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Sahar Amarir

@SaharAmarir



American leftists: we should buy less on Amazon.

French union: *cuts the entire electric power on an Amazon site in solidarity with Amazon workers' protest against working conditions and against pension reform*



Emily Hoven
@emilyhoven



"I'm socially liberal but fiscally conservative" sure is a catchy way to say "yeah I guess I can pretend to care about marginalized folks as long as there are economic systems in place to keep them marginalized"

6/30/18, 3:33 AM



detrea

The premise of minimum wage, when it was introduced, was that a single wage earner should be able to own a home and support a family. That was what it was based on; a full time job, any job, should be able to accomplish this.

The fact people scoff at this idea if presented nowadays, as though the people that ring up your groceries or hand you your burgers don't deserve the luxury of a home and a family, is disgusting.



femoids

Also if a livable wage breaks the system then the system deserves to be broken.

Firing a \$70,000 missile from a \$28,000,000 drone flying at a cost of \$3,624 per hour to kill people in the Middle East living on less than \$1 per day.



We live in a country where if you want to go bomb somebody, there's remarkably little discussion about how much it might cost. But then you have a discussion about whether or not we can assist people who are suffering, then suddenly we become very cost-conscious.

— Prof. Andrew Bacevich

HUMAN REFORM POLITICS
a force for positive change

I say "Black Lives Matter" because "all" didn't cover Black when they said "All men are created equal."

I say "Black Lives Matter" because "all" didn't cover Black when they said "With liberty and justice for all."

I say "Black Lives Matter" because they're still struggling with the definition of "all."

- unknown



nappy by nature
@__inCAndescent



Men: we're providers

Women: ok so provide

Men: no you gold digging bitch!

9:31 pm · 20/7/20 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

63.1K Retweets and comments **282K** Likes

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telegra.ph/In-Belarus-wave-of-grassroots-activism-knocked-by-unsupported-claims-of-foreign-interference-07-21

Telegraph

In Belarus, wave of grassroots activism knocked by unsupported claims of foreign interference

Despite Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's claims to the contrary, there is no evidence that Russia, or any other foreign entity, has spurred the recent outgrowth of Belarusian online activism and demonstrations now flourishing amid increasing dissatisfaction...

docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VlBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/edit

Google Docs

Anti-racism resources for white people

This document is intended to serve as a resource to white people and parents to deepen our anti-racism work. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now. Feel free to circulate this document on social media and with your friends, family...

telegra.ph/97-Things-White-People-Can-Do-for-Racial-Justice-07-22

Telegraph

97 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

Note 1: This article is continually updated to ensure each item is accurate and needed today. Note 2: Achieving racial justice is a marathon, not a sprint. Our work to fix what we broke and left broken isn't done until Black folks tell us it's done. There...

[telegra.ph/Trump-administration-memo-explains-how-to-spot-a-transgender-woman-07-22](#)

Telegraph

Trump administration memo explains how to spot a transgender woman
A copy of the new rule that will allow homeless shelters to refuse transgender people has been leaked to the media, and it contains instructions on how to spot transgender women to target them for discrimination. Earlier this month, the Department of Housing...

[telegra.ph/Nadia-Whittome-condemns-Liz-Truss-for-fanning-hate-against-trans-people-07-22](#)

Telegraph

Nadia Whittome condemns Liz Truss for 'fanning hate' against trans people
Labour's Nadia Whittome has accused Tory equalities chief Liz Truss of "fanning the flames of populist hate" against the transgender community. Whittome's accusation came on the day the government had promised to announce the results of the Gender Recognition...

[telegra.ph/Free-Britney-Spears-Conservatorship-to-be-reviewed-in-court-but-what-is-it-07-22](#)

Telegraph

Free Britney Spears: Conservatorship to be reviewed in court, but what is it?
Britney Spears' conservatorship will be addressed in a Los Angeles court hearing Wednesday (July 22), with the singer expected to make a video conference appearance amid ever-growing calls to "Free Britney". The singer has had much of her personal affairs...

[telegra.ph/Barbados-Gay-couples-eligible-for-Welcome-Stamp-remote-work-visa-07-22](#)

Telegraph

Barbados: Gay couples eligible for Welcome Stamp remote work visa
Barbados' prime minister has said same-sex couples are welcome on the island

as it works to free itself from its colonial-era stance on LGBT+ rights. Barbados, one of the smallest but most-visited Caribbean islands, recently announced it would allow foreigners...

telegra.ph/Mara-Wilson-Matilda-star-recalls-fan-letters-sent-by-creepy-old-men-07-22

Telegraph

Mara Wilson: Matilda star recalls fan letters sent by 'creepy old men'
Bisexual actor Mara Wilson, who starred in Matilda as a child, has revealed that she was sent fan letters sent by "creepy old men" when she was young. The mental health activist and former child star featured in a new documentary, Showbiz Kids, which premiered...

telegra.ph/A-wannabe-sheriff-saw-two-men-holding-hands-He-responded-by-asking-wheres-my-gun-07-22

Telegraph

A wannabe sheriff saw two men holding hands. He responded by asking 'where's my gun'

A candidate for a Michigan, US, sheriff is under fire for homophobic text messages which saw him jokingly threaten to shoot a same-sex couple for holding hands. Terry King, who is running in a heated race for the top job in Alpena County, sent a series of...

telegra.ph/ Angry-mom-shares-photo-of-padded-bra-for-6-year-olds-and-people-are-divided-07-22-2

Telegraph

Angry mom shares photo of padded bra for 6-year-olds and people are divided
A mom's startling discovery in the underwear aisle for young children ended up exploding online. The over-sexualization of children is sadly, nothing new. Forcing children to "grow up" at a young age by throwing them in beauty pageants, changing them into...

"Portland protestors winning." [source](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N8hsXQapjY

YouTube

History vs. Vladimir Lenin - Alex Gendler

View full lesson: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/history-vs-vladimir-lenin-alex-gendler>

Vladimir Lenin overthrew Russian Czar Nicholas II and founded the Soviet Union, forever changing the course of Russian politics. But was he a hero who toppled an oppressive...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuT7zWZEwl0

YouTube

A Parkland teacher's homework for us all | Diane Wolk-Rogers

Diane Wolk-Rogers teaches history at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, site of a horrific school shooting on Valentine's Day 2018. How can we end this senseless violence? In a stirring talk, Wolk-Rogers offers three ways Americans...

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-does-this-symbol-actually-mean-adrian-treharne>

TED-Ed

What does this symbol actually mean? - Adrian Treharne

Some of the world's most recognizable symbols

exist to sell products. Others, to steer traffic or advance political causes. But there's one whose main purpose is to help people. You may know it as the wheelchair symbol, but its formal title...

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97 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

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Note 1: This article is continually updated to ensure each item is accurate and needed today.

Note 2: Achieving racial justice is a marathon, not a sprint. Our work to fix what we broke and left broken isn't done until Black folks tell us it's done.

1. There are varied approaches to ending police violence. The best thing to do is to follow your local Black Lives Matter chapter or other local Black-led organization to find out the proposed policy and funding changes in your city or town. Donate to your local BLM chapter, sign up for updates, volunteer, and take action when asked.
2. Campaign Zero has ten evidence-based solutions to address police violence. Contact your city or town government representative(s) and police chief to advocate for these policies.
3. Within the evidence-based solutions in #2, Campaign Zero has a project called 8Can'tWait, with eight specific policies to be prioritized to end

police violence. The website has a fantastic tool wherein you can see which of the policies your city or town have been enacted. Contact your city or town government representative(s) and police chief to advocate for the policies that have not yet been enacted.

4. Find out your city or town's policy on no-knock warrants (the policy that led to Breonna Taylor's murder). Contact your city or town government representative(s) and police chief to ban no-knock warrants.
5. Write to your state representative and senator to end qualified immunity like Colorado recently did. Qualified immunity permits government officials performing discretionary functions to be immune from civil suits unless the official violated "clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known." In recent years, qualified immunity has been successfully used to defend the use of excessive or deadly force by police, like in this case. Thank you to Claudia S. Murray for the suggestion.
6. Fund a project facilitated by Leap, the Law Enforcement Accountability Project, a fund that empowers activists to change the narrative around the police abuse of Black People. Leap is founded by Ava DuVernay.
7. Understand and share what "defund the police" really means. It's about a new, smarter approach to public safety, wherein we demilitarize the police and allocate resources into education, social services, and other root causes of crimes. What we're doing now isn't working — There are so many innocent people who have been harassed or killed by the police unjustly, and nearly every Black American has experienced some form of harassment by the police. Some good resources for this are this video by BLM , this Washington Post article and this Facebook post.
8. More and more stories of Black folks encountering racism are being documented and shared through social media — whether it's at a hotel, with the police, in a coffee shop, at a school, etc. When you see such a post, call the organization, company, or institution involved to tell them how upset you are. Then share the post along with the institution's contact information, spreading the word about what happened and encouraging others to contact the institution as well. Whether the company initiated the event or failed to protect a POC during an onslaught by a third party, they need to hear from us.
9. If you or a friend is an educator, buy said friend books that feature POC as protagonists and heroes, no matter the racial make-up of the class. A few good lists are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). And/or purchase educational toys that feature POC, such as finger puppets, Black

History Flashcards, etc for their classroom. Use these items year-round, not just in February. The racial make-up of students doesn't matter — kids of every race need to know American history and be exposed to people from different races, religions, and countries. If the friend is interested, buy them for your pal's classroom. Don't be shy to ask Facebook friends that you haven't actually talked to in ten years.

10. If you or a friend or family member is an educator, watch or share this video of Neil deGrasse Tyson speaking about his experience as a Black student telling people he wanted to be a scientist and astrophysicist. Tyson's experience reminds me of a Black friend whose high school teachers tried to dissuade her from taking AP classes, because, with the best of intentions, they thought the AP classes would be "too much" for her. Be an educator who supports and encourages, not one who dissuades. Talk to educators you know about being educators who support and encourage, not educators who dissuade.
11. Work on ensuring that Black educators are hired where Black children are being taught. If you want to know more about why and how this makes a difference for Black children, check out this episode of Malcolm Gladwell's podcast. There are some really good nuggets in there about how schools can support the achievement of Black students — from ensuring Black students aren't closed out of gifted programs by using test results instead of white teachers' recommendations to the influence that having a Black teacher has on a Black student's education to the importance to fostering a school ethos wherein Black students think, "This school is here for me."
12. Many companies have recruiting channels that are predominantly white. Work with your HR department to recruit Americans who are descendants of enslaved Africans. Recruiting from HBCUs is a good start. Work to put descendants of enslaved Africans already hired under supportive managers.
13. Donate to anti-white supremacy work such as your local Black Lives Matter Chapter, the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, the NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center, United Negro College Fund, Black Youth Project 100, Color of Change, The Sentencing Project, Families against Mandatory Minimums, A New Way of Life, Equal Justice Initiative, and Dream Defenders. Join some of these list-serves and take action as their emails dictate.
14. Support Black businesses. Find them on WeBuyBlack, The Black Wallet, and Official Black Wall Street. Another great list is here. Yelp now has a feature to search for Black-owned businesses, and Etsy features Black-

owned businesses here. Thank you Corinna Tricarico for the info on Etsy.

15. Bank Black. It doesn't have to be all of your checking or savings. Opening up an account with some money is better than no account at all. You can use the link from #14 (type "banking" in the Category field) or this site to find a bank. At the very least, move some or all of your checking, savings, mortgage, etc out of Wells Fargo as a part of the divestment movement to protect Standing Rock.
16. Don't buy from companies that use prison labor. Find a good list here. While Whole Foods is on that list, but pledged to stop using prison labor in 2016, they haven't made amends for that abuse. You can't pour gas on a burning building, decide to stop pouring the gas, then walk away like everything is fine. Until Whole Foods pays reparations, they stay on the boycott list.
17. Stand outside of the stores from #16 with a sign that reads "[Company] uses prison labor" even if for 30 mins a few times a month.
18. Read up about mandatory minimum sentences and watch videos about this on Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM's) website. FAMM's website includes work being done at the federal level and state level. Call or write to your state legislators and governor about reducing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug crimes.
19. To reduce mandatory minimum sentences on a federal level, call or write to your federal legislators in support of the bipartisan (sponsored by Sen Lee (R-UT)) Smarter Sentencing Act (S. 2850) which reduces the length of federal mandatory minimum drug sentences by half, makes the Fair Sentencing Act's crack sentencing reforms retroactive, and expands the "safety valve" exception to mandatory drug sentences.
20. To reduce mandatory minimum sentences on a federal level, call or write to your federal legislators in support of the bipartisan (sponsored by Sen Paul (R-KY)) Justice Safety Valve Act (S. 399, H.R. 1097), which would allow judges to give sentences other than the mandatory minimum sentence for any federal crime.
21. To reduce mandatory minimum sentences on a federal level, call or write your federal legislators in support of another great criminal justice reform bill, the Second Look Act, which would make reduced sentences for crack convictions from the previously passed Fair Sentencing Act retroactive, reduce mandatory minimums for people convicted more than three times for drug crimes from life without parole after the third offense to 25 years, reduce mandatory sentences for drug crimes from 15 to 10 years, limit the use of solitary confinement on juvenile prisoners, etc.

22. Call or write to your state legislators and governor to support state-wide criminal justice reform including reducing mandatory minimum sentences, reducing sentences for non-violent drug crimes, passing “safety valve” law to allow judges to depart below a mandatory minimum sentence under certain conditions, passing alternatives to incarceration, etc. Study after study shows that racism fuels racial disparities in imprisonment, and about 90% of the US prison population are at the state and local level.
23. Call or write to state legislators, federal legislators, and your governor to decriminalize weed. No, not because Black folks use weed more frequently than white folks. Because Black Americans are arrested for marijuana possession far more frequently than whites.
24. Call or write to state legislators to require racial impact statements be required for all criminal justice bills. Most states already require fiscal and environmental impact statements for certain legislation. Racial impact statements evaluate if a bill may create or exacerbate racial disparities should the bill become law. Check out the status of your state’s legislation surrounding these statements [here](#).
25. Find and join a local “white space” to learn more about and talk out the conscious and unconscious biases us white folks have. If there’s not a group in your area, start one.
26. Join or start a Daughters of Abraham book club in your Church, mosque, or synagogue.
27. Join your local Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) group. There is a lot of awesome work going on locally — Get involved in the projects that speak to you.
28. Do deep canvassing about race and racial justice. Many SURJ groups are organizing them, so many people can do it through your local SURJ group. If they’re not already doing it, start it.
29. Research your local prosecutors. Prosecutors have a lot of power to give fair sentences or Draconian ones, influence a judge’s decision to set bail or not, etc. In the past election, a slew of fair-minded prosecutors were elected. We need more.
30. Call or write to state legislators, federal legislators, and your governor to end solitary confinement in excess of 15 days. It is considered torture by the UN, and it is used more frequently on Black and Hispanic prisoners. For more information on solitary, two good overviews can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
31. Watch 13th. Better yet, get a group of friends together and watch 13th.
32. Watch The House I Live In. Or get a group of friends together and watch it.

33. Read Ta-Nehisi Coates' article The Case for Reparations and From Here to Equality by William A. Darity Jr., A. Kirsten Mullen. The US has already participated in reparations four times. Thank you to Clyanna Blyanna for suggesting this addition.
34. Participate in reparations. One way is through this Facebook group. Remember reparations isn't just monetary — share your time, skills, knowledge, connections, etc. Thank you to Clyanna Blyanna for suggesting this addition.
35. Read The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. Better yet, get a group of friends together to read it like a book club would — read, then discuss. Buy it from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
36. Read Caught by Marie Gottschalk. Better yet, get a group of friends together to read it like a book club would — read, then discuss. Buy it from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
37. Read Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Yep, get a group of friends together to read it like a book club would — read, then discuss. Buy it from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
38. Read A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn. Thank you to Steve Senatori for this suggestion. Buy the book from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
39. Read Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman. The information the author shares about the ease with which one can be charged with "conspiracy" to sell drugs, the damage done from long sentences that don't fit the crime due to mandatory minimum sentencing, the ever-present threat of solitary confinement at a Correction Officer's whim, and other specific harmful practices in the prison system are well done. Get a group of friends together to read it like a book club would — read, then discuss. Buy the book from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
40. Read The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein. Get your friends on board reading it, too. Buy it from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
41. Especially if you or a friend is an educator, read or share bell hooks' Teaching to Transgress. Buy it from one of these Black-owned bookstores.
42. Read Nikole Hannah-Jones' The 1619 Project.
43. Buy books, choose TV shows and movies, and opt for toys for your kids, nieces, nephews, etc that show people from different races, religions, countries and that teach real American history. A few ideas: the books, toys, and flashcards from #9.
44. Decolonize your bookshelf.
45. Listen without ego and defensiveness to people of color. Truly listen. Don't

scroll past articles written by people of color — Read them.

46. Don't be silent about that racist joke. Silence is support.
47. Follow Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, Alicia Garzia, bell hooks, Luvvie Ajayi, Melissa Harris-Perry, Van Jones, Ava DuVernay, thenewjimcrow, Laverne Cox, DeRay Mckesson, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Ibram X. Kendi, and Killer Mike. Follow them with the intention of listening and learning only.
48. Read Awesomely Luvvie, Blavity, Madame Noir, The Root, The Grio, and Jamelle Bouie's opinion pieces with a desire to learn and understand better the lives of Black Americans.
49. Find out how slavery, the Civil War, and the Jim Crow era are being taught in your local school. Advocate that history is taught correctly and certain parts are not skipped over or barely mentioned. Advocate that many voices be used in the study of history. Is the school teaching about post-Civil War convict leasing, the parent to our current mass incarceration system? Talking about slavery alone, is your high school showing images such as Gordon's scoured back, a slave ship hold, and an enslaved nurse holding her young master? Are explorers, scientists, politicians, etc who are POC discussed? Are male and female authors who are POC on reading lists? In my mostly white high school, reading books like Having Our Say, To Be a Slave, The Bluest Eye, and Their Eyes Were Watching God was really important. A great starting list of such books is here. A great starting list of such books is here. Are Japanese internment camps being discussed? Is history explained correctly in history books? As an example of a severe failure to teach the reality of slavery and its ramifications, check out image 1 and image 2 . There are a lot of great resources out there with a little googling, like PBS's resources for teaching slavery, this POC Online Classroom blog, Teaching for Change, The Zinn Project's This Day in History, Teaching Tolerance at the Southern Poverty Law Center (thank you Adajhand), and The National Association for Multicultural Education.
50. Arrange for cultural exchanges and cultural ambassadors in your local school's classrooms. The International Classroom program at UPenn and People to People International are options. The Dept of Education has a good list. Cultural exchanges via the interwebs are very valuable. Actual human interaction between people from different races, religions, and countries (ie: cultural ambassadors) and students in the physical classroom is ideal.
51. Seek out a diverse group of friends for your kids.
52. Seek out a diverse group of friends for you. Practice real friendship and

intimacy by listening when POC talk about their experiences and their perspectives. They're speaking about their pain.

53. Watch these videos to hear first hand accounts of what our Black brothers and sisters live. Then read everyday people's experiences through the hashtag #realizediwasblack. Watch the rules Tik Tok user @skoodupcam's mother makes him follow just so he comes home each night. Share with others.
54. If there are Black children/teens in your life, contribute to their college savings plans. You can also contribute to an HBCU or to the UNCF. Thank you to Rev Dr Pollard for this contribution. Consider making HBCUs and the American Indian College Fund beneficiaries through your will or living trusts. Thank you Janice Crawford for this contribution.
55. Call or write to your national legislators, state legislators, and governor in favor of affirmative action. Encourage friends to do the same.
56. Write to your college/university about implementing all or some of these diversity strategies that effectively promote racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity on campus. Write to the public universities your tax payer dollars support about implementing these diversity strategies.
57. Recognize that in the same way saying "slavery is a necessary evil" (Thomas Jefferson's words) was acceptable by many in 1820, the same way saying "separate but equal" was acceptable by many in 1940, choosing to not condemn white nationalism, the fact that Black people are 2.7 times as likely to be killed by police than white people, the fact that unarmed Black Americans are roughly five times as likely as unarmed white Americans to be shot and killed by a police officer, that the fact the Black imprisonment rate for drug offenses is about 5.8 times higher than it is for whites, etc are acts of overt racism in 2020.
58. Write to the US Sentencing Commission (PubAffairs@ussc.gov) and ask them to:
 - reform the career offender guideline to lessen the length of sentences
 - change the guidelines so that more people get probation
 - change the criminal history guidelines so that a person's criminal record counts against them less
 - change guidelines to reduce mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes
 - conduct a study to review the impact of parental incarceration on minor children. With more data, the Commission could modify the Sentencing Guidelines and allow judges to take this factor into account when

sentencing individuals for non-violent crimes.

— conduct a study to review whether the Bureau of Prisons is following the Commission’s encouragement to file a motion for compassionate release whenever “extraordinary and compelling reasons” exist.

— consider amending the guidelines to reduce sentences for first offenders.

59. Read Van Jones’ short and to-the-point article about the racial biases of reporters. More examples are [here](#) and [here](#). Check out this article discussing how media coverage of the opioid epidemic — which largely affects suburban and rural whites — portrays it as an outside threat and focuses on treatment and recovery, while stories of heroin in the 1970s, crack-cocaine in the 1980s, and other drug problems that impact urban people of color today have focused on the drug user’s morality. Keep an eye out for such biases, and use social media and direct communication to the media outlet to call them out when they occur.
60. Donate to groups that are working to put women of color into elected office, to get out the vote, and to restore voting rights to disenfranchised voters.
61. Know our American history. Watch Roots, 12 Years a Slave, and Selma, to name a few.
62. Check out Black movies, TV, and other media that show POC as lead characters and in their full humanity. Queen Sugar, Insecure, Dear White People, The Carmichael Show, Blackish, Grownish, Atlanta, 2 Dope Queens, Black Panther, A Wrinkle in Time, Get Out, Girls Trip, Sorry to Bother You, United Shades of America, Mudbound, How to Get Away with Murder, Scandal, The Cloverfield Paradox, Sorry to Bother You, Blindsight, BlacKkKlansman, Little, If Beale Street Could Talk, Queen and Slim, A Black Lady Sketch Show, PBS’ Great Performance of Much Ado about Nothing, youtube videos of Amber Says What, and Pose are a few. Share them with friends. In addition, if you can’t watch the whole video, watch 13:12 to 15:17 of this discussion about working in Hollywood when you’re not white.
63. Know what indigenous land you’re living on by looking at this map and research the groups that occupied that land before you did. Find out what local activism those groups are doing and give your money and time to those efforts.
64. When people say that Black Lives Matter is a violent/terrorist group, explain to them that there are fringe groups that are being misrepresented as part of BLM. If conservatives don’t want to be lumped in with the KKK, they can’t lump violent protesters in with BLM.

65. When people ask, “Why aren’t you talking about ‘black-on-black crime’?” and other myths about BLM, let Francesca Ramsey help you with those talking points.
66. Stop shopping at Amazon and Whole Foods. They advertise on -that’s to say fund- white supremacist media. An easy alternative to Amazon is buying from Black-owned businesses through webuyblack.com, featured in #14. Also check out this “How to Stop Using Amazon” Facebook post.
67. Be honest about our history. One genocide, another genocide, then apartheid. It sucks, but it’s true. We’ll never be free from our history unless we’re honest about it. Denial is our pathology, but the truth will set us free.
68. If you have a close relationship with a young person of color, make sure he/she knows how much you love them. Love and affirm that child. Thank you to Rev Dr Pollard for this contribution.
69. Write to your city or town government representative to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day like these cities did.
70. Donate to Standing Rock through the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
71. Write to your city or town government representative to divest from banks that are financing the Dakota Access Pipeline, private prisons, and detention centers. Seattle, Davis, CA, and Los Angeles divested from banks that are funding the Dakota Access Pipeline, and there are campaigns going on in many cities to divest. Cities like New York and Cincinnati have divested from private prisons. Start here: <http://howtodivest.org/>
72. Personally divest your investments in private prisons and detention centers. Start here. Many people are divesting from Wells Fargo for their substantial role in Standing Rock and from private prison companies Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), GEO Group, CoreCivic, and G4S.
73. Get your company, place of worship, etc to divest from private prisons and detention centers. Since the start of a national prison divestment campaign, higher ed institutions, churches, and corporations have divested.
74. Write to your state legislators to end cash bail. It means that a someone who is legally innocent is put in jail because they can’t afford bail. It means that a defendant can be released pre-trial because of their wealth, not how much of a flight risk they are. It puts more people in detention (which tax payers pay for) and affects a defendants’ ability to maintain employment, access mental and physical healthcare, and be in communication with their family and friends, etc. Housing the approximately 500,000 people in jail in the US awaiting trial who cannot afford bail costs US taxpayers \$9 billion a year. Thank you to Elizabeth B. and Cynthia Astle for suggesting this addition.

75. Support organized efforts to end of cash bail by donating to The Bail Project. Bail out a Black mother through The National Bail Out. Thank you to Elizabeth B. and Cynthia Astle for suggesting this addition.
76. Attend town halls, candidate meet-and-greets, etc for political candidates and ask about ending mass incarceration, reducing mandatory minimum sentences, reducing or ending solitary confinement, decriminalizing weed, ending cash bail, divesting from private prisons, divesting from banks, divesting from banks that finance the Dakota Access Pipeline, etc.
77. Read this article about an overt white supremacist's son's journey to relinquish white supremacy and watch this video about Daryl Davis, a Black man who gets KKK members to disavow by befriending them. For those you know who are overtly racist (see #57), think about ways you can create exposure for them to people who don't look like them, share their religion, etc. Jane Elliott says, "People who are racist aren't stupid, they're ignorant. And the answer to ignorance is education." Frederick Douglass notes, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." It may be best to focus on children, adolescents, and young adults currently being raised by overtly racist parents. Maybe it's tutoring them so they could get on a college track, encouraging them to study abroad, or turning them on to colleges where not everyone looks like them and shares their religion, etc. Maybe it's spending time with them on some regularity and showing them the achievements and beauty of non-white cultures. Be creative.
78. Talk to the white people you know who aren't clearly upset by white supremacy. Use "I" statements and "I care" messages ("I feel [feeling] when you [behavior]"). They need to know you see a problem. Call them out, and call them in. As a start, ask them to watch the videos in #53. For people you know who've been radicalized by FOX News and other nationalist (not conservative) media, who've been so pummeled with fear and hatred of "the other" that they've become ISIS-like towards others, how can you and other family and friends guide them through conversation to show them that their actions are now in direct contrast with the values they feign to purport?
79. A wise former teacher once said, "The question isn't: Was the act racist or not? The question is: How much racism was in play?" So maybe racism was 3% of the motivation or 30% or 95%. Interrogate the question "How much racism was in play?" as you think about an incident. Share this idea with the people in your life when they ask, "Was that racist?"
80. Credit Black men and women. Kara Springer, a Black woman artist, created

the image/public art that begins this piece. It's called A Small Matter of Engineering, Part II. Christian Campbell tweeted to ensure the art was attributed appropriately and correctly.

81. Watch Jane Elliot's blue eyes/brown eyes racism experiment here. Watch Jane Elliot's a follow-up on the blue eyes/brown eyes racism experiment on Oprah here, and watch Jane Elliot and Roland Martin's conversation at the University of Michigan's Women of Color Task Force here. Thank you to Jourdain Blair for this suggestion.
82. Anti-racism is a global fight. Don't buy electronics or jewelry made from conflict minerals. Find an overview and rankings of electronics and jewelry companies' efforts to source conflict-free minerals here. At your place of work, establish a policy that your company or organization will only purchase electronics from companies that are top-rated. Write to companies on the list and ask them to improve their rank.
83. Read this article by educator and activity Bettina L. Love about the harm done by schools to their Black students. Ensure your local school/School Board has a clear and strong policy of zero tolerance for racial slurs, physically touching a child to discipline them, invasions of privacy like strip searches, hair discrimination, etc. "Zero tolerance" means loss of a job, loss of a pension, and mandatory reporting to state Department of Education. If and when school officials don't comply with their own policies, or when a school refuses to create these policies altogether, use resources at your disposal like social media, local news media, connections to the School Board, etc to hold them accountable.
84. Visit sites of American concentration camps, memorials, and museums dedicated to teaching about the genocide and apartheid, past and present. Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston; The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration in Montgomery; the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC; the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, NC; the Whitney Plantation near New Orleans, the quarters of enslaved people at Monticello in Charlottesville, VA; a tour discussing the lives of enslaved people at Mount Vernon, VA, Underground Railroad locations, etc. Google sites, museums, etc where you can learn about Black history and current life near you or at your next travel destination. Thank you to Charles Chukwuemeka Ekeke for this addition.
85. We need to raise children who understand race and are comfortable talking about it. A few resources for that: the book Raising White Kids by Jennifer Harvey, the NPR podcast Talking Race With Young Children, these

children's books, and these resources compiled by the Children's Community School in Philadelphia.

86. Write to your state representative and senator to ban voter ID laws, ease the voter registration process, implement early voting, and implement voting-by-mail. The unfortunate reality of efforts to "fight against voter fraud" is that voter fraud isn't statistically a problem in this country. Even The Heritage Foundation counts only 1,285 cases of voter fraud... since 1998. Just like poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses were "race-neutral" policies that inhibited Black Americans from voting until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed, voter ID laws, cuts to voting registration processes, and cuts to early voting are efforts to inhibit Black Americans from voting today. A well-off white person in my life lamented that their children could easily get their ID, so why couldn't anyone else? This person neglected to recognize that her children had cars to get them to the DMV, lived relatively close to the DMV, had the time to go, etc. This excerpt from the previous link is quite striking: "In the 1930s one Georgia man described the situation this way: 'Do you know I've never voted in my life, never been able to exercise my right as a citizen because of the poll tax? ... I can't pay a poll tax, can't have a voice in my own government.' " Saying, "Just get your ID!" today is the equivalent of saying "Just pay the poll tax!" in 1964. Remember that the restrictive voting laws passed since 2013 have been considered legal only because the Supreme Court gutted the most powerful protections of the Voting Rights Act. Thank you Alice Smith and Sarah Weiss for this suggestion.
87. Ibram X Kendi says we need to move beyond saying "racist" and "not racist." Instead, some white people are practicing anti-racism by (1) divesting themselves of white fragility and defensiveness and choosing to continue to learn and listen to Black folks and (2) dismantling white supremacy in the institutions around them. White supremacy is not just targeted murder of Black men by police. White supremacy pervades every institution — places of work, schools, all levels of govt, banks, places of worship, etc. It is our work to dismantle white supremacy in all of these institutions, not just the police. Those who are not practicing anti-racism are perpetuating white supremacy. And we cannot do the external work without doing the internal work.
88. Contact your high school and college/university to create a class that teaches white privilege, use of racial stereotypes by individuals and the media, the subconscious nature of racism in every US institution (schools, companies, etc). This class should be mandatory for all students. One such

class is CFE 444 — Schooling & Diversity at Syracuse University.

89. When people lament that the policing problem is just “a few bad apples,” share the following evidence that it is not: comedian Amber Ruffin discussing her police encounters, the Buffalo cop who intervened on a chokehold and lost her job and pension, the Minneapolis police union chief who used his powerful position to try to justify George Floyd’s torture and death, and the Philadelphia Police Union President who, in his position of authority, called Black Lives Matter protestors ‘rabid animals.’ Remember that the fourth stage of genocide is “dehumanization, wherein members of a particular group “are equated with animals, vermin, insects or diseases.”
90. Check out this Anti-Racist/Anti-Fascist Education playlist.
91. Don’t gentrify neighborhoods.
92. Support that new apartment building proposed to be built in your neighborhood. Don’t participate in “snob zoning,” which is opposing new builds of apartments because wealthy white folks are afraid the apartment building will “change the character of a community.”
93. If you or a friend or family member is an educator, ensure anti-racism is in your teaching practice. Some resources for this are the book Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire, the book Lies My Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen, American University’s Summer Institute on Education, Equity, and Justice, Teaching Tolerance, The National Seed Project, The NAIS People of Color Conference, The Race Institute for K-12 Educators, the book The Guide for White Women Who Teach Black Boys, Teaching While White, the White Privilege Conference, and specifically for white teachers of middle school students, the website The Collaborative.
94. Array is an independent film distribution and resource collective founded by Ava DuVernay. For students of all ages, Array is creating learning companions for the works they produce and distribute, starting with When They See Us. Check out the learning companion for it here.
95. Work on this excellent document of scaffolding anti-racism resources.
96. Check out the White Ally Toolkit, which helps white folks become more persuasive in conversations with racism skeptics by empowering and equipping us with best practice communications skills based on listening, storytelling, and compassion.
97. Remember the wise words of Twitter user @itsjacksonbbz: You will continue to mess up racism. So continue to be teachable, open to correction from POC, and vigilantly monitor yourself for defensiveness and white fragility. You never “arrive” as an ally you must continually *practice* allyship.

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A wannabe sheriff saw two men holding hands. He responded by asking 'where's my gun'

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A candidate for a Michigan, US, sheriff is under fire for homophobic text messages which saw him jokingly threaten to shoot a same-sex couple for holding hands.

Terry King, who is running in a heated race for the top job in Alpena County, sent a series of homophobic texts to his family in 2013 during his time as undersheriff, according to phone logs obtained by a local activist. the Detroit Free Press reported.

In October 10 exchange, King sent from his county-owned mobile phone number that he had just seen a pair of men holding hands. “Where’s my fricken’ gun,” he said, “bang bang.”

Sheriff candidate homophobic text messages spark protests in Michigan.

The log showed King texting his daughter, Kimberely. Attending a wedding in Saint Joseph County, Kimberely asked whether he was in “homoland”.

After King commented on the couple, Kimberely hit back: “They kiss and stuff! Ew.”

The exchange was obtained via a Michigan Freedom of Information Act by Bob Reid, a 58-year-old county resident, whose wife is a deputy at the sheriff’s office.

“He didn’t just give it to a couple of people,” Reid said. “He sent them to his wife and his daughter.

“It paints a different picture because it makes you think, wait a minute, he’s so comfortable with his hatred, that he shares it with his immediate family.”

The uncovered texts sparked fury from local LGBT+ activists, who, according to The Alpena News, staged a 50-person-strong protest in opposition to King. They poured out onto Chisholm Street last Saturday (July 18), holding LGBT+ Pride flags and placards.

The text messages and the sudden protests were the latest controversy to shudder King, who is currently facing his former boss, sheriff Steve Kieliszewski, in the

primary.

King was forced to resign last year after Kieliszewski accused him of impropriety. As a result, King launched a whistleblower lawsuit, suing on the grounds of wrongful termination.

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Angry mom shares photo of padded bra for 6-year-olds and people are divided

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A mom's startling discovery in the underwear aisle for young children ended up exploding online.

The over-sexualization of children is sadly, nothing new. Forcing children to "grow up" at a young age by throwing them in beauty pageants, changing them into more "adult" clothing, or featuring them as characters who dream about romantic (although thankfully never acted upon) relationships with older men are just a few examples of this creepy phenomenon.

Most recently, Kanye West and Kim Kardashian's daughter, North West, and her 7-year-old boyfriend, Caiden Mills, were highlighted in a "problematic" article that discussed their relationship in very adult terms. Things only got worse when people began delving into the young man's social media account - it was evident that the push to impose a very adult image on the child was very, very real.

A lot of the image has to do with what we're dressing our children in. It's almost always cute when a child tries to literally walk in Mommy or Daddy's shoes, or trying on Mommy and Daddy's clothing. The fact that it's oversized is what makes it adorable.

However, putting on particular articles of clothing, especially ones meant to accentuate certain features in a sexual way, is disgusting. Imagine a pair of 6-inch louboutin spike heels, scaled down to a child's size? It's chilling.



SOURCE: FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

I have a daughter, and when she's at the age where her body's maturing and developing in ways that are scary and she may not be ready for, I want her to feel comfortable to not only broach that topic with her parents, but also comfortable in whatever she's wearing.

So if she needs bras with lining, then I'll buy her as many as she needs, happily. And I may need to get her that sooner than I think because as it turns out, for whatever reason, kids are hitting puberty earlier than they have in recent years.

Lined bras are one thing, but why would any 6-year-old ever need a padded bra for? Especially one that makes them look like they have fully formed breasts? That's what this mom, Angela Fellar, wanted to know when she spotted this Calvin Klein line of underwear that was designed for children who haven't even learned their multiplication tables yet.



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

While shopping at Nordstrom, she noticed a Calvin Klein line of bras in the 6/6x size, which by itself isn't a big deal, but the padding on the bra is what's getting her and a bunch of other parents up in arms. One user wrote: "Insane! Let them be girls. Let them look like girls, talk like girls, dress like girls. Children should not look like mini adults. They are children."

Others thought that Angela might've been jumping to conclusions about the bras:

"People are so dumb. 6 doesn't necessarily mean a child my daughter is 27, has no boobs and is thin as a rail. People once again just looking for something to be offended about."



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

It's worth mentioning that that pads in the bras are removable, but many are

questioning why they're even there in the first place, and are pointing to this as yet another example of reinforcing body standards on women, even when they're 6-year-old children.

While there were a ton of people who argued that their could be a lot of petite, older women, or smaller framed teenagers who would wear these bras, the fact remains that they're sized for 6/6x, meaning that the intended average wearer of this garment is a 6-year-old female child. Like one Facebook commenter wrote:

"My 6 year old wears a 6/6x that's borderline toddler size."



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

There were many who maintained that the padding on the bras weren't there for

aesthetic purposes, but that they served functional ones as well - they're more comfortable than lined bras. As per this comment from FB user Christina Craft:

"I have a 10 year old and I have always bought her the padded ones. They are more comfortable period and if we are teaching them about bras then we also have to teach them how to wear for comfort. Seriously they aren't padded push ups but a lil padding can make it easier. No embarrassing moments and she comfortable during the growing period. Honestly it's hard to find bras at this stage of life that a mother is truly happy with bc everything is sexually geared for women and young girls so you just have to talk and teach them to help them navigate for themselves."

There were a number of people who began arguing semantics, and that the 6/6x sizing on the bra meant that it's a size 6 and not sized for 6-year-olds. Which started a whole discussion as to whether or not this really was a child's bra. Judging from the original photo with the mom's hand on the bra, it certainly does look like it was sized for a child.

Charlotte Johnston
It's size 6, not age 6!
Like · Reply · 9 · 1d

Nikki Marasco
So how old is a child that is a size 6? Well, 1-2 year olds wear a 2T, which stands for 2 year old toddler, and 3T and 4T are also toddler sizes, and then 5 year olds move into size 5...so...

SOURCE: FACEBOOK

It's worth mentioning that there are several other clothing brands that manufacture padded bras for children, however, not all of them mold/shape the same way these bras in the Mom's post do. What are your thoughts? Is it OK if a six-year-old's rocking a padded bra? Or is it just another gross example of over-sexualizing children from a very young age?

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Free Britney Spears: Conservatorship to be reviewed in court, but what is it?

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Ethan Miller/Getty

Britney Spears' conservatorship will be addressed in a Los Angeles court hearing Wednesday (July 22), with the singer expected to make a video conference appearance amid ever-growing calls to “Free Britney”.

The singer has had much of her personal affairs – including her finances, mental health and music career – controlled by legal guardians (mostly her dad, Jamie Spears) under a conservatorship since 2008.

Calls to “Free Britney” have been mounting for years as fans have been campaigning to end the arrangement – with many claiming that she is being controlled to the point where she is not allowed to have children with boyfriend Sam Asghari.

The terms of Britney’s conservatorship will be addressed once more at the court hearing, where it will be decided if it should be extended, according to The Blast.

The court hearing will examine the singer’s finances, mental health, personal life and psychological outlook in detail.

Free Britney campaign wants 2008 conservatorship ended.

A conservatorship can be granted by a court in situations where a person is deemed unable to make their own decisions.

Britney’s was granted in 2008. Her dad, Jamie Spears, was appointed co-conservator with Andrew Wallet, who quit in 2019, writing in court filings that the “conservatorship is engaged in numerous ongoing business activities requiring immediate attention”.

Jamie Spears stepped down last September following a health scare – although he reportedly sees this as a temporary measure – and care manager Jodi Montgomery has acted as conservator since.

Now, the Los Angeles court will decide whether the arrangement should be renewed, and will take into account her mental wellbeing in making its decision.



‘Free Britney’ has reached a fever pitch in recent weeks, with fans across the world calling for the star to be released from her conservatorship and granted

control once more over her finances and career.

The years-long fan campaign has become increasingly mainstream as more and more people become aware of the pop star's legal situation.

Fans involved with the campaign are expected to protest outside the Los Angeles courthouse against her conservatorship, and have been sharing messages of support on social media.

Today is the DAY! #FreeBritney

We understand that mental health is part of the intimacy of every human being, but when the free development of the personality has been erroneously limited and violated, this could be called silent violence.

Opportunists!..

End The Conservatorship pic.twitter.com/grnealopNA

— #FREEBRITNEY Bitch Right Now!... (@ObjetivoBArmy) July 22, 2020

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In Belarus, wave of grassroots activism knocked by unsupported claims of foreign interference

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Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko takes part in the celebrations of Independence Day in Minsk, Belarus July 3, 2020.
(Source: REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko)

Despite Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's claims to the contrary, there is no evidence that Russia, or any other foreign entity, has spurred the recent outgrowth of Belarusian online activism and demonstrations now flourishing amid increasing dissatisfaction with government officials. As the Belarusian presidential election approaches in August 2020, several initiatives have sprung up critical of the president and his administration, drawing attention to economic stagnation and the repression of political freedoms in the country. Alongside a wave of protests, these include several hashtag campaigns, such as #нэ мой президент ("Not My President") and #HelpBelarus.

Lukashenko has insinuated that the wave of discontent sweeping Belarus is not the result of authentic grassroots activism, but rather evidence that foreign entities, particularly Russia and Poland, are meddling in the Belarusian presidential election. Russia has certainly exerted political pressure on Belarus to

encourage further economic integration with Russia, which Belarus maintains would endanger its sovereignty and Lukashenko's already shaky grip on power. There is no evidence, however, that the outpouring of civic activism currently underway in Belarus is driven by anyone other than authentic Belarusian activists.

The president has capitalized on anti-Russian sentiment in an effort to consolidate and maintain his power amid mounting disapproval of his rule and a formidable domestic opposition. Lukashenko has been in power for 26 years, having won every presidential election since Belarus secured independence in 1991. Although he is likely to secure another victory in the upcoming elections, this time he faces at least one viable opponent: Viktor Babariko, former chairman of the Russian bank Belgazprombank. Babariko is a member of the country's political and economic elite, and is not considered to be a "puppet candidate" controlled by a foreign state.

Lukashenko has suggested that Babariko is financing his campaign with money obtained via "financial scams." On June 18, 2020, Belarus authorities blocked Babariko's electoral funds and arrested him and his son. He remains in the race with another grassroots candidate, Svetlana Tsikhanovskaya, the wife of Sergei Tsikhanovsky, a popular opposition blogger in Belarus who was arrested for organizing protest rallies in the country.

These barriers to free and fair elections are among a long list of grievances for which Belarusians took to the streets. On May 25, 2020, hundreds of Belarusians in Minsk protested against Lukashenko's repeated failure to enact social distancing measures and a public health response to COVID-19. The DFRLab has previously covered how Belarusian citizens took matters into their own hands by instituting a voluntary, grassroots-led "People's Quarantine."

Lukashenko has suggested that he is willing to resort to physical force to stay in power. On June 23, he called on the military to suppress civil unrest and "protect sovereignty" from "hybrid threats." The use of Russian meddling in the protests is most likely a convenient way to justify political and civil oppression.

"Not my president"

After the detention of Babariko and his son, social media accounts primarily from Belarus' digital creative sector started posting content addressed to

Lukashenko personally. “I cannot call myself a person who is interested in politics,” wrote a user named Yekaterina, who identified herself as an animal rights activist. “When I look at you, I do not feel anger or disgust, I feel shame.” Another Facebook user named Dima Kurash, who identified as a stand-up comedian, wrote: “Aleksandr Grigorevich, you are #notmypresident. [...] Monopoly of power — no, I do not judge you, but if we lived just fine, and fine — it is not even living good.”

The DFRLab identified at least 29 posts containing the hashtag **#нemойпрезидент** (“Not My President”) on Facebook and that addressed Lukashenko personally. Similar posts appeared on Instagram as well.

Though Babariko was arrested on June 18, the first post in this style appeared on June 6. Valeria, who identified herself as head of digital at the JCS Digital Agency wrote: “Aleksandr Grigorevich [Lukashenko], you are not my president. As a manager, I can say: you have lagged behind the times for many years.” At the end of her post, Valeria thanked and tagged Facebook Dima Kurash, who inspired her to write a post with the “not my president” hashtag.

Valeria [REDACTED]
June 6 at 2:15 PM ·

#УсталБояться #немойпрезидент
Александр Григорьевич, вы - не мой президент.
Как руководитель и менеджер, я с уверенностью могу сказать: вы отстали на много лет.

Причины современного эффективного менеджмента - это:
- уважение
- свобода мнений идей
- постоянство итераций и процессов
- базовая эффективности и социальной ответственности
- равные права и возможности вне зависимости от гендера
И ни одно из них, уважаемый Александр Григорьевич, не обеспечивается в нашей стране: угрозы и насилие, отсутствие сильных лидеров и эффективности, непрозрачность экономических, социальных и политических результатов.

В последние дни вы подвели черту в своем мнении о народе Беларуси и, в частности, о женщинах.
Численность женщин в Беларусь, если вы не знали, составляет 5,1 млн, или 53,4% общей численности населения. В городах и поселках городского типа проживает подавляющее большинство женщин (79%). И если наша Конституция и ваше правительство не подходят для большинства населения страны - то, кажется, пора их пересмотреть.

Пока наша страна держится на главу только благодаря нам, беларусам. Это мы работаем, это мы платим налоги, это мы платим за пространство, разделяя его за границей, что беларус - это не последний приоритет, а красивая страна. Но это не благодаря вам, уважаемый Александр Григорьевич, это вопросы вам и вашему "менеджменту".

Вы называли нас народом. Что ж, нас не очень много - но нас хватает, чтобы обеспечить эту страну, а еще себя, своих близких и не только. Например, чтобы защищать животных, поддерживать одинаковых пожилых людей и тех, кто потерял близких во время пандемии, и тех, кто нас лечит и спасает. А еще мы обеспечиваем деньгами вас, выбранное вами правительство и других известных вам.

Я, пожалуй, на этом закончу. У меня множество вопросов к вам, как к менеджеру - и еще больше, как к человеку.

Вы не мой президент, Александр Григорьевич. И ни я, ни моя страна - не ваша собственность.

Спасибо Dima Kurash за вдохновение. Давайте перестанем бояться, давайте говорить, что болит и где нужно исправлять - давайте объединяться. Я за любовь, мир и развитие, которого мы достойны

Dima Kurash
June 5 at 9:28 PM ·

никогда не молчал, и не буду

БЕЛАРУСЬ
СТРАНА ДЛЯ ЖИЗНИ

DIMAKURASH.COM
Обращение к... | Основано на реальных
Александр Григорьевич, вы — не мой президент. Я никогда ...

5.1K 156 27 Comments 18 Shares

The initial posts that triggered the hashtag #notmypresident (#немойпрезидент) in Belarus. Translation of the text in pink box from Russian: “Aleksandr Grigorevich, you are not my president. As a manager, I can say: you are lagging behind the times for many years.” Translation of the text in blue box from Russian: “Thank you Dima Kurash for the inspiration. Let’s stop being afraid, let’s start talking about what hurts and what needs to be fixed. Let’s unite. For the love, peace, and development that we deserve.” Translation of Dima Kurash’s post from Russian: “I was never mute, and will never be.” (Source: Valeria Kremeneckaya/archive, left; Dima Kurash/archive, right)

On June 5, the Dima Kurash account posted a link to a blog post that started with the words, “Aleksandr Grigorevich, you are not my president.” Later, Kurash

posted a compilation of similar posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram, writing that he had managed to inspire people to speak up against the current regime.



Dima Kurash

June 22 at 9:10 AM ·

...

Меня слишком часто пытались убедить в том, что я ничего не смогу сделать и повлиять на ситуацию вокруг. Я наталкивался на стену непонимания так часто, что начал считать барьером к другой жизни самих же беларусов. Сейчас - это не так.

За 26 лет власти удалось убедить большинство в том, что:

- больше нет никаких достойных кандидатов;
- невозможно в одиночку ничего решить.... [See More](#)

kybinsky.pashka 6ч.

Если кто не понимает почему Лука не святой и #НЕМОЙПРЕЗИДЕНТ

Короче

Нужно подвести какую-то черту. То что происходит сейчас в стране - это мой ответ на вопрос «почему я положил свой диплом на полку?». Мол, камон, ты же сдал обществоведение на сто баллов, окончил юридический факультет БГУ, вроде не глупый парень, почему ты не работаешь по специальности?

Мои преподаватели учили меня читать уверенностю могу сказать - вы задержались в прошлом, а я хочу идти в будущее. Я хочу жить в третьем тысячелетии по-настоящему в цент... Еще



11DKSNBOnf8SqoghrHyFxOzgOkpZN3Y-IN8zyLGfqUaQ/viewform?edit_requested=true
#немойпрезидент #конституциядлявсех
#женщинисила

Закон, права человека, уважение, порядочность, интеллект, альтернатива - чужие слова для усатого самодура, возомнившего себя президентом

#НЕМОЙПРЕЗИДЕНТ +6

826 47 комментариев Поделились: 134

2 Shares



43

Dima Kurash's post listing other posts that he claimed to have inspired. Translation of the first paragraph from Russian: "They tried to convince me too often that I cannot do anything and I that cannot influence situation around me. I stumbled on a wall of incomprehension so often that it made me think that Belarusians themselves are the obstacle to another life. Now that is not the case."

(Source: Dima Kurash/archive)

There are several indicators, or rather lack of indicators, that suggest that accounts that engaged in the #NotMyPresident digital flashmob are authentic.

First, their identities can be confirmed via other open source mentions. For instance, Yekaterina, mentioned on her Facebook profile that she is from the city of Gomel and cares about animal rights. Her name appears in a Belarusian media publication about a dog saved in Gomel. Yekaterina is also listed as a volunteer from the Gomel animal rights NGO named Dobrota. Yekaterina has liked the page of the NGO on Facebook too.

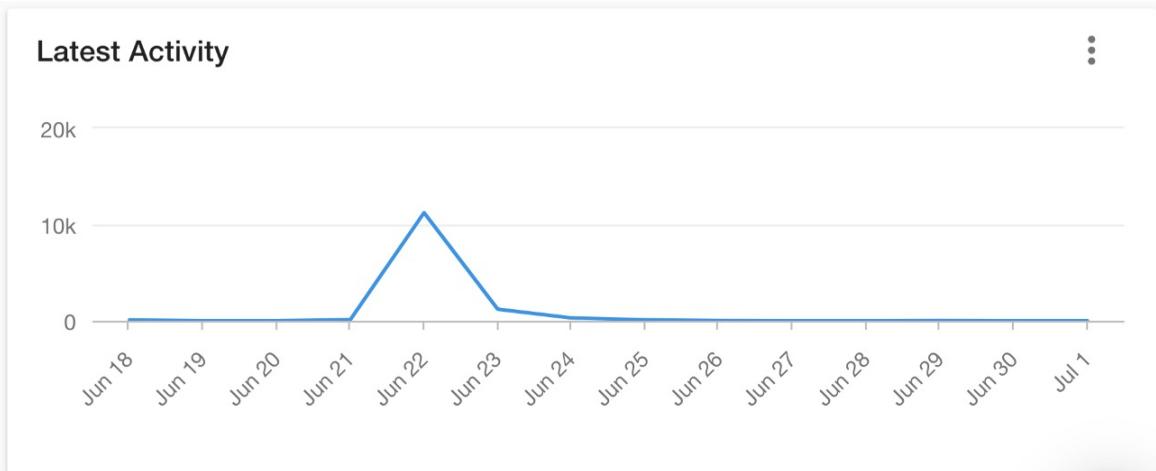
Second, they use the same identity consistently on various platforms. Dima Kurash, for example, mentioned that he works at Stand-up Comedy Hall, which is described as “the first stand-up club in Belarus.” His Facebook profile links to his YouTube channel and features footage of him performing stand-up comedy.



Screenshot from Dima Kurash performing stand-up comedy. (Source: Дмитрий Нарышкин/YouTube)

Help Belarus (#helpBelarus)

On June 22, the #helpBelarus hashtag began trending on Twitter.



Daily number of tweets containing the hashtag #helpBelarus from June 18 to July 1, 2020. (Source: @acarvin/DFRLab via Meltwater Explore)

The most retweeted tweets called on raising awareness about the situation in Belarus by amplifying the hashtag. Most tweets came from accounts with their locations set to Poland.

 berenika
@zimnypocalunek

na białorusi tez zbliżają się wybory prezydenckie, aresztowano głównego kontrkandydata Łukaszenki bez możliwości dopuszczenia do niego adwokata, ludzie wyszli na ulice, bo mają dość kontrolowania wyborów i fałszowania głosów, chcą demokracji, pomóżmy im #helpBelarus

Translated from Polish by Google

presidential elections are also approaching in Belarus, the main opponent candidate Lukashenka has been arrested without the possibility of admitting a lawyer to him, people have taken to the streets because they are fed up with controlling elections and falsifying votes, they want democracy, let's help them #helpBelarus

 azizi
@tigredaisy

KAJNY KTO WIDZI TEGO TWEETA ODPowiADA Z TYM HASZTAGIEM. #helpBelarus

Translated from Polish by Google

EVERYONE WHO SEES THIS TWEET RESPOND TO THIS HASHTAG. #helpBelarus

Wzywamy do solidarności z nimi. Białorusini, prosimy Polskę oraz cały świat, jedynie walczyć dalej i rozpowiadzają bandyty i faszyści.

06.2020 na Białorusi dzieją się zatrzymania, którzy wyszli protestować przeciwko zaprzeczenia prezydenta Wiktor Babaryki @viktar_babar.

Białorusini zawsze chcieli być częścią 400 lat. Teraz chcemy wiceprezydentem Wiktorem Babarowym. Wspólnie pokonać Łukaszenkę. Polscy nielegalni zatrzymują ludzi, dzienni. Policia najczęściej nie jest ubrana w oficjalne ubrania. To są przestępcy w Europie, 200 km od Polski.

Wiktor Babariko jest teraz w a kilkudziesięciu miastach Białorusi umysłu, aby wesprzeć nowego kandydata @vladawieniu.

12:21 PM · Jun 22, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1.5K Retweets 2.1K Likes

wocita BLM
@louisq4

Nagłośnijmy ten hashtag aby ludzie dowiedzieli się co się dzieje na białorusi!!! #helpbelarus

Translated from Polish by Google

Let's publicize this hashtag for people to find out what is going on in Belarus !!! #helpbelarus

miss_oletta Warszawa

Lubi to brycovid19 i tysiące innych użytkowników miss_oletta My_Białorusi, prosimy Polskę oraz cały świat o pomoc !

Od wczoraj 19.06.2020 na Białorusi dzieją się zatrzymania niewinnych ludzi, którzy wyszli protestować przeciwko zatrzymaniu kandydata na prezydenta Wiktora Babareki @viktar_babarek i jego syna, Szymona.

Władze reakcji policji nielegalnie zatrzymują ludzi, dzieciaki,biją kobiet i chorych. Policja najczęściej nie jest ubrana w oficjalne mundury, a tylko w zwykłe cywilne ubrania. To są przestępstwa na skale kolosalnej.

Wspierajmy solidarność z narodem białoruskim. Pozostajemy nam jedni do końca dnia i roznosząc informacje, że krajem rządzą bandyci i faszysty.

Białorusini zaczęli chodzić i śpiewać w dobrań relacjiach z Pańskim w wieku 400 lat. Tessa charytatywnie im mówią, ale już z nowym prezydentem Wiktorem Babarekiem @viktar_babarek. Tylko razem z nami możemy pokonać Lukaszenkę.

Wiktor Babarek jest teraz w areszcie, władze stworzyły pukowią, które nie mają nic wspólnego z rzeczywistością.

Udostępnij! Oznacz znajomych! Pomóżcie Białorusiom!

Examples of tweets with the hashtag #helpBelarus. (Source: @zimnypocalunek/archive, top left; @tigredaisy/archive, top right; @lanapoesies/archive, bottom left; @louihq4/archive, bottom right)

The two most active Twitter accounts using the hashtag were @autokrytyczym and @pozytywnie__. Both mentioned the hashtag 80 and 72 times, respectively,

which accounted for only 0.05 percent of all of the tweets from Polish accounts using the hashtag. This suggests that a small number of hyperactive users were not responsible for making the hashtag trend, a tactic often observed in inorganic Twitter traffic flows.

Nevertheless, both accounts behaved as amplifiers of the hashtag. Below is an example of their timelines on June 22.

The image shows a Twitter interface with a sidebar on the left and a main timeline on the right. The sidebar has tabs for 'Top', 'Latest', 'People', 'Photos', and 'Videos'. The main timeline displays tweets from various users, with a focus on two accounts: @autokrytyczym and @pozytywnie_.

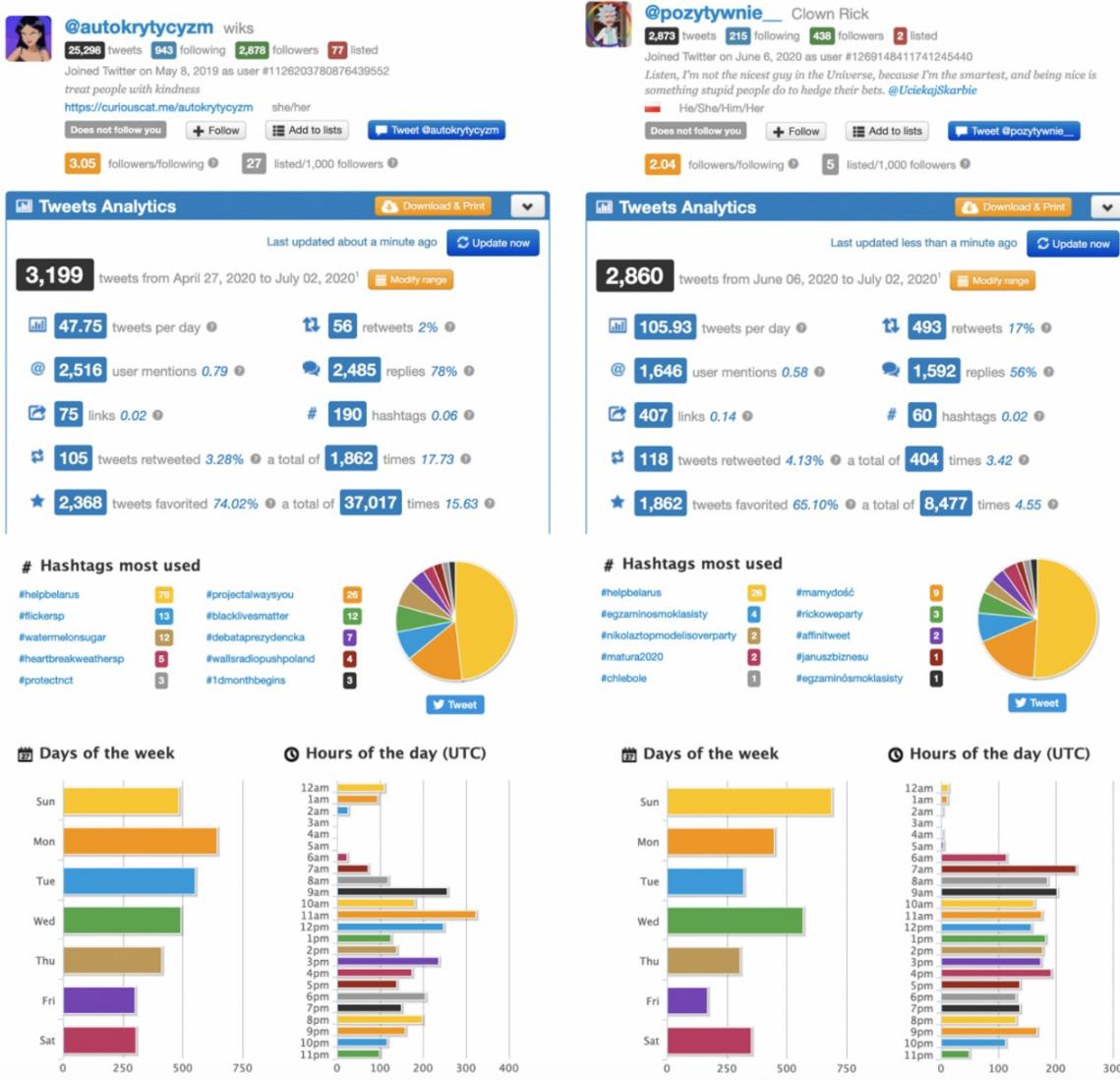
- @autokrytyczym (Left Column):**
 - Jun 22: "KADZY KTO WIDZI TEGO TWEETA NIECH ODPOWIE Z #helpBelarus WBMJY GO DO TRENDOW!!!!!!" (Everyone who sees this tweet let him in the trends!!!!!!)
 - Jun 22: "KADZY KTO WIDZI TEGO TWEETA NIECH ODPOWIE Z #helpBelarus WBMJY GO DO TRENDOW!!!!!!"
 - Jun 22: "podacie datę jeśli możecie proszę #helpBelarus"
 - Jun 22: "współdzielcie się o tym co się dzieje w Białorusi"
 - Jun 22: "o chyba ja"
- @pozytywnie_ (Right Column):**
 - Jun 22: "Proszę piszcie po największych kontach by naglaśniali #HelpBelarus" (Please write to larger accounts to make it public)
 - Jun 22: "Jeśli ktoś ma DM z @SylwiaLipka to może do niej napisać z prośbą o opublikowanie sytuacji. odleżę się miloficja #HelpBelarus" (If anyone has DM with @SylwiaLipka can he write to her asking for publicizing the situation? Please, I will repay you with love #helpBelarus)
 - Jun 22: "Dziękuję, że w tak krótkim czasie staracie się to rozprzestrzenić, mam doprawdy armię cudownych wnucząt ❤️ #HelpBelarus twitter.com/pozytywnie_/_s..." (Thank you for spreading it in such a short time, I really have an army of wonderful grandchildren ❤️ #HelpBelarus twitter.com/pozytywnie_/_s...)
 - Jun 22: "Jaiedrole nie myślałem, że gdzieś i to tak blisko Polski może być aż tak złe, przecież to jest nieudziele #HelpBelarus" (Jaiedrole, I didn't think that somewhere near Poland could be so bad, it's inhuman #helpBelarus)

Examples of the tweets by @autokrytyczym and @pozytywnie_ on June 22. The tweets on the side include Google Translate translations from Polish to English. (Source, from left to right, top to bottom:
@autokrytyczym/archive; @autokrytyczym/archive;
@pozytywnie_/archive; @pozytywnie_/archive;
@pozytywnie_/archive; @pozytywnie_/archive;
@pozytywnie_/archive)

For example, @autokrytyczym suggested its followers to use the hashtag #helpBelarus in replies to make it trend on Twittter. In another Polish tweet, @pozytywnie_ in implied that he mobilized his followers to use the hashtag.

Both Twitter accounts used cartoon avatars for their profiles and were anonymous. They also produced many tweets per day — @autokrytyczym posted an average of 47.75 times a day over a three-month period, while @pozytywnie_ posted an average of 105.93 times a day in just under a month.

Nevertheless, both accounts mostly engaged in Twitter conversations in which they interacted with other users, suggesting that their operators were human users. They also did not tweet through the night in Poland or engage in consistent 24/7 activity, which is often a hallmark of inauthentic accounts.



Analysis of @autokrytyczm and @pozytywnie_ account behavior on Twitter. (Source: Twitonomy)

The accounts engaged with other hashtags involving political and social issues, including #blacklivesmatter — but they consistently did so in Polish, increasing the likelihood of their authenticity.

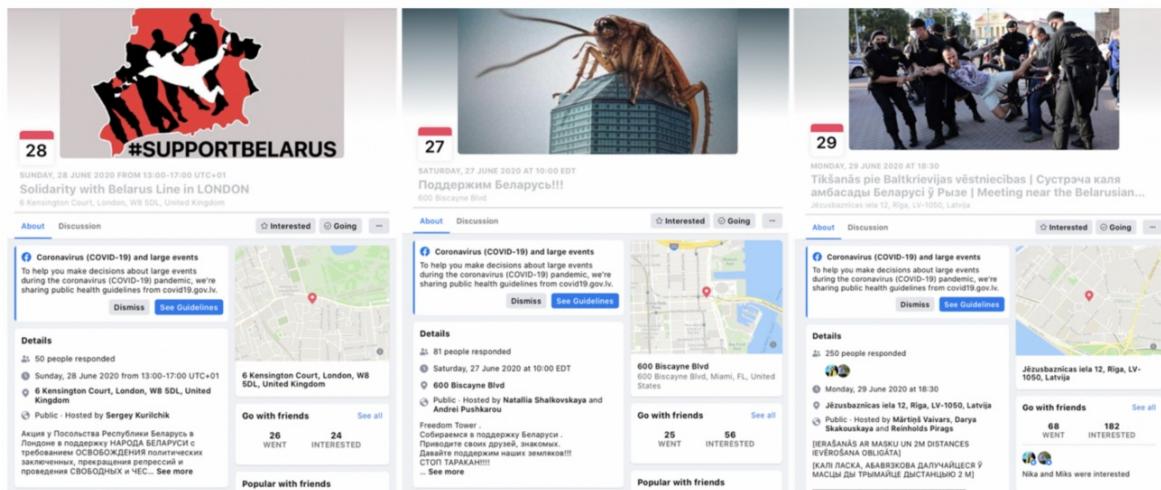
Solidarity rallies across Europe

In the case of Polish accounts tweeting about #blacklivesmatter, it is critical to not underestimate the potential scale of authentic coordinated civic action and solidarity. This is especially true for an issue that is increasingly salient across the globe. Black Lives Matter protests have swept across multiple cities in the

Balkans and Central Europe, including the Polish capital of Warsaw.

In a similar manner, multiple cities on both sides of the Atlantic held solidarity protests with Belarusian citizens. The DFRLab identified and geolocated 23 solidarity protests against political repression in Belarus that took place from June 19 in Kiev to July 1 in Brussels. At least six of these solidarity events took place in the United States.

The DFRLab examined the organizers of these events. In most cases, the organizers were members of the Belarusian diaspora. Some of them had expressed criticism of Lukashenko before, like a co-organizer of a solidarity protest in Florida. Others, like the co-organizer of an event in San Diego, did not have a history of posting political content, but appeared to be spurred to political action by the situation in Belarus. The visual identities of the Facebook events, event descriptions, and banners were distinct, and the protests actually took place. There was no indication that they were fake or organized by nefarious actors using astroturfing techniques to create the false impression of grassroots support.



Examples of Facebook events for the Belarus solidarity demonstrations. (Source: Solidarity with Belarus Line in LONDON/archive, left; Поддержим Беларусь!!!/archive, middle; Tikšanās pie Baltkrievijas vēstniecības/archive, right)

As domestic dissatisfaction with President Lukashenko's government bubbled over in Belarus, Lukashenko turned to a common scapegoat for political leaders with an authoritarian streak: foreign interference. In particular, Lukashenko alleged that Russia was meddling in the upcoming Belarusian elections by way

of Poland. One of the indicators of this alleged foreign interference was the large number of Polish accounts posting on Twitter expressing solidarity with Belarusians, as well as a number of solidarity protest events on Facebook organized throughout the world. Yet the origin and nature of these online activities show no indication of foreign interference or nefarious activity. All of the evidence suggests that the wave of civic activism currently sweeping Belarus are grassroots movements steered by Belarusian civil society members and those standing in solidarity with them — whether President Lukashenko likes it or not.

Nika Aleksejeva is a Research Associate, Baltics, with the Digital Forensic Research Lab.

Follow along *for more in-depth analysis from our #DigitalSherlocks*.

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Mara Wilson: Matilda star recalls fan letters sent by 'creepy old men'

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Bisexual actor Mara Wilson, who starred in *Matilda* as a child, has revealed that she was sent fan letters sent by “creepy old men” when she was young.

The mental health activist and former child star featured in a new documentary, *Showbiz Kids*, which premiered on Sky Atlantic this week, and discussed her experience of stardom at a young age.

She told Yahoo Movies that she and her family had no idea how popular *Matilda* would become, and that the film’s release coincided with the early stages of her Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

She said: “It was just something fun that I liked doing instead of an actual career – which is what it was. It was a life-altering commitment that I made when I was five.

“I don’t think my parents would’ve done it had they known I was going to be even remotely popular. For them it was just a fun experience. They didn’t think I’d be in newspapers or magazines.”

“I loved working on *Matilda*,” she added. “It was a part I loved with so many great people but my mother was ill with cancer.

“As soon as that film wrapped, I was having terrible panic attacks and obsessively washing my hands.”

Along with the “tremendous amount of pressure” that came with her fame, Wilson also revealed that unwanted attention from supposed fans “messed her up”.

She said: “I had generally good experiences in Hollywood. That changed a little bit as I got older but the worst things that happened came either through the media or by people who considered themselves fans but were making me uncomfortable.

“The public perception messes people up. Getting fan letters from creepy old men when you’re a child – that messes you up.”

In May, the bisexual *Matilda* star discussed her childhood mental health problems to show that trans kids are capable of making their own choices.

In an interview with the trans charity Mermaids, Mara Wilson said: “I mean, the way that I see it, when I was 12 years old, I knew that I had a mental illness.

“I knew that I was suffering terribly from anxiety and depression, and I read some books about obsessive compulsive disorder and immediately thought, ‘This is it, this is what I have, and I want help for it.’”

Having “advocated” for her own treatment at the age of 12, she added: “I don’t know if every child can do that, I but I knew at 12 and at 13 years old that that was the best move for me.”

She noted that it’s not an exact parallel because being transgender is an identity, not a mental illness, but added: “I do think a lot of people know from a very young age that they are different, or that they are special, that they are affected in a certain way.”

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Nadia Whittome condemns Liz Truss for 'fanning hate' against trans people

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Labour's Nadia Whittome has accused Tory equalities chief Liz Truss of "fanning the flames of populist hate" against the transgender community.

Whittome's accusation came on the day the government had promised to announce the results of the Gender Recognition Act consultation – a promise that has now been broken.

The 2018 consultation asked the public for their views on potential changes to the Gender Recognition Act (GRA) – the 2004 law that transgender men and women use to gain legal recognition of their gender.

Several successive Tory equalities ministers have promised to publish the results

of the GRA consultation and the government’s plan for modernising the law, but have instead repeatedly delayed.

Liz Truss, Boris Johnson’s minister for women and equalities, has provoked alarm over the past three months with her statements on trans rights. Her comments about restricting access to healthcare for trans youth and tinkering with trans people’s right to use public single-sex spaces have indicated, many have said, a fundamental and possibly deliberate misunderstanding of the GRA’s scope.

Truss had promised to publish the consultation results before parliament goes into summer recess later today. She’s now said that the Tories “will be responding to the consultation over the summer”.

In a women and equalities questions session in the House of Commons this morning, Whittome accused Truss of “quibbling” on this issue and “fanning the flames of populist hate” against trans people.

Attacks towards trans people are up 40% on last year.

I challenged Liz Truss today to stop fanning the flames of populist hate and publish the GRA consultation.

I’m pleased her response was positive and will be keeping a close eye on what action follows. pic.twitter.com/XTnFBHnWxP

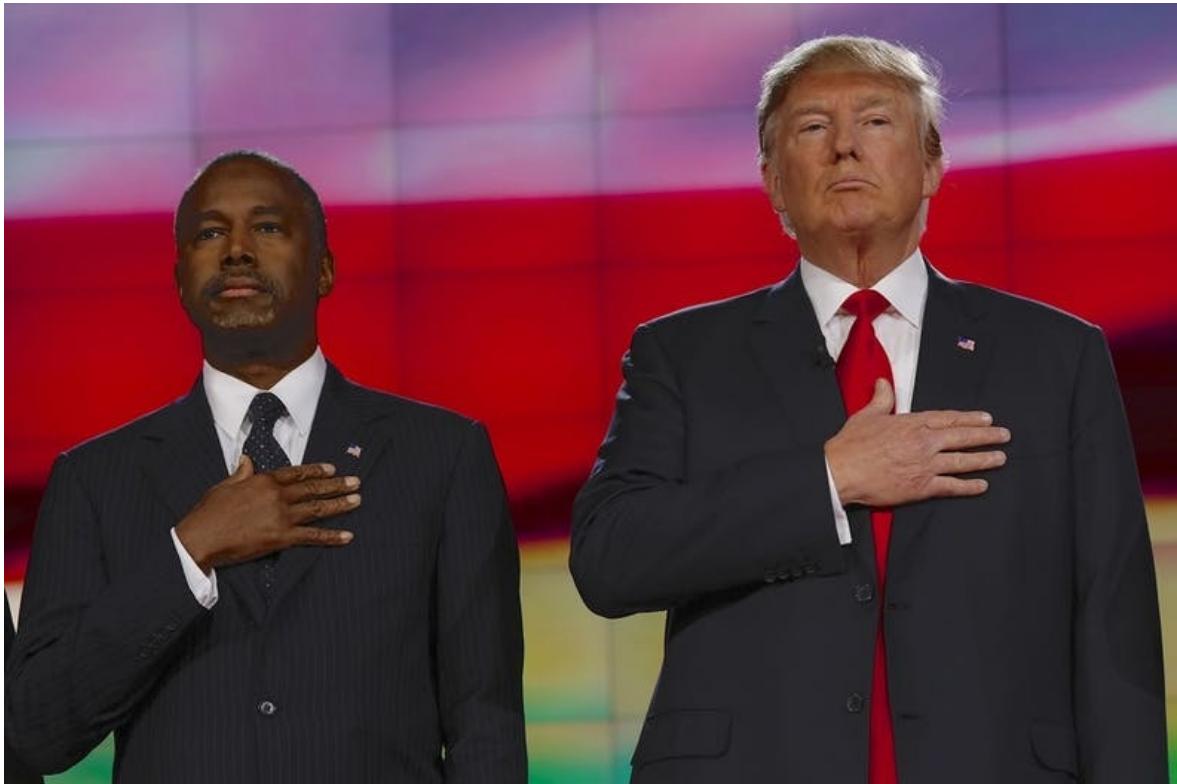
— Nadia Whittome MP (@NadiaWhittomeMP) July 22, 2020

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Trump administration memo explains how to spot a transgender woman

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ben-carson-donald-trump

A copy of the new rule that will allow homeless shelters to refuse transgender people has been leaked to the media, and it contains instructions on how to spot transgender women to target them for discrimination.

Earlier this month, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it would be rolling back the Obama-era Equal Access Rule, which required homeless shelters that receive HUD funding to house transgender people with the gender they identify as.

Related: Ben Carson tells Fox News he's transphobic because the Bible & Chinese people

The rollback – which HUD said would “better accommodate religious beliefs of shelter providers” – allows single-gender homeless shelters to decide if they want a housing policy based on sex assigned at birth or gender identity, effectively allowing shelters that house women to turn away transgender women and shelters that house men to turn away transgender men.

The announcement meant that homeless shelters would be allowed to determine who is transgender, which poses a significant risk to people’s privacy rights.

The news website Vox has obtained a copy of the rule, which includes instructions of what a shelter can do spot a trans woman.

Shelter workers may use “factors such as height, the presence (but not the absence) of facial hair, the presence of an Adam’s apple, and other physical characteristics which, when considered together, are indicative of a person’s biological sex,” the rule says.

If a homeless person appears too transgender for a homeless shelter, the shelter is allowed to ask them for proof of “biological sex.”

“Evidence requested must not be unduly intrusive of privacy, such as private physical anatomical evidence,” the rule states, barring shelters from forcing suspected transgender people to strip in front of them.

“Evidence requested could include government identification, but lack of government identification alone cannot be the sole basis for denying admittance on the basis of sex.”

HUD Secretary Ben Carson has criticized the Equal Access Rule in the past as allowing “big, hairy men” – how he once referred to transgender women – to “impede the rights of” cisgender women who are “not comfortable with the idea of being in a shelter, being in a shower, with somebody who had very different anatomy.”

He has also used “Biblical principles” to attack the protections for transgender people and said that LGBTQ anti-discrimination measures are “special rights.”

“One in three transgender Americans has been homeless at some point in their lives, and this proposal would have them sleep on the street rather than get help,” wrote National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara

Keisling in a statement.

“The difference between being sheltered and unsheltered is especially dangerous for transgender homeless persons, particularly transgender persons of color, who face harassment and threats from private individuals, as well as elevated rates of policing and violence within police custody. When combined with President Trump’s recent policy proposals to increase criminalization of homelessness, while cutting HUD’s affordable housing budget and rolling back support for Housing First, it is clear that getting transgender persons off the street and out of harm’s way is a matter of life and death.”

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