

# Social Justice Watch 0804

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BLUE LIVES  
DON'T EXIST

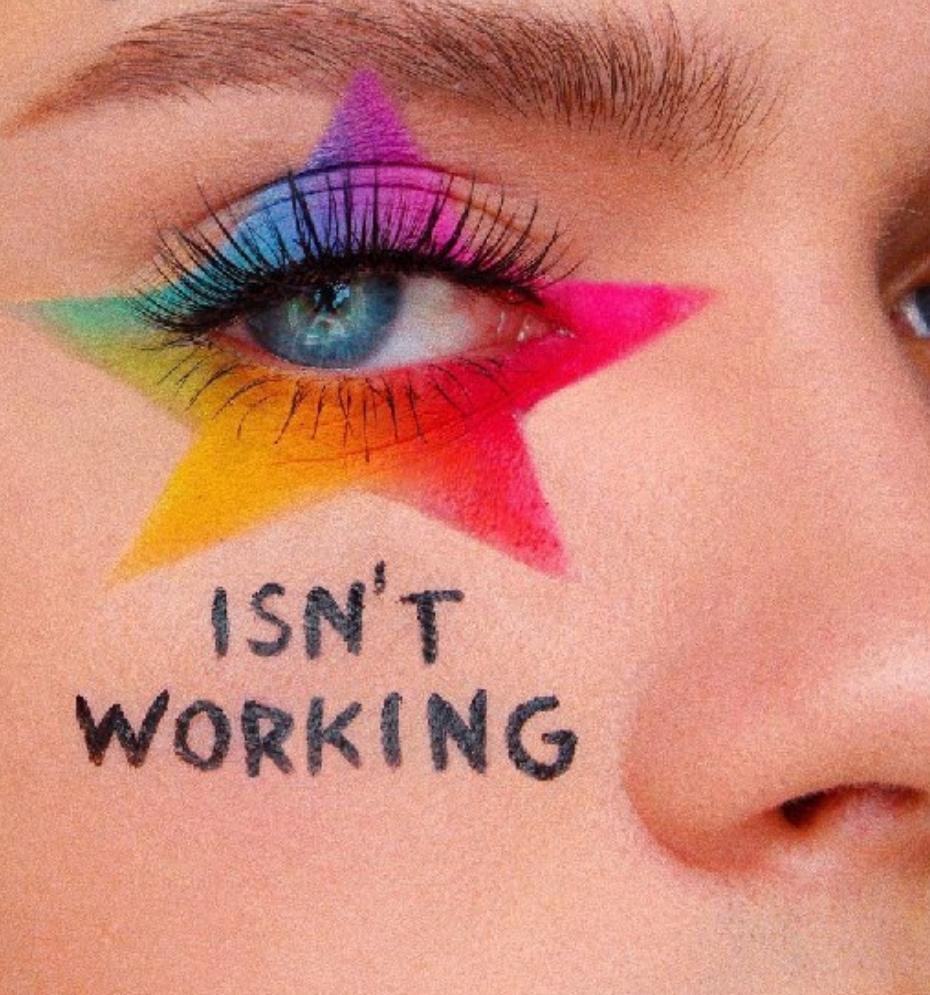
YOUR CAREER  
IS A CHOICE



IF YOU ACCEPT  
GAY BUT NOT  
TRANS PEOPLE,

YOUR "ACCEPTANCE"  
IS SHITTY AND  
WE DON'T  
WANT IT

CANCEL  
CULTURE

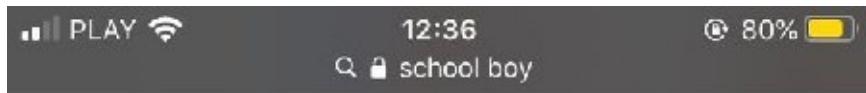


ISN'T  
WORKING



hi i'm matt i'm the creator behind the angry political makeup looks u may have seen floating around social media without credit . i'm gay n that's all u need to know [source](#)

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school boy X 🔍

WSZYSTKO **GRAFIKA** FILMY WIADOMOŚCI

Najnowsze **GIF** HD 🛍 Produkt 🎬 Kolor ▾

cartoon happy bag wearing uniform

Produkt  
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Cartoon happy school boy in unifo...  
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PLAY 12:37 79%

school girl

Najnowsze GIF HD Produkt Kolor

costume school uniform schoolgirls s

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pl.aliexpress.com · W magazynie

MUSIC LEGS®

Leg Avenue Przebranie Uczennicy...  
ceneo.pl · W magazynie

Women Anime School Girl Uniform...  
wish.com

let's talk about it. [source](#)

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Telegraph

Robber sexually assaulted woman after realising she was transgender  
A trans student was violently mugged before being subjected to a “humiliating” sexual assault after her attacker realised she was transgender. Luke Anderson was jailed for more than four years after a court heard how he humiliated and taunted his victim,...

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[telegra.ph/Royal-Mint-rejected-commemorative-coin-celebrating-LGBT-equality-08-03](http://telegra.ph/Royal-Mint-rejected-commemorative-coin-celebrating-LGBT-equality-08-03)

Telegraph

Royal Mint rejected commemorative coin celebrating LGBT+ equality  
A commemorative coin marking the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK was rejected by the Royal Mint on the grounds that it was “commercially unviable”, it has emerged. The coin was proposed in 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the...

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[telegra.ph/Warsaw-Uprising-Polish-thugs-mark-anniversary-by-burning-Pride-flags-08-03](http://telegra.ph/Warsaw-Uprising-Polish-thugs-mark-anniversary-by-burning-Pride-flags-08-03)

Telegraph

Warsaw Uprising: Polish thugs mark anniversary by burning Pride flags  
Far-right thugs burned rainbow flags as they marched through Warsaw as they staged a demonstration on Saturday. The march to mark the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising – resistance against the Nazis during the World War Two – saw the rising anti-LGBT+ sentiment...

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[telegra.ph/Jewish-teen-shuns-gendered-ceremonies-for-gender-neutral-bnai-mitzvah-08-03](http://telegra.ph/Jewish-teen-shuns-gendered-ceremonies-for-gender-neutral-bnai-mitzvah-08-03)

Telegraph

Jewish teen shuns gendered ceremonies for gender-neutral b'nai mitzvah  
A gay Jewish 13-year-old opted to have a gender-neutral b'nai mitzvah – instead of the tradition bat mitzvah or bar mitzvah – complete with a blessing from her “super cool” rabbi. Ruby Marx from Massachusetts told The Guardian there was no question that she...

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[telegra.ph/Frank-Ocean-Brother-Ryan-Breaux-dead-at-18-after-car-crash-reports-say-08-03](http://telegra.ph/Frank-Ocean-Brother-Ryan-Breaux-dead-at-18-after-car-crash-reports-say-08-03)

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Frank Ocean: Brother Ryan Breaux dead at 18 after car crash, reports say  
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CBBC has issued a “perfect” response to all the homophobes who were upset by a same-sex kiss in teen drama The Next Step. The BBC was swamped with more than 100 complaints over a programme which showed an innocent kiss between two teenage girls in July. The...

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[telegra.ph/Joshua-Sutcliffe-Teacher-fired-after-calling-Muhammad-a-false-prophet-08-03](http://telegra.ph/Joshua-Sutcliffe-Teacher-fired-after-calling-Muhammad-a-false-prophet-08-03)

Telegraph

Joshua Sutcliffe: Teacher fired after calling Muhammad a 'false prophet'  
A teacher who was fired for misgendering a trans student was sacked from a second school just months later after he called Muhammad a “false prophet”.

Joshua Sutcliffe was sacked from the Cherwell School in Oxford in November 2017 before moving to a school...

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[telegra.ph/Jack-Monroe-eviscerates-Annunziata-Rees-Mogg-over-potato-comments-08-03](#)

Telegraph

Jack Monroe eviscerates Annunziata Rees-Mogg over potato comments  
Food writer Jack Monroe has opened up about the horror of living through poverty as a result of “Conservative led austerity measures”. The non-binary writer – who uses both she and they pronouns – responded to comments made by MEP Annunziata Rees-Mogg about...

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[telegra.ph/Dwyane-Wade-and-Gabrielle-Union-honour-Zaya-at-GLAAD-Media-Awards-08-03](#)

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Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union honour Zaya at GLAAD Media Awards  
Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union were the picture of proud parents as they honoured their trans daughter Zaya at the 2020 GLAAD Media Awards. The celebrity power couple gave a pre-recorded message to present the award for outstanding drama series to FX’s Pose...

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[telegra.ph/Drag-Race-Holland-RuPaul-announces-Netherlands-spin-off-with-new-host-08-03](#)

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Drag Race Holland: RuPaul announces Netherlands spin-off with new host  
Drag Race Holland is the latest step in RuPaul’s bid for world domination. RuPaul confirmed Drag Race is headed for the Netherlands just hours after Shea Couleé became the franchise’s latest winner. “Hello Holland,” RuPaul said in a video Sunday (July 26)...

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[telegra.ph/Drag-Race-Bob-the-Drag-Queen-wants-Dave-Chappelle-to-ditch-trans-jibes-08-03](#)

Telegraph

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Drag Race royalty Bob the Drag Queen wants the world to say Black trans lives matter — especially straight cis Black men. Bob, most recently seen on HBO's We're Here, addressed the Black community's issues with transphobia and trans-misogyny, calling on Black...

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[telegra.ph/Nick-Vujicic-Anti-bullying-evangelist-allegedly-told-gay-assistant-to-quit-08-03](#)

Telegraph

Nick Vujicic: Anti-bullying evangelist allegedly told gay assistant to quit  
A former assistant to the anti-bullying motivational speaker Nick Vujicic claimed he was encouraged to quit when Vujicic learned he was gay. Vujicic is an Christian evangelist who was born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterised by the absence...

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[telegra.ph/How-female-photographers-are-deflecting-the-male-gaze-08-03-2](#)

Telegraph

How female photographers are deflecting the male gaze  
Charlotte Jansen is a freelance journalist and editor-at-large at Elephant magazine. This is an edited excerpt from her new book, "Girl on Girl: Art and Photography in the Age of the Female Gaze," published by Laurence King. On my computer screen is a half...

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[telegra.ph/Alaskan-town-passes-discrimination-law-after-florist-refused-gay-wedding-08-03](#)

Telegraph

Alaskan town passes discrimination law after florist 'refused' gay wedding  
A small Alaskan city has unanimously voted for a new law protecting LGBT+ people from discrimination after a local florist allegedly refused to make the wedding bouquets for a gay couple. Ketchikan, population 8,289, is a seaside

city on Alaska's southeastern...

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[telegra.ph/Millie-Bobby-Brown-to-play-bisexual-con-artist-in-new-Netflix-drama-08-04](http://telegra.ph/Millie-Bobby-Brown-to-play-bisexual-con-artist-in-new-Netflix-drama-08-04)

Telegraph

Millie Bobby Brown to play bisexual con artist in new Netflix drama  
Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown is set to produce and star in  
forthcoming Netflix film The Girls I've Been, portraying a bisexual con artist.  
The streaming platform is adapting a young adult book of the same name, which  
will be published by Penguin...

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[telegra.ph/The-Uncle-Roger-controversy-Why-people-are-outraged-by-a-video-about-cooking-rice-08-04-2](http://telegra.ph/The-Uncle-Roger-controversy-Why-people-are-outraged-by-a-video-about-cooking-rice-08-04-2)

Telegraph

The Uncle Roger controversy: Why people are outraged by a video about  
cooking rice

(CNN) — On July 8, Malaysian comedian Nigel Ng uploaded to YouTube a  
video titled "DISGUSTED by this Egg Fried Rice Video," under his comedic  
persona "Uncle Roger." In the video, Ng slammed BBC Food presenter Hersha  
Patel's unconventional way of cooking Chinese...

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# Alaskan town passes discrimination law after florist 'refused' gay wedding

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A small Alaskan city has unanimously voted for a new law protecting LGBT+ people from discrimination after a local florist allegedly refused to make the wedding bouquets for a gay couple.

Ketchikan, population 8,289, is a seaside city on Alaska's southeastern coast popular with passing cruise ships.

It's known for its wildlife – which includes bears, wolves and eagles – and, as of July 16, for being the fourth Alaskan city to pass sweeping non-discrimination law for its LGBT+ residents.

The local law – which was passed unanimously, with all seven of the city

council's members in favour – came about after a florist, Heavenly Creations, allegedly refused to take an order for a same-sex wedding.

After a high-profile demonstration outside Heavenly Creations, the city-wide ordinance was proposed.

It follows in the wake of the US Supreme Court's historic ruling that made it illegal to fire workers for being gay or transgender – and goes several steps further, by also banning discrimination against LGBT+ people in housing or public businesses.

### **Florist denies discriminating, but says same-sex marriage ‘violates God’s truth’.**

Heather Dalin, the owner of Heavenly Creations, denies discriminating against a same-sex couple.

“I have personally made and delivered bouquets to the members of LBGTQ community on numerous occasions,” she said at a July 2 council meeting. “We have not, and do not discriminate.”

But she went on to clarify that forcing her to make bouquets for LGBT+ weddings would violate her own right to exercise her religious beliefs.

“When it comes to the holy sacrament of marriage, God’s word is clear,” she said, K Too reported.

“Marriage is one of the seven sacraments where the Lord Jesus Christ is present. For you to pass an unnecessary ordinance to try and force myself to participate in a ceremony that violates not only God’s holy truth, but also strips me of my rights as an American tax-paying, law-abiding citizen is unreasonable.”

After hearing her objections, the Ketchikan city council passed the new non-discrimination laws anyway.

Museum curator Ryan McHale also testified at the meeting, arguing that religion has long been used to justify discrimination.

“Much like their pro-slavery predecessors, segregationists during the Jim Crow

era cited scripture as justification for maintaining racial segregation and inequality,” McHale said.

“There is little that distinguishes the religious freedom claim of today from those of the segregationists who argued that they should not be forced to hire, serve or associate with African Americans or Native Americans.”

The new law will come into effect in mid-August, when Ketchikan will join the Alaskan cities of Sitka, Juneau and Anchorage in having laws to protect its LGBT+ residents.

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# BBC responds perfectly to CBBC same-sex kiss complaints

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CBBC has issued a “perfect” response to all the homophobes who were upset by a same-sex kiss in teen drama *The Next Step*.

The BBC was swamped with more than 100 complaints over a programme which showed an innocent kiss between two teenage girls in July.

*The Next Step* is a Canadian drama following a professional dance studio. In the complained-about episode, friends Jude (Molly Sanders) and Cleo (Dani Verago) perform a duet together — and it becomes clear that their feelings for each other are not purely platonic.

Now, the BBC’s response to the homophobes who complained about the same-sex kiss has been circulated on social media, with Twitter users describing it as “perfect” and “simply A+”.

CBBC received complaints about a same-sex kiss in one of their storylines  
(The Next Step).

Here's their response. It's simply A+. pic.twitter.com/bmV2E3zIF9  
— Scott Bryan (@scottygb) August 3, 2020

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# Drag Race Holland: RuPaul announces Netherlands spin-off with new host

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*Drag Race Holland* is the latest step in RuPaul's bid for world domination.

RuPaul confirmed *Drag Race* is headed for the Netherlands just hours after Shea Couleé became the franchise's latest winner.

"Hello Holland," RuPaul said in a video Sunday (July 26), announcing that her "beloved" show will arrive on mainland Europe for the very first time "with a brand-new host".

*Drag Race* producers and World of Wonder co-founders Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato confirmed that 10 queens will compete to become the Netherland's first drag superstar, taking on classic challenges and weekly lip

syncs.

“We firmly believe in charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talent and can’t wait to welcome these 10 talented queens into the Drag Race family,” they said.

The new series will air on Videoland in the Netherlands and on WOW Presents Plus internationally.

Watch a new batch of glamazons compete for the crown in #DragRaceHolland, coming soon to the Netherlands!

Watch Drag Race Holland on #WOWPresentsPlus in the U.S. + Worldwide (except the Netherlands), exclusively on @Videoland in the Netherlands, and Canada TBA soon! pic.twitter.com/Ff7lRPBKzA

— World of Wonder (@WorldOfWonder) July 26, 2020

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# Drag Race: Bob the Drag Queen wants Dave Chappelle to ditch trans jibes

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*Drag Race* royalty Bob the Drag Queen wants the world to say Black trans lives matter — especially straight cis Black men.

Bob, most recently seen on HBO's *We're Here*, addressed the Black community's issues with transphobia and trans-misogyny, calling on Black celebrities — influential straight cis men specifically — to do more.

"I do think the issue with trans lives — especially in the Black community — doesn't necessarily lie within racism, but it does lie within prejudice and misogyny, specifically trans-misogyny," she told E! Host Justin Sylvester on the Just the Sip podcast.

“And this is not just something for just the trans people to address, or just the queer people to address. Like, we need, in this world, cisgender straight Black men to stand up and say ‘trans lives matter.’”

The *Drag Race* season eight winner said that this can’t be limited to “Black academics like Barack Obama and Angela Davis”, specifically calling out Lil Wayne, Jay Z, Jamie Foxx, Wiz Khalifa and Waka Flocka Flame as influential Black men who could make a difference.

### **Bob the Drag Queen disappointed in Dave Chappelle.**

When Justin bought up Dave Chappelle as another example, Bob was quick to express her disappointment in the comedian’s recent reliance on anti-trans material.

“Dave Chappelle’s someone I’ve always looked up to, and his comedy lately has been really doubling down on this idea that trans people are a joke or that trans existence is funny,” she said.

“When Dave Chappelle – who’s one of the most respected Black people in comedy – goes on TV or when Netflix gives him money to say, ‘I can stop laughing at trans people, they’re just so funny’, it validates the idea for other people to double down and agree with him.”

Bob suggested that instead of doing this, Chappelle could “use his voice to say trans people are valid – and he could still be funny”.

“You could use your voice to stand up for trans people.”

Bob and Justin acknowledged that while the Black community has its issues with transphobia, the queer community is just as flawed when it comes to supporting Black trans women.

“Don’t even get me started,” she added.

Bob recently told PinkNews that she’d been forced to have some uncomfortable conversations with her friends about their lack of allyship, specifically those who failed to say Black Lives Matter following the murder of George Floyd.

“I called a couple of them and they were like: ‘It’s not really my thing to use my platform to speak up. I’m just not really political,’” the *Drag Race* icon said.

“Especially in these times, everyone’s political. All of this directly affects each and every one of us, especially if you have Black and queer friends.”

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# Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union honour Zaya at GLAAD Media Awards

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Mom and dad ready to present at the #GLAADawards. Tonight, we celebrate 5pm PT / 8pm ET @glaad

A post shared by Gabrielle Union-Wade (@gabunion) on Jul 30, 2020 at 11:50am PDT

Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union were the picture of proud parents as they honoured their trans daughter Zaya at the 2020 GLAAD Media Awards.

The celebrity power couple gave a pre-recorded message to present the award for outstanding drama series to FX's *Pose*, just days after its trans actors were snubbed in the nominations for this year's Emmy Awards.

As they did so they used their platform to celebrate Zaya and to thank her for expanding their view of the world.

“We stand as allies with the LGBT+ community as proud parents of a transgender child,” the former NBA star said, alongside his wife.

“Our daughter Zaya is leading us in our journey, and we’re doing all we can to give every one of our kids the ability to live their truth.

“I didn’t always understand how to do that – but I want to thank Zaya for teaching me, and GLAAD for elevating the images and messages that accelerate acceptance in every family.”

Union continued: “That message means even more to us now as we raise all of our Black children.

“Black lives matter, and Black trans lives matter. We’re calling on all of our racial justice warriors out there to open your hearts and your minds to the LGBT+ community so that we can work together, and empower each other, and save lives.”

It’s fitting that the award they presented went to *Pose*, as the couple had previously reached out to the cast for advice after Zaya came out as transgender.

Their heartwarming pre-recorded message was one of several given at the ceremony as the GLAAD Media Awards went virtual for the first time in its 31-year history.

Along with Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union, the star-studded event also included appearances and speeches from Dolly Parton, Charli XCX, Demi Lovato, Jennifer Garner, Lena Waithe and Lilly Singh.

Awards went to rapper Lil Nas X, the sitcom *Schitt’s Creek* and the Olivia Wilde film *Booksmart*, among others.

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# Frank Ocean: Brother Ryan Breaux dead at 18 after car crash, reports say

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Frank Ocean's brother Ryan Breaux is said to have been killed in a tragic car accident.

Ryan Breaux, 18, reportedly died in the early hours of Sunday morning (August 2) after the car he was travelling in went off the road at Westlake Boulevard in California.

Police responded to reports of smoke in the area at around 1.30am near the Skelton Canyon Circle, but by the time they arrived, the car was engulfed in flames.

Authorities said the car swerved off the road and crashed into a tree, confirming that two passengers were pronounced dead at the scene.

Though the identities of the victims have not been officially confirmed, a memorial for Breaux and classmate Ezekial Bishop was held last night in Los Angeles as tributes to both men poured in.

### **Ryan Breaux remembered by friends.**

Friends have honoured Breaux online, including Pierce Brosnan's son Paris, who shared photos of them together.

"To my brother, who was talented beyond belief, possessed a heart of gold, had an energy that was infectious, a smile & laugh that lifted everyone's spirit, and was a loyal and authentic friend to anyone he knew," Paris wrote.

"You were just getting started and ready to show the world who you were. You were a leader and you had a whole army of loyal soldiers behind you."

The 19-year-old added: "Thank you for being there for me when I needed you most, thank you for all the wild nights, thank you for your music and all the late night studio sessions with Fray, thank you for blessing us ALL with your presence on this part.

"I will carry you in my heart always. Until I see you again brother. Ryan Breaux forever & Zeek Bishop forever."

### **Frank Ocean's brother honoured by fans.**

The tragedy has been met with an outpouring of sympathy on social media, with fans of Frank Ocean expressing their condolences.

Ryan Breaux was an incredibly kind and thoughtful person. He reached out to us on more than one occasion just to chat. He will be sorely missed.

Keep the Breaux family in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn this amazing young man.

Rest In Peace, Ryan. [pic.twitter.com/WobUStMJ5l](https://pic.twitter.com/WobUStMJ5l)  
— blonded.blog (@blondedb) August 3, 2020

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# How female photographers are deflecting the male gaze

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Charlotte Jansen is a freelance journalist and editor-at-large at Elephant magazine. This is an edited excerpt from her new book, "Girl on Girl: Art and Photography in the Age of the Female Gaze," published by Laurence King.

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On my computer screen is a half-naked young woman. The flawless, golden brown skin of her back is decorated with a cornucopia of tiny, sparkly stickers of rainbows, stars, kisses, dolphins, butterflies.

Simple cotton underwear -- powder pink to match the bed sheets she lies on -- clasps to the cheeks of her bottom. Across the knickers a single word is printed in pink: "Feminist."

Sexual, political, radical: How women photographers see themselves -- and each other

This photograph, taken by Mayan Toledano, made me angry. It would pop up again and again in my field of vision and everywhere from the New York Times to Tumblr. If you've used the internet in the last two years, the chances are it will be familiar to you too, and perhaps you had the same gut reaction to it as me.

At the same time, it was making a huge impact. It seemed to capture the cultural predicament of the age of the female gaze: how should we look at women?

There is a fundamental pleasure in looking at women that is undeniable and unavoidable and tends to complicate the central place women have in visual culture. In the past, photographs of women were made by men for a capitalist economy to favor the male gaze and feed female competitiveness.



"Sherris in Palm Springs" (2014) by Mayan Toledano

Female visibility is therefore a fallacy: we see photographs of women every day, but we are used to looking at them in a few specific contexts: on products and billboards, in shop windows and magazine covers, in erotica and pornography.

They appear similarly online, in the thick and fast slew of the trillion photographs we collectively produce and share every year. Yet photographs of women are far more provocative and complicated than these viewing circumstances prescribe.

Over the last five years, however, a growing number of the photographs of women we look at on a daily basis are being produced by women. The fact that women are taking more photographs of women -- both themselves and others -- than ever before is something that deserves attention.

Does it matter whether Toledano's image was shot by a man or a woman? I believe it does.

Chen Man: China's 'Annie Leibovitz' is changing how the world sees China

At times, there seems to be little difference between how women photograph women and how men photograph women, but women have the right to self-objectify and to exploit without critique, just as men have been allowed to do since the earliest forms of art emerged. I've come to see the feminist knickers as

the beginning of an imperfect but very important process of emancipation.

Photographs taken by women do not only exist as a counterpoint to the male narrative. A photograph is an impulse -- and challenge -- to enquire, not a representation of truth. More often than not, I find that the photographs of women by women I see point me back to my own prejudice and misconceptions.



"Sticky Lips" from "S.E.X." (2015) by Maisie Cousins

In the hours I spent interviewing 40 artists from 17 countries for "Girl on Girl," I was often surprised by the reasons for which women photograph women. They can be a way to understand identity, femininity, sexuality, beauty and bodies.

The photographs women take of women can be a tool for challenging perceptions in the media, human rights, history, politics, aesthetics, technology, economy and ecology; to get at the unseen structures in our world and contribute to a broader understanding of society. What you can get is not always what you might see.

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At times, using the female body is only a means to an end: it's a material that is available, over which the photographer-model has total ownership and final sovereignty.

"Girl on Girl" -- as the title suggests -- is ultimately a mediation on the agency women are taking over the images that are made of them. It's an investigation into the use and meaning of female photography now, bringing to light the plurality of situations in which a photograph is created and seen.

The more we're exposed to different types of photographs of women -- more women than we will ever meet in real life -- the more we can learn.

"*Girl on Girl: Art and Photography in the Age of the Female Gaze*" by Charlotte Jansen, published by Laurence King, is out now.

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# Jack Monroe eviscerates Annunziata Rees-Mogg over potato comments

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Food writer Jack Monroe has opened up about the horror of living through poverty as a result of “Conservative led austerity measures”.

The non-binary writer – who uses both she and they pronouns – responded to comments made by MEP Annunziata Rees-Mogg about the cost of food.

Rees-Mogg faced backlash when she tweeted that potatoes are cheaper than frozen chips, and added: “The oft repeated but inaccurate belief that low quality/unhealthy food is always cheaper than raw ingredients is part of the problem. It’s why learning to buy/budget for food is important alongside learning to cook.”

Monroe, who has written extensively in the past about their experience of living

in poverty, responded to the comments in a blog post that has since gone viral.

### **Jack Monroe brands Annunziata Rees-Mogg a '21st century Marie Antoinette'.**

The food writer branded Rees-Mogg a “21st century Marie Antoinette” in a stunning rebuke.

“I know the price of a bag of potatoes, Annunziata,” Monroe wrote. “Having lived in grinding poverty and with its aching and unshiftable groggy hangover ever since, I know the price of potatoes at three different supermarkets through eight consecutive years.

“I know the price of potatoes that are fresh, frozen, loose, baking, bulk, tinned, chipped, powdered into instant mash, from the greengrocer, growing my own, and hauled back from the corner shop in five kilogram bags,” they added.

**I am a broken, f\*\*\*ked up, messy rotten husk of a human being who almost died – several times – under Conservative led austerity measures.**

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# Jewish teen shuns gendered ceremonies for gender-neutral b'nai mitzvah

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Ruby Marx wore a rainbow tallit with Joan Jett on the back. (Pamela Joye)

A gay Jewish 13-year-old opted to have a gender-neutral b'nai mitzvah – instead of the tradition bat mitzvah or bar mitzvah – complete with a blessing from her “super cool” rabbi.

Ruby Marx from Massachusetts told *The Guardian* there was no question that she would take part in the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, but that a gendered bat mitzvah or bar mitzvah didn’t feel right.

Wanting to do “something in the middle”, Ruby opted instead for a gender-neutral ceremony known as a B mitzvah or b’nai mitzvah.

She said: “Judaism is a big part of my family – we keep kosher and my older sister had a bat mitzvah, so I knew I would have to have one too.

“But I didn’t want to be called a girl, which is a traditional part of the ceremony. And I didn’t want a bar mitzvah either. I wanted something in the middle.”

She said her mother had read about a b’nai mitzvah in an article, and when she told Ruby, she knew immediately that was what she wanted.

“I was three when I started dressing in a more masculine way,” she said.

“I don’t feel like a boy, but I don’t feel like a girl either. And the way I’ve expressed my gender has always been supported.

“My family knows I’m going to be masculine and still use female pronouns and just experiment. I talk to them about everything. All my grandparents know too.”

Ruby said that her rabbi is “the best”, and added: “She loves me, so she was super cool about it.”

Her synagogue requires a social action project as part of the coming-of-age ceremony, so the budding guitarist and rock music enthusiast decided to throw a benefit concert.

Ruby said: “I donated the money I raised to Girls Rock Campaign Boston, which runs a camp I went to last summer.

“It’s pretty open, so you can be trans and non-conforming, and there were lots of women there who were strong and powerful and also super musically talented, kind of like Joan Jett.”



On the day of her b'nai mitzvah, Ruby “wore a blue suit and a silver tie with black boots that were like rip-off Doc Martens, but fancier”.

She said: “I looked sharp. And I wore a tallit [prayer shawl] that had rainbows on the ends, with lots of rock’n’roll patches and Joan Jett on the back — we went to this sewing place and the guy printed out a picture of her on fabric that we sewed on.”

Asked by her father what she would have done if she’d had to wear a dress, Ruby said: “I don’t even want to go there. I would have cancelled the entire thing. I do not wear dresses.”

Ruby’s “super cool” rabbi said in her blessing during the ceremony: “Keep bringing your full self to the world. The world needs people that don’t shy away from their true self; we will always be there for you.”

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# **Joshua Sutcliffe: Teacher fired after calling Muhammad a 'false prophet'**

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A teacher who was fired for misgendering a trans student was sacked from a second school just months later after he called Muhammad a “false prophet”.

Joshua Sutcliffe was sacked from the Cherwell School in Oxford in November 2017 before moving to a school in London, the Oxford Mail reports.

Within months, he was removed from his position after he made insensitive comments about Islam in a YouTube video.

“I know this is controversial and I know that people might be offended by what I’m saying but I do it in love and because I want to speak the truth,” he said in the video.

“I believe Muhammad is a false prophet, I would suggest that Muslims have a false understanding of God because they’ve been led by a false prophet.

“Jesus is the only true prophet because he is God in the flesh, he is the voice of God, he brings true revelation and understanding because he is God.

“We must have other false prophets in this nation, never mind those that are following the teaching of Muhammad.”

**Joshua Sutcliffe was fired from the Cherwell School after he repeatedly misgendered a trans boy.**

Sutcliffe took legal action against the the Cherwell School in 2017 after he was removed from his position for repeatedly misgendering a trans boy.

The maths teacher subsequently claimed in a letter written to the school that his religious beliefs prevented him from referring to the boy correctly.

He wrote: “As a Christian, I do not share your belief in the ideology of transgenderism. I do not believe that young children should be encouraged to self-select a ‘gender’ which may be different from their biological sex; or that everyone at school should adjust their behaviour to accommodate such a ‘transition’; or that people should be punished for lack of enthusiasm about it.

**I believe Muhammad is a false prophet, I would suggest that Muslims have a false understanding of God because they've been led by a false prophet.**

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# Millie Bobby Brown to play bisexual con artist in new Netflix drama

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*Stranger Things* star Millie Bobby Brown is set to produce and star in forthcoming Netflix film *The Girls I've Been*, portraying a bisexual con artist.

The streaming platform is adapting a young adult book of the same name, which will be published by Penguin Random House in January, 2021.

Millie Bobby Brown, 16, will produce the film, alongside Michael Costigan and Jason Bateman, and the *Stranger Things* star will play Nora O'Malley, the bisexual daughter of a con artist.

According to the book's blurb: "Nora O'Malley is a lot of things. A sister. An ex. A secret girlfriend. Kind of crooked, but reformed... somewhat."

“Nora O’Malley’s been a lot of girls. As the daughter of a con-artist who targets criminal men, she grew up her mother’s protégée. But when mom fell for the mark instead of conning him, Nora pulled the ultimate con: escape.

“For five years she’s been playing at normal. But she needs to dust off the skills she ditched because she has three problems:

“One: her ex walked in on her with her girlfriend. Even though they’ve all been inseparable for months, Wes didn’t know about her and Iris.

“Two: The morning after, they all have to meet to deposit the fundraiser money they raised together. It’s a nightmare that goes from awkward to deadly.

“Because three: right after they get in the bank, two guys start robbing it.

“But they have no idea who they’re really holding hostage. The robbers are trouble. Nora’s something else entirely.”

A release date for the film adaptation of *The Girls I’ve Been*, which Netflix describes as a “twisty, exhilarating thriller”, has not yet been announced.

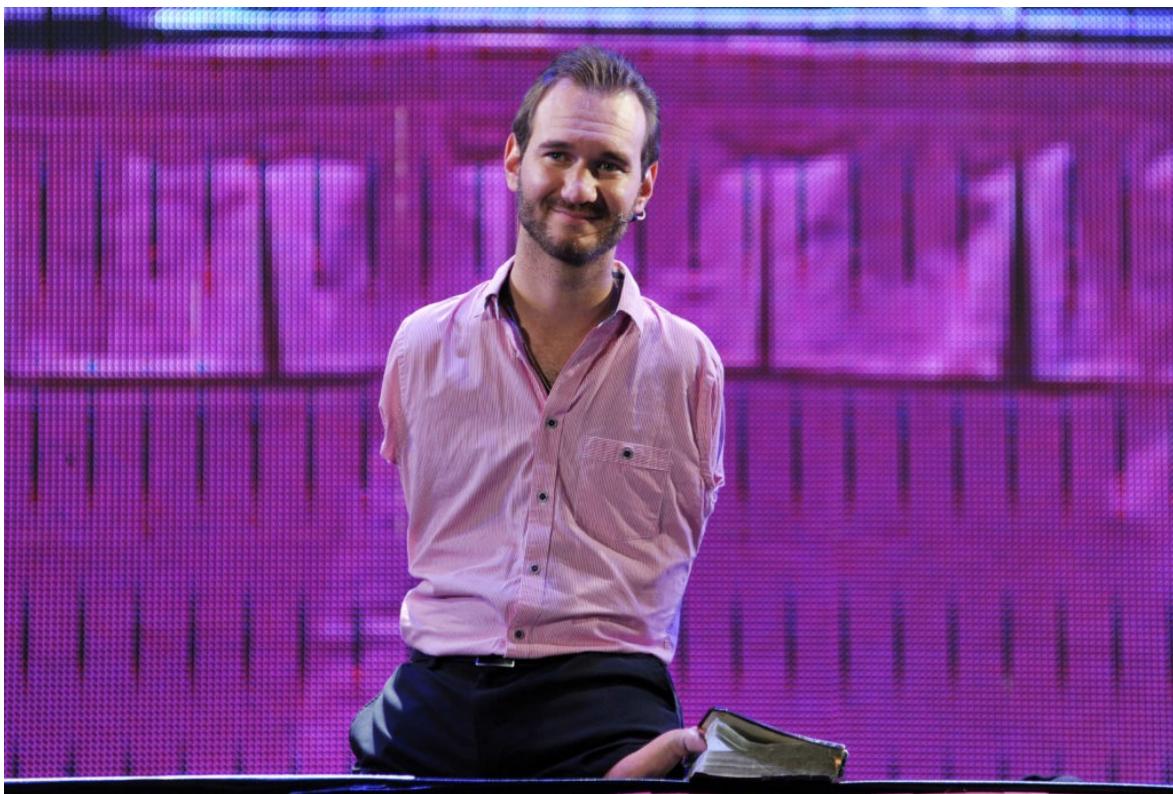
Brown also recently starred in and produced the Netflix film *Enola Holmes*, which is set to hit screens via the streaming platform later this year and revolves around Sherlock’s teen sister, a talented detective in her own right.

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# Nick Vujicic: Anti-bullying evangelist allegedly told gay assistant to quit

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Thank you @vp for supporting our youth initiatives since 2013 with our anti-bullying campaigns for the young people of America! It was an honor to be in your office today as VP looking over the table that holds the weekly VP Bible Study group. Thanking God for how He is using you with sensitive issues today! Praying for you, a praying man. A post shared by Nick Vujicic (@nickvujicic) on Oct 17, 2019 at 5:51pm PDT

A former assistant to the anti-bullying motivational speaker Nick Vujicic claimed he was encouraged to quit when Vujicic learned he was gay.

Vujicic is an Christian evangelist who was born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterised by the absence of arms and legs.

After a childhood of bullying that led him to the brink of suicide, he founded the Christian ministry Life Without Limbs and now gives motivational speeches at schools, churches, prisons, hospitals and stadiums around the world.

But his former assistant, Bradon Schwarz, has claimed that his message of tolerance and acceptance didn't extend to his sexuality.

"Nick, a man I long admired, told me I couldn't work for him anymore as a gay man, and our relationship quickly unraveled," he alleged in *The Advocate*.

"I've struggled to maintain my adoration for the man who rejected me because of who I am, but as I continue watching him share his anti-bullying message across the world — as well as observe his close ties to homophobes Mike Pence and Betsy DeVos, for whom he's been a personal adviser — I can't stay silent anymore."

Schwarz struck up a friendship with Vujicic in 2013 and worked as his assistant from 2015 to 2016.



"I traveled with him and helped him share his message," Schwarz said. "Part of my job was to be his caregiver. I would feed, bathe, and clothe Nick and even carry him wherever he needed to go. We went thousands of miles across 15 countries all over the world."

Their work with religious conservatives led him to meet "some of the most notoriously homophobic people in our country" — including Mike Pence, with whom Vujicic partnered for a statewide school and prison outreach.

"Hiding in the closet around these people put me in a difficult situation,"

Schwarz said, but he did so because he wanted the opportunity to be mentored by Vujicic, a man he saw as his hero.

Vujicic also offered to help expand Schwarz's family's charity, Extreme Mobility Camps, which empowers blind and visually impaired youth through sports and training.

"Not only was my income tied up in this lie, but I felt the future of my family's nonprofit was at stake," Schwarz added.

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# **Robber sexually assaulted woman after realising she was transgender**

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A trans student was violently mugged before being subjected to a “humiliating” sexual assault after her attacker realised she was transgender.

Luke Anderson was jailed for more than four years after a court heard how he humiliated and taunted his victim, touching her backside and forcing his hand inside her underwear.

The transgender woman had been walking home from Leeds city centre at 4am on December 9, 2018, when Anderson grabbed her in an alleyway near Brewery Wharf.

Raising a clenched fist, Anderson yelled in the victim’s face and demanded

money. After she told him that she did not have any he punched her in the face, causing bleeding, and warned her not to contact police.

He searched her bag for a mobile phone but couldn't find one, so grabbed her by the chest and forced her to the ground, the Yorkshire Evening Post reported.

"The defendant realised that [the victim], who identifies as a woman and was dressed as a woman, had [a penis]," said prosecutor Jonathan Sharp.

"He demanded to know if she was gay and why she was dressed as a woman."

### **Trans woman 'completely powerless' during attack.**

The woman was then forced to endure a horrifying sexual assault, which prosecutors said was based on Anderson's hostility towards her gender identity.

She fought back and kicked against her attacker, but he continued even as she pushed her thumbs into his eyes. "You're a feisty one," he said.

At one point she managed to break free but he caught up with her and stole her wallet.

### **I genuinely believed I was going to die.**

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# Royal Mint rejected commemorative coin celebrating LGBT+ equality

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A commemorative coin marking the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK was rejected by the Royal Mint on the grounds that it was “commercially unviable”, it has emerged.

The coin was proposed in 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which decriminalised sexual acts which took place in private between two men over the age of 21. It was a landmark milestone in the fight for equal rights in the UK.

The Royal Mint has approved commemorative coins for notable British icons including Sherlock Holmes, Beatrix Potter characters and Paddington, but the LGBT+ coin was abandoned because the advisory board thought it wasn’t

collectable enough.

“The marketing department at Royal Mint ultimately came to the conclusion that [it wouldn’t] be commercially viable, the homosexuality theme because of the lack of appeal it was likely to have for collectors,” read the minutes of the Royal Mint advisory committee, obtained by the Daily Mail.

The minutes show that at the same meeting the committee seriously considered a coin to mark the release of The Beatles’ *Sgt Pepper* album, but this was rejected for licensing reasons.

Human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell condemned the committee’s “bizarre” reasoning to scrap the LGBT+ coin.

“It seems bizarre and quite appalling that the anniversary was not deemed significant enough,” he said.

“The argument that it was not commercially viable sounds like a cop-out. For millions of LGBT+ people and straight allies, this would be a coin worth having.”

A Royal Mint spokesperson told the *Mail*: “UK coins play an important role in marking the moments that shape modern Britain — including pivotal social and political movements such as the Representation of The People Act and the bicentenary of the end of slavery.

“We are already developing coin themes to commemorate events and individuals linked to the British LGBT movement — although these are currently confidential, we will be able to share more in due course.”

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# The Uncle Roger controversy: Why people are outraged by a video about cooking rice

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(CNN) — On July 8, Malaysian comedian Nigel Ng uploaded to YouTube a video titled "DISGUSTED by this Egg Fried Rice Video," under his comedic persona "Uncle Roger."

In the video, Ng slammed BBC Food presenter Hersha Patel's unconventional way of cooking Chinese-style egg-fried rice, which included draining the rice through a strainer after boiling.

"What she doing? Oh my god. You're killing me, woman. Drain the -- she's draining rice with colander! How can you drain rice with colander? This is not pasta!" he exclaimed.

Shortly afterward, he groaned, "You're ruining the rice," as Patel used tap water to wash it of starch.

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What Ng intended to be a comedic video sparked a firestorm of dismay and disbelief as it ricocheted around the internet, gaining more than 7 million views on YouTube and nearly 40 million on Twitter.

Many viewers, including Asian-American celebrities such as writer Jenny Yang, derided Patel's methods for departing from how Chinese egg-fried rice is traditionally made. Patel hadn't washed the rice before boiling it. She had added too much water. She should have used day-old rice. The scrambled egg was overcooked instead of runny.

"THIS RICE COOKING IS A HATE CRIME," Yang joked on Twitter.

Ng, who is based in London, tried to defuse the situation by filming a short clip with Patel announcing they are planning a collaboration. "While this guy's blown up like nobody's business, I've been trolled," Patel said in the video, claiming she had been simply presenting the BBC's recipe and that "I know how to cook rice."

The BBC has not publicly commented on Ng's or Patel's remarks.

Rice is a staple ingredient in Asia, and has been adopted by cuisines globally since it was first domesticated in China more than 9,400 years ago, according to Chinese researchers. There are countless ways to prepare rice -- you can steam it, fry it, simmer it slowly in broth like Italian risotto or scorch it to develop a crispy crust like Iranian tahdig.

But the issue at hand goes beyond a difference in opinion on the varying methods of cooking rice.

The controversy over the BBC Food clip, and the reaction it provoked within certain Asian communities, speaks to a broader, long-standing debate about the intersection of food, ethnicity and culture -- the fundamental question of who is allowed to cook what food.

## **Appropriating and whitewashing food**

Countless White chefs in recent years have been accused of cultural appropriation by creating food from other ethnic groups using methods and phrases that are deemed "unauthentic," disrespectful, and sometimes outright racist.

Last year, for instance, an Asian food critic accused celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay of tokenism, after he launched a restaurant described in promotional material as "an authentic Asian eating house."

The restaurant didn't differentiate between wildly different and unique types of Asian cuisines, lumping them all together as generically Asian. And at the time of the opening, it did not appear to have any Asian chefs.

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"Japanese? Chinese? It's all Asian, who cares," wrote the critic, Angela Hui, in a

scathing Instagram story.

CNN reached out to Ramsay's restaurant group for comment after the initial controversy.

Tokenism is when racial, ethnic, or cultural diversity is emphasized only on a symbolic level, without much substantial effort to understand that culture -- in Ramsay's case, labeling a restaurant "Asian" without taking the time to differentiate between these individual nuanced cuisines.

Food is not just sustenance, it carries history and heritage, which is why many people are deeply offended when these traditional methods of cooking are cast aside.

Sometimes chefs don't just change up cooking methods, they blatantly insult the cuisine and culture of origin.

One notorious example is the Chinese-inspired restaurant Lucky Lee's in New York. When it opened in 2019, the White owner said it would serve "clean" food that wouldn't make people feel "bloated and icky" afterwards -- the implication being that regular Chinese food was somehow unhealthy. That sparked uproar and the restaurant closed eight months later.

And then there are chefs who fail to acknowledge a dish's ethnic origins at all -- the equivalent of whitewashing food.

The New York Times food columnist Alison Roman, also a White woman, gained internet fame for her recipe for a "Spiced Chickpea Stew with Coconut and Turmeric" -- which sounds an awful lot like an Indian or Jamaican curry. But in an interview with Jezebel, she said: "I'm like y'all, this is not a curry ... I've never made a curry." Roman's refusal to call it a curry and her denial of its ethnic background prompted critic Roxana Hadadi to call it "colonialism as cuisine."

In response to the backlash, NYT eventually added a line in Roman's recipe on their website, saying it "evokes stews found in South India and parts of the Caribbean."

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But some people have pushed back against the idea of cultural appropriation.

Gatekeeping food prevents innovation, some say: for instance, fusion foods are born from chefs experimenting with different cuisines. Many also point out that food is meant to be shared, and its power is often directly tied to the communal eating experience.

Setting boundaries around food -- for example, saying only Chinese people can cook Chinese food, or Chinese food can only be cooked a certain way, as those reacting to Ng's video posit -- seems like the antithesis of this sharing spirit in our globalized world.

But sharing is different from appropriating without respect, especially when the chefs who do it profit from portraying those foods.

## A reckoning in food media

The Uncle Roger video is the latest in a string of incidents that have drawn attention to issues surrounding food and culture. This summer has seen the reckoning on race and racism, embodied by the Black Lives Matter movement, spread from the streets to newsrooms and companies.

Within food media, Bon Appetit -- owned by Conde Nast -- is the best-known example. Current staffers, including assistant food editor Sohla El-Waylly, accused the company of underpaying and exploiting employees of color, and viewers called out the brand for numerous instances of food appropriation.

For instance, irate viewers pointed to the time Bon Appetit had a White chef demonstrate how to cook Vietnamese pho, with the title "PSA: This Is How You Should Be Eating Pho." There was also the time they "reinvented" the Filipino dessert Halo-halo by stuffing it with gummy bears and popcorn, spurring scorn from readers.

Each time, the brand would issue an apology and a promise to do better -- but it has been happening for years.

After this summer's explosive allegations, the company released a statement in June, acknowledging that "BA's recipes for Vietnamese pho, mumbo sauce, flaky bread, and White-guy kimchi all erased these recipes' origins or, worse, lampooned them."

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"In all these cases and more, BA has been called out for appropriation, for decontextualizing recipes from non-White cultures, and for knighting 'experts' without considering if that person should, in fact, claim mastery of a cuisine that isn't theirs," wrote Joey Hernandez, BA's research director, in the statement.

The Bon Appetit debacle also prompted other questions about biases within established institutions. Who chooses what dishes get more coverage? Why do publications continue to use language that frames "ethnic" food as occasionally bizarre and often incomprehensible -- for example, Bloomberg calling tofu a "white, chewy and bland" food people are "learning to love?" Bloomberg eventually removed these phrases from their article after international backlash.

And why are "ethnic" chefs -- a euphemism for non-Whites -- often paid less? Bon Appetit fans were further outraged when Somali chef Hawa Hassan revealed last month that she was only paid \$400 per video, and El-Waylly blasted Bon Appetit for only paying her \$50,000 to "assist mostly white editors with significantly less experience than me."

These themes sound abstract at times -- but they're linked to and help perpetuate broader real-life inequalities such as workplace discrimination, pay inequity, power imbalances and prevailing Whiteness in the food world.

Ng and Patel may not have intended for their respective videos, and upcoming collaboration, to raise these questions.

But viewers' frustrations are inherently tied to the idea that there is an authentic way to cook fried rice, and that Patel's errors are made worse by the fact she is a non-Chinese chef presenting herself as an authority on the dish.

"FOR ANYONE WHO IS TRYING TO SAY THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS OF COOKING RICE, WELL OF COURSE THERE ARE. AND I LOVE THEM ALL," tweeted Yang, the Asian American writer. "BUT THIS IS \*NOT\* HOW YOU MAKE DELICIOUS FRIED RICE, THE DISH OF MY PEOPLES, THE SUBJECT OF THIS VIDEO."



# Warsaw Uprising: Polish thugs mark anniversary by burning Pride flags

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Demonstrators tear a rainbow flag apart during the 76th Warsaw uprising anniversary (Aleksander Kalka/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

Far-right thugs burned rainbow flags as they marched through Warsaw as they staged a demonstration on Saturday.

The march to mark the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising – resistance against the Nazis during the World War Two – saw the rising anti-LGBT+ sentiment long brewing in Poland spill out onto the streets.

**Thugs cut up rainbow flags and rage against LGBT+ equality during Warsaw Uprising march**

Thugs aligned with far-right groups burned and cut up rainbow flags as they chanted homophobic slogans.



Meanwhile, other groups in the march carried banners bearing the phrase “Stop totalitarianism”, comparing LGBT+ rights to Nazism and Communism.

The annual nationalist march has long been a flash-point in Poland, with banned far-right symbols seen during the event in previous years.



An anti-LGBT banner is seen during the 76th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising (Omar Marques/Getty Images)

Earlier this year, Warsaw Uprising survivors signed a letter to the mayor of Warsaw, Rafal Trzaskowski, requesting a ban on the march.

### **Politicians have repeatedly stoked anti-LGBT+ hatred in Poland.**

LGBT+ people have become a popular punching bag for the country's conservative government over the past several years, with conservative president Andrzej Duda narrowly winning re-election last month after making homophobia one of the core planks of his campaign.

In a “family charter” published ahead of the election, Duda pledged to “prohibit the propagation of this ideology” in public institutions and “defend the institution of marriage” as defined as a “relationship between a women and a man”.

With days to go until the run-off vote, Duda also proposed an amendment to Poland’s constitution that would ban same-sex couples from adopting children. He said: “I am convinced that, thanks to this, children’s safety and concern for

the good of children will be ensured to a much greater extent.”

As part of the politically-driven attack on LGBT+ people, nearly 100 Polish municipal or local governments have proclaimed themselves zones “free from LGBT+ ideology” and opposing gay “propaganda” – covering nearly a third of the country.

The European Parliament passed a resolution that strongly condemned the concept of LGBT-free zones in December, noting that they are “part of a broader context of attacks against the LGBT+ community in Poland, which include growing hate speech by public and elected officials and public media, as well as attacks and bans on Pride marches”.

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