Dear America,

I was told once, “You can’t fix an issue until everyone is in agreement that there is a problem.” Well, I’m here to say I can no longer wait for you to try and understand me or the pain of your abuse.

This relationship has had its ups and downs, but one remaining constant is your unwillingness to admit that you don’t care. You will never admit you didn’t care when you strategically changed our economic structure from a manufacturing based one, to a business and military model stripping the power of the less fortunate and privileged. You will never admit you didn’t care when you watched as our #1 product became the incarceration of your own people. And you didn’t care when you limited funding of our educational system to fill these jails and prisons, indoctrinating children to continue this belief that our aptitude and history is somehow assessed by our gender, sexual orientation, race, size and any other frivolous criteria.

J. Cole said, “Play the game or let the game play you, and be that broke muh f\*cka talking about I stayed true”. That’s because, the only thing you value is power and money and I will never have enough of both to change you for the better. I don’t vote because those in power receive no adverse consequence for their failed promises, but the issue is less in our officials but within the structure as a whole. A structure that is visibly crumbling, yet you continue to press this propaganda that this is the best place on earth. To be the best you must admit failure so you may learn from your mistakes. To be the best you must value all your available resources and nurture them. To be the best you have to be brave, innovative and driven by being the best and not just appearing to be.

Now I watch you slowly revert back to your old ways. You went back to degrading, shooting, belittling, patronizing, colonizing, and demonizing all in the name of your power and money. Like all abuse victims I became numb to your beatings, but I no longer seek to be tolerated. No longer will I sit back and wait for your approval and acceptance. No longer will I waste one breath hoping to convince you of your woes because I no longer seek value in the eyes of you.

I’m here to tell you I’m leaving because I deserve better. My family and loved ones deserve better and it’s not up to you to determine when and where that value will be instated and respected. My father fell in love with you, hoping to be a safer and more opportunistic setting for himself and his family. I too have that same ambition.

I’m privileged to have the resources and confidence to make this decision and my heart bleeds for those who don’t. But if I can offer any advice to those who don’t, it is to know, “never put your faith in someone who doesn’t value you. Never believe the words of a proven liar. And never settle for second best out of comfort and fear. Be brave, be bold, and be the America you wish it was.”