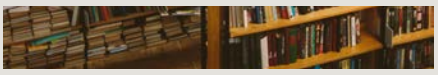
YV REVIEW

ENERGY, INVASION & SECTION 230

SPRING 2023



RICH KIDS HAVE ALWAYS HAD SCHOOL CHOICE. DENYING IT TO POOR KIDS IS A FORM OF OPPRESSION



THE 'SECRET TRADE' OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN BIG TECH AND OVERZEALOUS GOVERNMENT

Letter from the Director of External Relations

Dear supporter,

Young Voices ended the last year on a strong note, breaking our personal record for media hits at 1,874 and audience reach at 85 million, setting the stage for a successful 2023. We haven't been disappointed, and I hope you won't be either.

When my team and I review applications twice a year, we're looking for writers with a fresh perspective — something to offer that's uniquely theirs. In a world flush with empty, ephemeral commentary, our writers continue to stand out.

With knowledge and passion for the pressing issues of our day, Young Voices contributors are increasingly in-demand from editors seeking pieces that add a new perspective to the discourse. So far this year, we've had four pieces in the *Wall Street Journal* and made inroads with many state papers and new outlets. That's a credit to our editing and pitching teams behind the curtain.

You'll recognize depth and energy in this spring issue of the *Young Voices Review* — in Finesse Moreno-Rivera's incredible original research on police killings and in Emily Schroen's sharp reporting on the looming North Korean threat to its southern neighbor. You'll find it in Roy Mathews' excellent *Wall Street Journal* write-up on the energy costs for New England homes and in Rachel Chiu's incisive explanation of why handing more tech control over to the government would be bad news for us all.

It's not just in print that Young Voices has had major growth over the past few months. In this issue, you'll find exciting updates about our broadcast interviews, public speaking appearances, and events. Our Dissident Project speakers bureau for immigrants who escaped tyranny has really taken off. We've had several of our speakers appear on Fox News to tell their inspiring stories and have big plans to scale up our speaking engagements in the coming months.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our donors. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Cheers to another year of helping our unique people champion freedom in a way that truly makes a difference.

Thanks again,

Emma Ayers



Editorial Note: As a nonpartisan organization, Young Voices does not endorse specific legislation or politicians. The views expressed by our writers in this issue and elsewhere do not necessarily reflect those of our entire network. In the spirit of free speech, Young Voices seeks to facilitate a healthy policy dialogue among our writers and the public.

Young Voices Interview Highlights



Young Voices' commentators have a lot to say about current events. See below for some particularly memorable hits.

To watch the full interviews, use the included links.

Rachel Chiu on *Scripps News* discussing why blocking the Jet Blue and Spirit airline merger won't save the airline industry.

bit.ly/42E0Y9F



Albie Amankona on BBC Two's *Politics Live* discusses London's ULEZ, nursing food banks, and more.

bit.ly/3JEnTJr



Travis Nix joins *CBN News* to discuss why higher taxes won't save Social Security.

bit.ly/40cp8qk



Grace Jo on *Fox & Friends* to discuss her harrowing story as well as the Dissident Project.

bit.ly/3TIxHXp
Learn more: dissidentproject.org



Neetu Arnold on the *Wake Up America Show* to discuss solutions to the national student loan debt crisis.

bit.ly/40wbrC7



South Korea should be taking notes on Ukraine

A potential humanitarian crisis looms across the country's northern border. It needs to be prepared.

THE | DIPLOMAT
Read The Diplomat, Know the Asia-Pacific

15 February 2023

A little over a year ago, Poland went from hosting hardly any refugees to being the world's 2nd biggest refugee host — and all in just a matter of weeks. In years prior, the country accepted a few more refugees than South Korea, another ethnically homogeneous country that also faces a potential humanitarian crisis along its northern border. South Korea should pay attention to Poland now in preparation for the inevitable.

Although the Kim Jong Un regime doesn't show signs of immediate collapse, the country is in a critical position. North Korea is currently supported by China and the Russian Federation. An economically and militarily weak Russia is thus a threat to North Korea's stability – that's according to former South Korean ambassador Lee Yang-goo, who spoke with me on a phone call. He said leaving China as the only big player in North Korea's corner puts the Kim regime in an "uncomfortable position against a Western alliance," as they would become even more reliant on and subject to the demands of an already frustrated China.

On top of this, North Korea is facing one of the most severe food shortages since the famine of the 1990s. The country is poised for an international humanitarian emergency. And according to Lee, who spent the last seven years of his career as the South Korean ambassador to Ukraine, it's only a matter of time before South Korea faces a flood of North Korean refugees similar to the one he's seen in Ukraine. "Nobody imagined the sudden collapse of the Soviet Union," Lee told me in an interview. "A small trigger can make North Korea collapse in a sudden way. If North Korea were to collapse tomorrow, there would be no big surprise."

The nation needs to be ready for this inevitability, and currently, it isn't. South Korea isn't known for welcoming refugees, and isn't ready for a flood of evacuees like we've seen from Ukraine into Poland. Among developed countries, South Korea has one of the world's lowest rates of refugee acceptance. Many North Korean defectors, who can receive automatic citizenship under Korean law, travel on to Europe and the United States rather than try to integrate into South Korean society. If South Korea receives thousands of refugees across its border tomorrow, it won't be culturally or structurally prepared to accommodate them.

Thankfully, the urgency of this situation is not lost on some South Korean leaders, who have already started researching the Polish refugee response. Krzysztof Szczęsny, the strategic Director of a humanitarian aid center in Warsaw, was surprised by the detailed questioning from South Korean diplomats visiting the center. "They mentioned the similarities which we are having with the Ukrainians – same culture zone, similar language, formerly occupied territories," he said. "They are contingency planning, and they can learn quite a lot from us."

Youngchan Daniel, a representative of the Joint Action Committee for supporting Ukraine, agrees with Krzysztof. Youngchan was living and volunteering with Ukrainian refugees in Poland at the beginning of Russia's invasion. After working with Krzysztof in the shelter in Warsaw, Youngchan invited him to visit South Korea to share his experience and garner support there.

Youngchan has met with Korean government officials and NGOs about responding to North Korean refugees, and says he can "feel" that his government is working on a program, although it is largely unofficial. South Korea could take practical lessons from how Poland managed such a large number of refugees at once. "Poland is one of the best countries for supporting the Ukrainian refugees." Youngchan said. "They just opened their country. It's a very good example for South Korea. It is not easy to open our country to North Korean people due to political issues."

Like Korea, Poland is an economically developed country with different resources and infrastructure for refugees than traditional "tent city" refugee camp models. While the United Nations has great instructions for accommodating large numbers of refugees in sparse conditions, it has little guidance for the challenges faced by developed nations like Poland. The Polish had a crash course in humanitarian response logistics for the developed world, and it's an ideal case study from which South Korea can learn.

As Szczesny said, "We needed to know how to convert an expo hall or stadium for refugees, not something in the middle of the desert. We've made every mistake, and now we can sum up this knowledge and keep it as a manual for future crises."

South Korea will be in a similar position if – or when – the North Korean regime collapses. If it pays attention now, it won't have to reinvent the wheel.





Emily Schroen

Emily Schroen is a Program Coordinator at the Fund for American Studies running programs for college students in international affairs and law. She also works with Americans for Ukraine to support the Modlinska Humanitarian Aid Center in Warsaw, Poland.

Why are heating prices so high in New England?

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

13 March 2023

"Wicked cold" doesn't begin to describe New England's weather this winter. In early February temperatures plunged to 42 below zero in Bar Harbor, Maine, and minus 56 and lower in towns farther north. A "long-duration nor'easter" is expected to dump more than a foot of snow on parts of the region this week, which means the heat will be on in homes from Hartford, Conn., to Burlington, Vt. While most of New England still relies primarily on oil and gas to satisfy its energy needs, power-plant closures and pipeline cancellations ensure that households and businesses are paying more for heat and electricity than they have in decades.

Multiple energy infrastructure projects have met their demise in New England in recent years, with consumers shouldering the twin burdens of higher rates and worsening emissions. The Northeast Energy Direct pipeline would have delivered 2.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day to Western Massachusetts and New Hampshire, helping to slash New England's emissions. Pipelines emit 61% to 77% less carbon than other overland transport options. But Kinder Morgan, the company behind the project, spiked the pipeline in 2016 in the face of local environmental resistance.

In addition to blocking natural fuel production in the region, New Englanders also prevent the construction of new clean-energy infrastructure. Only two nuclear plants remain in the region, and supply constraints and emissions restrictions limit the future viability of several non-natural-gas power plants across New England. The closure of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in 2014 led emissions in the Green Mountain State to increase 16.3%, while wiping out 70% of Vermont's in-state electricity generation capacity. Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass., closed in 2019.

New England now depends on expensive imports of natural gas that are subject to supply bottlenecks because of the lack of pipelines. No wonder New Englanders pay nearly twice as much for electricity than the average American household.

Constructing energy infrastructure to bring reliable natural gas to New England ought to be a top priority for state legislators. Yet leaders of New England states have doubled-down on their decarbonization plans. Maine Gov. Janet Mills is seeking to achieve what she calls "deep decarbonization" of the state. Last year Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont axed a contract to build a natural-gas plant in Killingly, on the state's border with Rhode Island. This year Connecticut's two largest utilities hiked their rates by 43%, citing "supply-chain constraints." Massachusetts' largest utility increased monthly rates by 64% because of "higher electric supply prices."

New Englanders have options. There's no good reason why they should be paying so much more for heat and electricity. And yet, thanks to decisions made by shortsighted politicians under the influence of activists pushing costly and inefficient renewables, the region is shivering without adequate energy infrastructure during a long, cold winter.



Roy Mathews

Roy Mathews is a Writer and Commentator with Young Voices. He graduated from Bates College and earned a J. William Fulbright Fellowship to Indonesia. Roy writes and speaks on energy, energy security, and international affairs that impact the U.S. and world geopolitics.



Distinguishing between Big Tech and overzealous government

THE HILL

14 February 2023

Treating social media platforms as state actors will only weaken the resiliency of the First Amendment.

Last week, three former Twitter executives testified before the House Oversight Committee, recalling the missteps that led to the suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop story. The employees refused to acknowledge any government interference in their mea culpa, arguing that the social media company acted in a manner fully consistent with the First Amendment.

Mark Zuckerberg has said otherwise: In September, the Facebook founder admitted that his platform blocked the Hunter Biden article at the FBI's prodding. The "Twitter Files" have highlighted even more egregious instances of public officials attempting to remove content. Yet, members of Congress condemning Big Tech as mere subsidiaries of federal agencies are oversimplifying this free speech dilemma in ways that can exacerbate government overreach.

That's not to say that companies such as Twitter, Meta and Google are innocent parties. The FBI can send constant and pervasive emails. The Department of Homeland Security can pre-flag as many posts as it chooses. Ultimately, the platform decides whether to act upon these requests. The legal regime that governs online speech is sympathetic to intermediaries that host content but do not create it. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 has cultivated an ecosystem in which companies can moderate user content (or leave it up) without incurring civil liability.

This controversial statute, often viewed as a legal loophole for Big Tech, is at risk of being dissolved entirely. Conservatives and liberals alike are eager to dismantle Section 230 through legislation, and the Supreme Court will hear a case later this month about the scope of the law with respect to recommendation algorithms. Justice Clarence Thomas previously expressed interest in assessing Section 230 and the powers it grants in the context of the First Amendment. Evidence of substantial government influence only further complicates these questions.

Yale Law School professor Jed Rubenfeld has written about the complex relationship between technology companies, the government and Section 230. According to Rubenfeld, public officials use Big Tech as a "back door" to target disfavored but otherwise legal and constitutionally-protected speech. He argues that when government pressure is coupled with immunity granted by the statute, the result is state action.

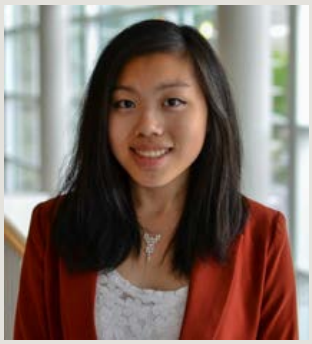
In other words, if a platform accedes to a bureaucrat's request, then it should also be subjected to First Amendment limitations.

In a lawsuit against Twitter, former President Trump's attorneys put forth a similar argument, noting in a recent brief that "powerful governmental actors are well aware of this vulnerability [afforded by Section 230] and have exploited it by getting social media platforms to do for them what the government cannot do directly."

But this state actor theory misconstrues the impact of intermediary protection. In the absence of Section 230, the threat presented by government requests becomes even greater. Recall when the White House press secretary publicly singled out the "Disinformation Dozen," 12 citizens allegedly responsible for the majority of anti-vaccine misinformation on social media. The Biden administration could not restrict these posts on its own since the First Amendment forbids encroachment on protected speech. More importantly, the social media companies were under no obligation to respond.

Imagine a world in which there is no Section 230. In this situation, the legal landscape surrounding content moderation is far more litigious, and companies heavily scrutinize user content because they are liable for it. Platforms are more inclined to yield to government requests since inaction would unleash a barrage of civil lawsuits. Consequently, pressure from the White House has greater coercive strength, giving officials more leeway to shape public discourse on social media. Government censorship by proxy is far more likely.

While there are certainly situations where a content moderation decision can rise to the level of quasi-state action, there must be a "sufficiently close nexus between the State and the challenged action." Section 230 is not this link but, rather, a countervailing force that weakens the power of governmental bullying.



Rachel Chiu

Rachel Chiu is a resident fellow at the Committee for Justice, where she focuses on competition, technology, and regulatory policy. Her commentary has been featured in USA Today, The National Review, The Hill, City A.M., among many other publications.



The ‘Secret Trade’ of Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion

DAILY CALLER

25 February 2023

Did you know that mandatory diversity course materials are university “trade secrets”? Well, they are according to Arizona State University (ASU).

The Cronkite School of Journalism now requires its freshmen to take “Diversity and Civility at Cronkite” as of Fall 2022. ASU is subject to open records laws, so course syllabi should, theoretically, be available to the public upon request. But when I requested to view the syllabus as a part of a research project for the National Association of Scholars, ASU’s open records administrators responded with stalling and obfuscation.

First, they denied my request to view the syllabus, along with several other course syllabi, over email. ASU claimed that the course materials were “trade secrets in that they are copyright-protected materials.” This is not a standard restriction: Universities in Florida, Texas, and Georgia offer course syllabi online. The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill provide these materials upon request.

I continued to push to view the materials. Since ASU could not send them electronically, I asked to view the materials in person. They obliged, and we set an appointment. But ASU administrators then tried to reschedule due to an unfortunately timed “fire drill” occurring that morning during the week between Christmas and New Years. When I later asked an employee who had been stationed at the building that morning about this, he had no knowledge of such a drill. When I arrived for the rescheduled appointment, I was given only an hour to view and take notes on the materials — a stipulation they hadn’t mentioned previously, and one which has never been imposed during viewings I’ve attended in other states.

So what’s in this course that ASU seems to so desperately want to hide? The school already imposes diversity as part of general education requirements, but not every department has its own diversity course to teach practices specific to that field. Unlike non-political fields, like the sciences, journalism is a subject already charged with political bias. The school can have only one goal in requiring such a course for future journalists: to dictate the kind of information journalists include, and choose to exclude, when covering stories. Based on what I learned from one hour’s perusal, the class serves as a tool to brainwash future journalists into a radical ideology euphemistically called diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) — an initiative aimed at forcing ideological conformity to progressive causes.

The course begins with “implicit bias exploration,” a popular topic in progressive circles due to the much-acclaimed Implicit Association Test (IAT). Implicit bias refers to prejudices, particularly racial ones, that are not expressed in an explicit or conscious manner. IAT inventors Anthony Greenwald and Mahzarin Banaji created the test to measure implicit bias through a reaction-time based psychological test which tracked internal associations of racial groups with positive or negative thoughts. But both the IAT and the concept of implicit bias are shrouded in controversy due to validity issues and weak correlations to behavioral outcomes. At best, the scientific literature is mixed on the usefulness of implicit bias as a concept. Yet the Cronkite School dedicates an entire session on this niche and controversial subject. Perhaps that’s because implicit bias allows DEI believers to continue insisting that America is a fundamentally racist country.

A couple of weeks into the course, the material delves into the “myths about the rural-urban divide,” another progressive bugaboo of the past few years. The rural-urban divide is mostly discussed in the context of voting patterns,

especially after the 2016 election illustrated the wide partisan gap between rural and urban counties. Liberal organizations, such as the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution, appear to have decided that this messaging reflects the progressive cause unfavorably as it feeds into skepticism toward the media, academia, and other liberal elite institutions. In response, progressives crafted a brazen position of statistical blindness where they claim that every statistical difference between rural and urban communities is fiction due to the existence of exceptions. For instance, they claim that the assumption that rural America is primarily white is a myth — even "catering to white supremacy" — due to the existence of minorities in rural areas.

The course concludes with discussions of "pronouns and people" and "covering disability issues," making sure to fill out the progressive laundry list of favored identity groups. While the instructors claim to want "open-minded discourse" on all of these issues, the public ought to be skeptical of such claims. According to a trans-inclusion guide for faculty at ASU, the university will not tolerate "deliberate misgendering" by faculty. This crowds out any legitimate disagreement with modern gender ideology: If you disagree with this ideology, your "misgendering" of someone would always be deliberate. Given these strictures, it's unlikely that any real discussion of gender identity would occur in the course.

When highly ideological courses like this one appear in the rosters of public universities, the public should be concerned about the quality of educational options available to students. But when such courses become mandatory, we should be concerned for the well-being of our society. Journalism schools serve as filters through which future reporters must pass. Such mandatory diversity courses ideologically handicap journalists before their careers even begin.

These ideological blinders match exactly with the specific credibility problems of today's media. Journalists start with the assumption that America is a fundamentally racist country, which leads them to believe in false accusations of racial hate crimes. The media obsesses over outliers and exceptions to common sense generalizations. And they unquestioningly support fringe progressive positions, such as gender ideology, which is at best scientifically tenuous.



This can be brought under control. The Arizona state legislature controls state funds for universities. Journalism professors and administrators only get away with this kind of professional brainwashing by avoiding public scrutiny and accountability by state governments. Much needs to be done legislatively to prevent strategic obfuscation of this kind. If journalism schools wish to continue speaking power to truth, they should prepare to face serious pushback from the public.



Neetu Arnold

Neetu Arnold is a Fellow at the National Association of Scholars. Her work has appeared in publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, and *RealClearPolicy*.

Rich kids have always had school choice. Denying it to poor kids is a form of oppression.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

2 February 2023

The Democrats' electoral dependence on teachers' unions notwithstanding, school choice remains popular among voters in both parties, with 82% of Republicans and 68% of Democrats in favor of facilitating familial choice in education. As school choice advocates spent This year's national school choice week (January 22 to 28) pushing for policies that allow families to select their own children's educational environments, Iowa and Utah each passed universal school choice, mandating that families be given funds to send their children to a school of their choosing — be it public, private, or parochial.

21 states already have some school choice laws on the books, and the school choice movement continues to grow. Still, opponents of school choice remain formidable, both politically (in the Democratic Party) and philosophically (among educational thought leaders in universities and school districts).

The main argument against offering families vouchers that they can use to subsidize children's enrollment in the school of their choice is that the very public schools that families most want to opt out of — those in areas of concentrated poverty and disinvestment — are further weakened when families choose to send their children to charter, private, or parochial schools.

Even insofar as this is a legitimate problem, imprisoning socioeconomically disadvantaged families in failing schools is a discriminatory and oppressive solution, as well as a failed one.

For everyone but the poor, school choice is already the rule and always has been. People with sufficient economic and social capital already have the ability to make choices about where they send their children to school. They decide to live in neighborhoods with public schools in which they want to enroll their children; they decline to enroll in the local schools for which they pay taxes while also paying for private or parochial school; or they homeschool.

For example, my children attend parochial school in Philadelphia, where today we are fittingly celebrating Catholic schools week. My husband and I have graduate degrees. Like everyone else with our educational backgrounds and concurrent financial resources, we assume school choice as our presumptive reality.

But disadvantaged families who don't have the financial resources to make choices — like the thousands of families in Philadelphia currently on the wait lists for charter schools or for scholarships to attend private or parochial schools — aren't able to exercise the same freedom. And it's not just poverty that's keeping them in schools they'd rather leave. It's the law.

Compulsory school laws require that children attend school — that's fine. But to deny under-resourced children and families the school choice that all other families already have, when the state both requires and pays for education already, is to use poor children as fodder for the Democrats' political fortunes.

Those fortunes, to be clear, are tied to the good graces of teachers' unions, not the educational outcomes for public school students (which are, in the places where school choice is most necessary and desired, abysmal). So, opposing school choice while claiming to want what is best for the neediest students is willfully blind at best.

Moreover, trapping poor families, and only poor families, in underperforming schools is not only inexcusable; it is also pointless. The very public



schools that people are so desperate to opt out of are the same ones that have been failing for generations. In fact, during the pandemic, many such schools deemed themselves unnecessary.

Decent educational options for children should be universal, not dependent on whether one has upper-middle-class parents, gets the lucky lottery draw, or is selected for a competitive scholarship. It should take only parents that want what's best for their kids and a state that budgets funds for education. Across the country, we already have both of these things.

As more Democrats join Republicans in acknowledging the reality that school choice and care for under-resourced families are in fact synonymous, I hope that we will eventually have universal school choice, too.

In the meantime, concerned citizens in the Keystone State can contribute to Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. The program allows individuals and businesses to receive tax credits (90% for a two-year commitment and 75% for a one-year commitment) for donations to organizations like the Children's Scholarship Fund that grant socioeconomically disadvantaged kids scholarships to attend private or parochial schools. For average citizens like my husband and me, the EITC is a small attempt to do our small part to help children without the privileges of our kids access a decent education.

It looks like, one day, we won't need school choice week or the EITC. Let's hope it's soon.



Elizabeth Grace Matthew

Elizabeth Grace Matthew is a freelance writer and editor, an America's Future Foundation Writing Fellowship Alumna, and a Young Voices Contributor. Matthew writes about education, culture, politics, and religion. Her work has appeared in *America Magazine*, *The Hill*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Police kill far too many people during traffic stops. We must change why stops are made.

USA TODAY

20 November 2022

Police have killed more than 1,000 Americans this year – more than any other point in the past decade, according to recent data from Mapping Police Violence.

Given the nation's recent emphasis on police reform, this should be surprising. Since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020, lawmakers have attempted to mitigate police violence by addressing illegal and fatal police tactics. Yet police are still killing about three people a day.

And many of these deaths occur during traffic stops. To protect motorists and police, we need better protocols.

Reform traffic stop procedures

An analysis of Mapping Police Violence's full database reveals that 730 people have been killed in traffic stops since 2017. For nearly 70% of these deaths, there is no body or dash cam footage. In many cases, the police department responsible refused to provide details or justification. Purported traffic violations account for about 40% of these killings, and almost half of those involved individuals under the influence of drugs, alcohol or with mental illness.

In nearly 430 of these fatal traffic stops, the victim was suspected of carrying a weapon, but in 20% of the cases – that's more than 80 deaths – the individual turned out to be unarmed.

In about 350 deadly incidents, the officer initiated a traffic stop for unspecified circumstances, or the police department responsible refused to provide details or justification.

To reduce police violence, states need to reform their policies:

Limit stops for minor traffic violations. Given the number of police killings in instances of nonviolent offenses, more states need to adopt policies to prevent police from pulling over non-threatening vehicles. Cities such as Los Angles and Philadelphia have passed legislation to end unnecessary traffic stops.

These reforms aim to decrease unnecessary exposure to danger and to mitigate the police's tendency toward racial bias. Rather than pulling vehicles over for minor traffic violations with the intent to investigate for larger offenses, officers are expected to determine whether a vehicle is involved in a serious crime before pulling them over.

Stop tying traffic stops to police department revenue

Eliminate incentives for ticket revenue. The financial incentive for police to stop drivers has been an issue for a long time, as many communities rely heavily on ticket revenue. In January, the Brookside Police Department in Alabama (population 1,253) gave out so many tickets that the police department grossed an equivalent of $487 from every person in the community, increasing the town's revenue more than 600% in just three years, according to AL.com.

Local and state governments are so dependent on officers' traffic stops for revenue, they often evaluate officers based on ticket "quotas," attaching monetary gain or promotions to the number of tickets issued.

Not only are police departments awarding monetary gain to officers with high ticket quotas, but the federal government awards municipalities money for the number of tickets issued. This

negative financial incentive goes all the way to the top, establishing a system conducive to corruption.

To date, more than 20 states have prohibited quotas. For states seeking revenue to offset tax increases, the federal government should provide grant money rather than encouraging penalties for minor incidents.

Teach drivers about policing protocols

Create a national campaign for traffic stop awareness. Police academies train recruits in basic traffic stop fundamentals, but motorists in driving schools do not get the run-down on police procedures. This unpreparedness increases the risk of danger for both motorists and officers. The lack of standardization in traffic stop conduct is a real problem.

In 2020, a Connecticut prosecutor cleared Wethersfield police officer Layau Eulizier after he fatally shot an 18-year-old driver in an attempted traffic stop: "Officer Eulizier discharged his firearm in fear that the operator was about to run him over and that he would lose his own life. His belief that deadly force was needed to defend himself and others from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force was objectively reasonable."

Motorists can send mixed signals to officers or be wary of traffic stops, especially if they're a person of color. Teaching drivers about police protocol and their rights and responsibilities would promote safe and effective roadside communication.

Some organizations already offer this kind of roadside safety education. The National Association of Black Law Enforcement hosts events in Black communities to teach people the risk of traffic stops, how to act when stopped by police given what police are trained to watch for, and what their actions will communicate to their officers.

Police reforms so far aren't keeping people from dying. The only way to protect motorists and officers is to limit traffic stops and to promote clear communication between officers and citizens after the sirens have sounded.





Finesse Moreno-Rivera

Finesse Moreno-Rivera is an accomplished criminologist, research analyst, policy advisor, criminal justice data expert and current candidate for project manager at the Police Executive Research Forum. Finesse's passion for criminal justice stems from her own personal experiences in childhood and adulthood.

Winter Events





Young Voices has kept a busy event calendar this past winter! Since December, we've hosted three trainings, one policy forum, and a special reception. Check it out:

- We kicked off the new year by training our **Regional Leaders** at our Washington, DC headquarters on recruiting new writers and commentators to our network and hosting events.
- In February, our **Innovation Fellows** gathered for a two-day policy summit featuring salon-style conversations on issues of space exploration, telecoms, and permissionless innovation. To cap off the summit, we hosted a public event on ChatGPT and artificial intelligence at Microsoft's DC Headquarters.
- We welcomed the new class of speakers from our **Dissident Project** in New York City for a three-day training, where they received professional speaking and media training. The speakers will be hitting the road starting this spring, telling their stories of escape and the importance of freedom to classrooms across the country. While they were in town, we hosted a special reception in Chelsea with friends and donors to celebrate.









When I learned I'd been chosen for Young Voices' Contributor Program, I was speechless! I'd heard testimonials from past contributors, so I knew what being chosen meant for my career.

At first, I was nervous that I wouldn't fit in the program or that I wouldn't have success. Up to this point in my career, I had only written academic papers, and never with an opportunity to voice my own opinion. The Young Voices team saw something in me that I didn't.

I'll never forget the elation I felt when my first article was published in *Blavity*. With the help of the editors, I was able to push my writing to a new level by expanding my topics to include domestic and international policies as well as criminal justice research. They helped me learn how to offer my own solutions when presenting problems in order to really make a difference and build my own brand.

Since joining the program in August 2022, I have been requested and have appeared in over 10 podcasts thanks to bookers reading an article of mine and reaching out to me.

The article that really put me on the map was my published piece in *USA Today*, "Police kill far too many people during traffic stops." The article was such a hit, that I was asked to partner with You & Five – O, an organization that provides resources on how to interact with law enforcement, and I've been asked to present to Mayor Don Hardy of Kinston, North Carolina on the importance of data analytics in understanding root causes of criminal activity and how it can also be a solution to decrease crime. By getting my work published through Young Voices, I have been able to share my research on crime and offer my solutions, bringing real action into communities in need.

Young Voices has had a profound impact on my life. After only eight months in the program, I've been published in media outlets such as the *New York Daily News* and *USA Today*, and continue to field opportunities to appear in podcast interviews and in-person meetings. I never dreamed I would have a voice to make a real difference, but that's the opportunity I've been given through Young Voices, and it's absolutely priceless.

Thanks for supporting me — and the rest of the contributors.

Sincerely,

Finesse Moreno-Rivera



To support more of our work, please visit
young-voices.com/donate