

VOCABULARY► **Sports**

- football fans
- (reactions from ) the sporting world
- a football manager
- an athlete
- to score a (decisive) goal
- a tournament
- to deliver a historic triumph
- to attend a game

► **Sports and activism**

- to go on a BLM march
- to be fuelled by the social justice movement
- to take the knee (to protest racial injustice)
- an antiracism gesture
- to do work on social justice issues
- to speak out / to stand up for social justice
- to be a force for change
- to use one's eloquence off the court to generate engagement and cause change
- to protest systemic racism / inequality / police brutality
- to try to silence the athletes who speak out
- athletes are often met with criticism for expressing their opinions
- the anti racism gesture was met with opposition
- to be the stalwart of a movement

The LGBTQ movement / The movement for equal pay

► **Racism**

- to receive racist abuse
- to eradicate racism
- to deny racism
- racism and wider discrimination is (structurally) ingrained in our society
- the noxious double standard (= hypocrisy) of populist demagogues

- to be subject to injustices and inequalities

► **General**

- to play a leading role in doing
- to take meaningful steps
- to airbrush sth from history (EX the achievements of people of colour)
- to call on s.o. to do sth
- to benefit (immensely) from sth

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

- “the significance of the moment goes well beyond the immediate context”
- there is still some way to go / a long way to go

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FACTS and EXAMPLES● **A lot of things have changed since the murder of George Floyd**

- > EX: Black British football players taking the knee used to be criticised but now joined by teammates
- > EX the Law Tennis Association admitted that it was predominantly white

● **Examples of sportsmen and women that are also activists:**

- > WNBA players act on many social issues

Vaccination campaign

Encourage people to vote

Mentorship programs for young people

Intervened in Georgia's senator election campaign

> **LeBron James**

Has been active for many years

Wore hoodies after shooting of Trayvon Martin in 2012 (See video on Cahier de Prépa for 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of T. Martin's death)

Wore a tee-shirt with “I can't Breathe” after death of Eric Garner in 2014

Brave, unwavering, passionate in support of community

> **Naomi Osaka**

Wore masks with the name of Black victims of police brutality  
Wrote an opinion piece in The New York Times, in Dec 2020  
(Later spoke out about mental health issues for top athletes)

> **Megan Rapinoe**, star soccer player, captain of women's team

Fight for Equal Pay  
Campaign for LGBTQ+ rights (married to basketball player Sue Bird)

> **Muhammad Ali**

Refused to be drafted and opposed the Vietnam war in 1967  
Was sentenced to jail, stripped of his titles, prevented from boxing for three years

> **Tommie Smith and John Carlos**

Raise their black-gloves fists in 1968 Mexico games (were stripped of their medals and suspended)

● **Negative reactions to their activism**

> Fans booed England for taking the knee during European Championship game and then Home secretary Priti Patel did not condemn them. She called it "gesture politics"  
> LeBron James was told to "shut up and dribble" by a news anchor (on Fox News)

● **Sports people cannot be disconnected from society**

> Campaign by Migration Museum London to underline the impact of immigration on British society and particularly on football  
<https://www.migrationmuseum.org/footballmovespeople/>

● **Sports people as role models / Sport as game changer in society**

> cf doc 1  
> Basketball players in the U.S. / female football players in the U.K. and their amazing victory  
> The 2012 London Olympics (and opening ceremony) > sense of communion

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

▶ **Should sport just be sports and politics just politics?**

- Question raised by Naomi Osaka in her guest essay in the New York Times  
Her answer is No!  
Because athletes live in same country as everyone else, also victims of injustices and inequalities / are also affected by what happens in their country / can't keep their mouth shut  
They are human beings!  
- There has always been a link between sports and politics  
  
- the International Olympic Committee claim sports and politics should be mixed.

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▶ **Can sports be "used" by politicians?**

- Hypocrisy of Priti Patel  
- Joe Biden welcoming popular sportswomen in the white house and getting the support of Megan Rapinoe  
- Uyghur torch bearer in Beijing Olympics to "whitewash" human rights abuses against them