



# Roger Courage Matthisens tale ved Black Lives Matter-demonstrationen

**Taler**

Roger Courage Matthisen

**Dato**

3. juni 2020

**Sted**

Christiansborg Slotsplads,  
København

**Omstændigheder**

Talen er oversat af Roger Courage Matthisen

1 Here we are again.

George Floyd is dead. May he rest in peace. George Floyd leaves behind two daughters – the oldest, a young woman, had to watch her father being  
5 murdered on live television. His youngest daughter is merely 6 years old. She too has lost her father.

And the world has lost a little more of its humanity. In the face of racism. In the face of disregard for black lives. In the face of oppression and discrimination.

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And here we are again. I am a black man. I am about the same age as George Floyd. I have a daughter about the same age as his youngest daughter. She is right here. Protesting with us.

15 A friend of mine wrote Yesterday: I am #GeorgeFloyd! I feel your knee on my neck, the daggers in your thin fake smile and the privilege in your silence.

Here we are again.

20 We are here in solidarity. With our black and African brothers and sisters all over the world. We are more fortunate here in Denmark. The police do not kill us. But they do harass us.

We see our children being discriminated against in schools, at work, when they  
25 are looking for a place to live. We have the numbers, we have the research. Rockwool Fonden, Institut for Menneskerettigheder, PhD after PhD after PhD

is providing you with the reality of systemic racism and discrimination – the reality of our struggle.

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And yes, it is connected to George Floyd. To Eric Garner. To Tamir Rice. And yes, it is a global struggle.

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When Paludan is screaming his racism out in our streets. Harassing black people. Harrassing Bwalya from Black Lives Matter.

Yes it is all connected.

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When African refugees and people on the run are drowning ALL YEAR ROUND in the Mediterranean Sea. And STILL you do nothing. Yes, it is all connected.

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And we are asking you to act. White people. You say you love us. You say you respect us. But I see hate from many of you. I see indifference. I see silence – from the majority of you!

The goverment's so called departure centers for asylum seekers – those are in fact inhumane prisons.

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Yes it is connected.

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I see our government passing laws that are state sanctioned discrimination, your so called ghetto laws, you even single us out by the color of our skin and call the PLACES where we live for ghettos. The only government in the world who actually uses the word GHETTO in your policies. The only government in the world.

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And a social democratic minister of housing refuses to stop using this word in policies.

We have a government who wants to punish 6 year old children because they don't speak the danish language adequately. Your empathy isn't ADEQUATE. Your willingness to end racism isn't ADEQUATE.

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And, yes it is connected.

You say you respect us. Show us! We are asking you to act. To show up.

70 The honorable Martin Luther King Jr. said it 50 years ago:

The greatest obstacle for black people to be free – to be equal – is not the Ku Klux Klanner and not the white nationalist – it is you! You! White moderate. You! Sitting at home reading Politiken. Watching! Being silent. Liking our posts  
75 on Facebook. Sharing our tweets. You. You need to stand up. You need to stand up and show up. You need to demand justice and equality for Africans and black people. Justice and equality in politics, in the exploitation of the African continents, the child labor, in policing, in education, in society. In person. You need to help dismantle racism. In person. Now!

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Get involved. Take responsibility! You say you love us. Show us. Start acting. Stand up. Now.

White People. Racism does not go away because you are a nice person. Because  
85 you donate 300 kroners to Røde Kors. Because you smile at me when you go shopping.

What can you do? Join an activist group. We are plenty who need you. What can you do? You can demand inclusion and anti-oppressive work environments  
90 at your schools – your work places. What can you do? You can stand up – and listen!

I presented a full anti racism action plan to parliament last year. Why? And Why is it not in effect now?

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What can you do? Stand up – show up. Get involved. Take responsibility! NOW!

And for you – my beautiful brothers and sisters – listen: Did you know that the  
100 community building, the values and mindsets that helped Martin Luther King to become the leader he was – that this movement was born here in Denmark? Did you know? Martin Luther King – along with Rosa Parks and many others received training in community building and social justice from highlander Folk School in Tennessee. But the founder of Highlander Folk School was

inspired by the folk schools of Denmark in 1931, he was inspired by Grundtvig, the father of folk schools who taught citizens to take active part in society, to contribute to society for all.

110 So I say this, my beautiful brothers and sisters. Fighting the good fight everyday  
of your lives – I know you are hurting. I know you are tired. And I know you  
are heartbroken. Don't give up. Stay strong. Do not settle. Do not back down.  
Stay in the fight. But find a healing group to deal with the pressure. Use each  
other much more. Seek comfort in your community. We have to stay  
115 connected. Especially you, brothers. Do not let yourself be isolated. Reach out.  
And those of us who have the strength, reach out to the brothers and sister in  
need. Organise, mobilize.

Collectively we are strongest. And collectively we can create a civil rights  
120 movement here in Denmark. And we need.

Collectively.

Thank you.

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**Kilde**

Manuskript tilsendt af taler og udgivet af Danske Taler med tilladelse fra taler.

**Kildetype**

Digitalt manuskript

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**Tags**

Demonstrationstale

**URI**

<https://www.dansketaler.dk/tale/roger-courage-matthisens-tale-ved-black-lives-matter-demonstrationen>

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