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POSITION STATEMENT

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Unattractiveness Is Not a Disqualification

Society of Unattractive People is a civil rights organization for people of less-than-average physical attractiveness in the United States. The organization focuses on enacting legislation and advocating fairness and equality for all those deemed “unattractive.” A study conducted by economics professors from the University of Texas and Michigan State University found that “plain people” earn up to 18 percent less than people deemed “good-looking.” SOUP stands firm in the position that it should be unlawful for a person’s level of attractiveness to influence their pay potential.

The American Civil Rights Movement that occurred over 50 years ago was founded on the principle that people should not be able to be discriminated against based on the color of their skin, an aspect of their appearance. Today, most Americans look at points of the Civil Rights Movement as kind of a no-brainer. Of course people cannot be denied certain rights or freedoms simply because they look a certain way. Despite this common belief in the United States, the discrimination of those deemed “unattractive” by typical American standards are consistently held to lower pay in the workplace.

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On average, “plain people” earn between 8 and 18 percent less than those deemed “attractive” according to an article published on careerbuilder.com. SOUP insists that this is similar to the discrimination that people of color used to and continue to face in the United States today. A person’s level of attractiveness is an aspect of their appearance, the same as the color of their skin. Discrimination on the basis of attractiveness is therefore unethical and there should be legislation to protect these “unattractive people” from pay discrepancies similar to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

SOUP also implores lawmakers to consider a time in their lives when they felt completely helpless in a situation. For example, if a loved one fell ill and there was nothing that could be done about it, how did they feel about it. Then, these lawmakers should consider how they would feel if something out of their control like that was preventing them from being able to earn the living they felt they were capable of earning. This is what members of SOUP and so many other Americans deemed “unattractive” go through every day. Their looks are almost completely out of their control and to be punished for it in the workplace is unconstitutional.

Finally, SOUP asks that the words of the revered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be considered when discussing this issue. Dr. King has long been considered an authoritative figure on civil rights in the United States and his beliefs and body of work apply to the rights of the unattractive. People with plain looks should be judged in the workplace based on the content of their work ethic and ability rather than their level of physical attractiveness, just as Dr. King asserted people of color be judged for the content of their character and not their skin color.

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SOUP asks that American citizens contact their local government officials to start a conversation about the possibility of legislature to protect Americans in the workplace from discrimination based on level of attractiveness. Similarly, SOUP insists that citizens vote for political candidates whose beliefs reflect those of civil rights for all Americans.

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