Stop and Frisk is a policy that is currently in use by police officers across the city and state. The goal of this policy is to prevent a crime before it can happen. The New York Police Department’s Stop-and-Frisk policy is commonly known as an instance when a police officer stops, questions, and frisks a person, if police officers feel the person is a threat. Sometimes the officers will detain and question the citizen if suspicion increases with the frisk. Although Stop-and-Frisk policies have been around for quite some time, it has only greatened in recent years. It has been found to be unconstitutional.

According to the NYPD, more than half of the people stopped by these police officers are considered minorities. In a study conducted on data collected from actual stops that occurred in 2010-2012, 82% were either African-American or Hispanic, while under 10% were White and 7% were listed as other.

The question is: Why are Blacks and Latinos stopped more often than White people? It’s understandable that police officers perform this action in low-income and high-crime-rate communities, but just because someone lives in an area like this does not make them a criminal. Why is Stop-and-Frisk allowed when it clearly violates our Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment?

Amendments are certain rights that have been added to the United States Constitution over time. This keeps the Constitution updated and applicable to modern scenarios. The Fourth Amendment, which was added to the Constitution as a part of the Bill of Rights, protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures. This protection is provided to the people by the U.S. government. Another important amendment right that some Stop-and-Frisk scenarios can infringe is the Fourteenth Amendment. This amendment guarantees equal protection of citizens under the law.

Many minorities claim the Stop-and-Frisk policy is a new form of racial profiling. Approximately 31 million people were stopped in the U.S. Minorities released statements saying that their stops were unjustified. This stands out from the statements that predominately White individuals who were stopped by the police viewed the stops as justified.

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