's it. But we experienced that. Little by little the racism started to decrease a little.

Not much later, someone else who lived around here broke into our house. We'd barely finished moving in. I think the police were after him. We got scared because we didn't have anything. We'd come from some apartments and this was a house. We felt somewhat safe, but sometimes it's frustrating, especially for our kids. There were some neighbors who sold drugs. The police were constantly coming. Once we were scared because they destroyed our inner door. The police would come around frequently.

*'There's a lot of racism now.'*

More than anything, we did it for our children, because we are instilling in them not to be violent, involved in crime, in drug addiction...*don't follow those footsteps...become good citizens*. That's something we want, for them

to be good men and women, you know? Good citizens. In order to create a generation that's decent and studies, keeps improving. That's my biggest, well -- how can I say it? -- hope. That they're a different generation, that there will be a change in this country. That we don't have so much racism. You see there's a lot of it right now. With the president we had, that's what he was imposing on everyone--racism. It was there already, but he made it worse. Now, let's hope to God that everything will change and be better for us and our children, too.

We're human beings and we're all the same. We're coming from different races, but we're all human beings. I want to say: be aware. Thank God, now it's slowly decreasing, because in this same community there are more Latinos. So, they're already seeing and accepting.

I'd like policy makers to support people who want to buy houses to prevent discrimination against people's identity. Like Koreans, Chinese...everyone? We're all the same. I think that [discrimination] shouldn't happen. There must be equality and equity.

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