

Resilience Among the Chaos: A Personal Reflection

Keionna Thomas (She/Her)

Researcher & Designer of '*A Chronicle of Chaos*'

Full Circle Living Associate

When I think about pre-election, I remember consistently emphasizing how bad things would be if Donald Trump were elected as President again. My mind wandered to all degrees of horrible outcomes that were basically guaranteed to happen.

I remember urging people about how bad it would get, and I was shocked by how often I was met with a dismissive attitude, or the remarks “it won’t be that bad” or “he won’t actually do it”.

Here’s the thing: yes, I was right. But even I didn’t think it would be this bad. And I for sure did not anticipate it being this bad, this *fast*.

I sit writing this with a full year of the Trump administration having passed. I’ve spent the last six months doing a deep dive into the horrendous actions, policies, and commentary from Trump and his administration, and translating the ‘what’ into the impact it will have.

I’ve noticed the **patterns and cruelty** inflicted on every person (except for rich white men, of course) and just how immense the impact is on marginalized communities; **people who look like me.**

In the past six months, I've probably felt every emotion possible.

Exhaustion – Every time I thought I had seen it all, there was more! The research was endless. Even with the extensive amount of content featured on the website, it only scratches the surface of what is happening. **It's overwhelming.**

Depression – Why? How? Watching hundreds of years of progress being thrown in the trash. Disregarding all that the generations before me did to create a safe, inclusive community, and doing so with *no remorse*. There were days I had ZERO motivation or optimism for the future. (There's an ongoing joke in the office that I'll be taking off and moving to Portugal.)

Anger – *What the ****!* Watching what this administration has gotten away with was infuriating. A Black man can look the wrong way and be shot and killed. But look what these 'politicians' are getting away with. No consequences – in fact, they are getting praised. Make it make sense.

Confusion – Reading quotes from this administration really made me scratch my head. How do you get into such a position of power but make no sense when you speak? This really baffled me.

Joy – In the midst of this rollercoaster, after days where I felt hope was gone, **the resistance is not dead.** The work is still being done, whether on the forefront or in the shadows. The people and organizations we've had the honor of engaging with during this process brought me so much joy, because even in the midst of what was like a tornado on fire heading toward a tsunami, *change is still being made.* Wins are still happening. We are still showing them OUR power, and ***they. are. terrified.***

With that said, I had a few main takeaways from creating the **Chronicle of Chaos**.

- *Expect anything*. There are no limits, no boundaries.
- Double, triple, and quadruple check your information. **We are being lied to daily**. Do your own diligence and stay informed.
- Find your people. Believe it or not, there are still some normal people who are fighting *the good fight*. Find those people, and keep them close!
- No action is too small. Do what you can, and know that those actions all cumulate into major change.

As we launch the tracker, I look forward to giving others a space to learn what is happening and how they can take action. We are tired of the lies, we are tired of the loss of life, and we are tired of watching our quality of life diminish before our eyes.

We will not be silenced. We will not stand back. We will not be walked on. We are here to stay.

This is **Keionna Thomas**, a proud Black, bisexual, ‘twenty somethin’ year old woman in the Southeast, reminding you that our unique identities and stories as working-class individuals weave together the fabric of a richer, more inclusive world.