"Sounds About Black"

'I'm black and I watch Asian tv shows'
- Victoria Ezeanaka

Growing up, my blackness has always come into questions many times, because the way I talk, my mannerisms, likes and dislikes contradict or did not conform to the social stigmas places on the behaviours of black people, both as individuals and a demographic. The idea that the colour of our skin can be a justification for one's actions has always been prevalent.

So, what if I said to you, that I have a friend who listen to country music?
One of the thought that's comes to your mind, was whether he was white or black. Like the colour of his skin determined his taste in music, his likes and dislikes. I hate to admit it, but these type of generalisations are true, a majority of the time.

Questioning my own blackness from an early age made me feel the need to conform into such stigmatisations, to act and behave a certain, to basically think and behave 'black' in order to really be 'black' - in order to belong. Constantly finding a way to analysing my own level of darkness, and as a child it takes a toll on you.

I watch anime – "you're not black enough"
I love rap music – "sounds about black"
I've watched 'Friday' – "sounds about black"
I like black guys – "sounds about black"
Also like Asian guys – "not black enough"
I like K-pop – "also not black enough"
I speak slang – "sounds about black"
I speak proper English – "not black enough"
My family and I have been racially discriminated against – "sounds about black"
I'm quite athletic – "sound about black"
I can dance – "sounds about black"
I can't dance – "not black enough"
I'm loud when I speak – "sounds about black"

On one hand you are judged just by the colour of your skin, you are told to behave a certain way so as to fit into the predominantly white washed society. All the while being ridiculed and questioned on your blackness by your own people for acting or being a certain way.

So I ask, can my own unique blackness not be enough?

Can we not be individually unique and still be a collective?
I am a proud black person, and I'm proud to be black, to be born a black.
I should not have to worry that my blackness may not be enough for some.

It has come to affect me in today's society, especially today, as we walked down the street without our hands held high, fists clamped shut all the while shouting "BLM" and demanding for racial equality. Yet I've come to question if I'am qualified enough as a black person, with little to no experience of racism, to also shout "BLM".

Who are you to determine my qualification?

Who are you to judge me on my level of blackness?
At the end of the day I'm black, and to society that's all that matters matters, because just being black is already a threat to their way of life.

My name is Victoria Ogo Ezeanaka
I'm 22 years old
I'm a black artist
A black designer
A black creator
And the future black innovator.

My blackness 'IS' be enough,
And so is yours.