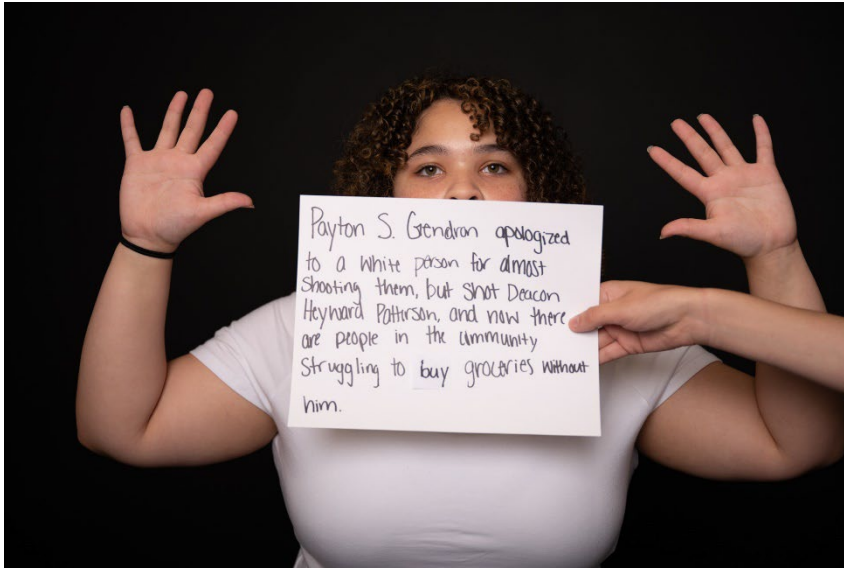


## “Silent Screams”: Gen Z’s Rallying Cry Against Injustice



Rochester, NY – June 30, 2022

Devastated about the news of eleven Black grocery shoppers being gunned down by a white supremacist in Buffalo, Kate Robinson, a junior at Irondequoit High School, reached out to Jackie McGriff, a local photographer and filmmaker about collaborating on an arts project that focuses on gun violence and racism.

McGriff and Robinson had previously collaborated on a project centered on identity where each of the students in Irondequoit High School’s diversity club, Mosaic, shared the many ways in which they identify themselves, so when news came in about the Buffalo massacre, Robinson knew what she had to do next.

“I just couldn’t go to school with the shooting that happened,” Robinson said to McGriff the following Monday. “What if we did like a protest of some sort or a shoot where it’s showing different people and how gun violence and racism is keeping them trapped? Young people aren’t usually listened to even though we’re the ones experiencing school shootings.”

Robinson and McGriff planned a photoshoot at the end of June and brought in 3 other students to help with the project. The images portray each of the students with black tape over their mouths holding signs that show a range of facts and opinions about various topics, including racially-motivated gun violence, gun control and reproductive rights.

The students hope to shed light on how a lot of their peers are feeling right now about policies and laws being set in motion by leadership. “I want to provide a platform for students to be heard,” McGriff stated. “If the time for this generation isn’t to speak up now, when is it? My hope is that this prompts someone with the power to enact laws that truly protect young people as well as many of the marginalized communities highlighted here to act.”

Jackie McGriff is the owner of Jackie Photography, a Black-owned business based in Rochester, NY dedicated to sharing the unique stories of high school seniors & professionals through cinematic portrait photography. You can visit her website to learn more about the project and to see additional photos from the “Silent Screams” project at [www.jackiephotographs.com/silentscreams](http://www.jackiephotographs.com/silentscreams). You can also contact Jackie McGriff at (585) 252-5072 or at [jackie@jackiephotographs.com](mailto:jackie@jackiephotographs.com).