

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 5 NOVEMBER 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[EEOC Launches Initiative to Ensure AI Doesn't Exacerbate Civil Rights Issues](#) [Aaron Boyd, Nextgov, 2 November 2021]

Artificial intelligence tools are being used in the public and private sector to help employers find potential employees and make hiring and retention decisions. But those technologies carry inherent risks, including automating biases and systemic issues for organizations. To combat this, the [EEOC recently launched](#) a new initiative to catalog those potential harms and educate employers and employees about how best to use these technologies without causing civil rights issues. "The bottom line here, really, is despite this aura of neutrality and objectivity around artificial intelligence and predictive tools that incorporate algorithms, they can end up reproducing human biases if we're not careful and aware that we need to check for that," EEOC Chair Charlotte Burrows said announcing the initiative during a Genius Machines event hosted by Nextgov and Defense One. Burrows cited reports of hiring algorithms that suppressed resumes from female applicants and job posting tools that fail to give employers the full scope of potential hires.

[New policy protects sexual assault survivors from being charged with "minor" infractions](#) [Meghann Myers, Military Times, 1 November 2021]

One of the toughest hills to climb in the military's work to tackle its sexual assault problem is that so few survivors report their attacks, often for fear of retaliation or other negative consequences. Now, as part of Defense Department policy, troops who were drinking underage, out past curfew or fraternizing at the time of an assault don't have to worry about being charged if they come forward. The Safe-to-Report Policy, mandated by Congress in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, requires commanders to disregard any "minor" collateral misconduct a survivor might have committed in the context of his or her assault. "The Safe-to-Report Policy will allow us to build on the support we strive to provide to victims of sexual assault, while ensuring due process for the accused and good order and discipline for the Force," Gil Cisneros, Defense Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, [wrote in a memo signed Oct. 25](#).

[President Biden Declares November National Native American Heritage Month](#) [Native News Online, 29 October 2021]

President Joe Biden has issued a [proclamation](#) naming November 2021 as National Native American Heritage Month, a time to "celebrate the countless contributions of Native peoples past and present, honor the influence they have had on the advancement of our Nation, and recommit ourselves to upholding trust and treaty responsibilities, strengthening tribal sovereignty, and advancing Tribal self-determination." He also touted the American Rescue Plan as the most significant funding legislation in U.S. history, and named Friday, November 26, 2021—popularly known as the consumer-driven Black Friday—as Native American Heritage Day.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[DNA Analysis Confirms Sun Dancer Ernie LaPointe is Chief Sitting Bull's Great-Grandson](#)

[*Native News Online*, 31 October 2021]

Researchers at the University of Cambridge released findings on Wednesday from decade-long DNA analysis that confirm sun dancer Ernie LaPointe, 73, is Chief Sitting Bull's great-grandson. The scientific confirmation gives credence to LaPointe's lifetime claim he and his sisters are the closest living descendants of Sitting Bull, who is considered one of the greatest American Indian warriors in history because he led more than 1,000 Lakota warriors' victory over the U.S. troops led by George Armstrong Custer in the Battle of Little Bighorn. "Many people have tried to question the relationship that I and my sisters have to Sitting Bull," LaPointe said in a statement. Among families—particularly Native American families—family histories are passed down orally from generation to the next. LaPointe heard of his relationship to Sitting Bull as a child from his mother. The [findings were published in the journal Science Advances](#).

[Google honors Native American fiber artist the late We:wa with new Doodle](#) [Wade Sheridan, *United Press International*, 1 November 2021]

Google is celebrating Native American fiber artist, weaver and potter the late We:wa in honor of Native American Heritage Month. The late We:wa was born of the Donashi:kwi or Badger clan and was a child of the Bit'chi:kwe or Dogwood clan around 1849 in Zuni Pueblo, a community located in what is now New Mexico. Google noted that the Zuni tribe discouraged the company from speaking of community members who have passed on within the present tense, so "the late We:wa" is used out of respect for their memory and spirit. The late We:wa was a Łamana, the recognized third gender in the Zuni tribe outside of the male-female binary system. They learned a number of skills done by both men and women and after years of training, the late We:wa became one of the first Zuni craftspeople to sell ceramics and woven goods to non-Indigenous people. This led to Indigenous crafts being appreciated as fine art in the U.S. The late We:wa was also a spiritual leader in the community and traveled with anthropologists James and Matilda Stevenson to Washington, D.C., in 1885. The late We:wa asked government officials to protect Zuni lands and culture from settlers.

[Here's where ponytails stand for women in the Marine Corps](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 4 November 2021]

*The Marine Corps currently has no plans to change its hair policy, remaining the only U.S. military service branch to not allow women to wear ponytails or braids in uniform. Since 2018, the Navy has allowed women in its ranks to sport ponytails and other hairstyles, while the Army, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard all changed hair policies for women in 2021. All changes to Marine grooming and uniform policies go through the Marine Corps uniform board, and changes to hair standards for women were discussed at this year's board, Capt. Sam Stephenson, a spokesman for Training and Education command, told *Marine Corps Times* in October. The Marine Corps is looking to increase diversity in the Corps, with Berger bragging that 13 percent of recruits in the 2021 recruiting year were women—a massive increase over the Marine Corps norm. Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy Black said the Corps is currently discussing changes to the hair policy. "I don't think it's at the point now it comes to the service*

level for a decision,” Black said Tuesday. “But as part of that diversity, equity, inclusion conversation, those conversations are being had,” he added.

[In North Carolina, a new Civil War memorial honors Black Union soldiers](#) [Kevin Maurer, *The Washington Post*, 1 November 2021]

In the early 1900s, two Civil War memorials—both honoring the Confederacy—were erected in the busy downtown district of Wilmington, N.C. They were meant largely to send a message of intimidation to African Americans and “carpetbaggers,” Northerners who came to the South during reconstruction—and there they stood for a century. Five miles away, Heather Wilson, the deputy director of the Cameron Art Museum, wanted to tell a different story about the city. The U.S. Colored Troops, 80 percent of whom were formerly enslaved men from the South, accounted for over half of the more than 2,000 Union casualties in the battles for Wilmington—one of which had taken place on the museum’s grounds. Yet there was no monument honoring them. “These men fought for their freedom, here, where the museum stands, and this is vitally important to who we are as a community,” Wilson says. “I want children to stand at the sculpture and look up and be inspired by the proud face of the soldiers and think: That could be me. That man looks like me.”

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Marine Corps Ends Ban on “Sleeve Tattoos” but Cracks Down on Extremist Ink](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Military.com*, 29 October 2021]

Marines are once again allowed to cover most of their arms and legs with so-called “sleeve tattoos” under a [revised policy](#) announced Friday by the Marine Corps. At the same time, the updated policy expands the definition of tattoos forbidden as “extremist.” The Marines banned sleeve tattoos in 2007, just as they had reached peak popularity in the United States. The Defense Department has been taking a harder look at extremism within the ranks in the wake of the Jan. 6 mob assault on the U.S. Capitol, which included active-duty service members and veterans. The ban on extremist tattoos includes any that symbolize philosophies or organizations that advocate racial, gender or ethnic hatred. Also banned are tattoos that “advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution and federal or state law” or that “advocate, engage in, or support the forceful, violent, unconstitutional, or otherwise unlawful overthrow of the government of the United States, any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.”

[Marine Corps reveals why 75% of Marines get out after a single enlistment](#) [Jeff Schogol, *Task & Purpose*, 3 November 2021]

The Marine Corps has publicly admitted what many current and former junior Marines have long known: That it doesn’t really care if you stick around past your first enlistment. Less a revelation and more of an open secret in the Corps, this was publicly announced on Wednesday by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David H. Berger, in his [Talent Management plan](#). Now the Corps is finally rethinking its focus on replacing rather than retaining so-called “first-term” Marines. The 25-page report “is informed by a decade’s worth of studies, books, reports, and academic articles on military personnel reform, in addition to the significant body of literature on organizational leadership and the science of management.” For the past 36 years, the Marine

Corps has discharged roughly 75% of first-term Marines each year and then recruited about 36,000 new Marines to replace them, the plan says. Part of the problem, according to the report, is that the Marine Corps is so good at recruiting that they've created a system that places a premium on recruitment over retention.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New WWI movie to feature a gay love story](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 1 November 2021]
*World War II has provided the historical backdrop for movies and television shows spanning the gamut of genres from romance to zombie horror and even dark comedy à la *Inglourious Basterds* (2009). But its predecessor, the Great War, has only more recently begun getting its due in terms of modern-day blockbusters intended to chronicle its many aspects. One such movie that will do just that is *The History of Sound*. The movie, a romance, will be [based on the short story by Ben Shattuck](#), which won a Pushcart Prize. The plot of the original text focuses on two young men, Lionel and David, who begin recording the stories and songs of contemporary Americans during the war on phonograph cylinders. There is to be an element of romance in what the film's director called a "snatched, short-lived moment in their young lives." The movie will begin production in the summer of 2022.*

[South Dakota Restarts Review of Indigenous Curriculum After Protests](#) [Tim Henderson, *Stateline*, 27 October 2021]

The South Dakota Department of Education this week finalized plans to restart the process of reviewing social studies standards after protests erupted over deleted mentions of local Ojibwe tribal history. The standards will be reviewed again over the next three years with more chances for public comment, and lessons on the Ojibwe will be available for any schools that want to teach them, the department said. Almost 600 public comments blasted the deletion of Indigenous history lessons, part of Noem's plans for "patriotic education." Noem signed an [executive order](#) in July calling for state agencies to abide by anticipated legislation to "prohibit any curriculum that requires or encourages students to take positions against one another on the basis of race, sex, or the historical activities of members of a student's race or sex." Many states have taken the opposite stance by including more material about Indigenous tribes in school lessons, as new [U.S. Census Bureau figures show](#) more people with Native ancestry than were previously recognized.

[What Is Day of the Dead, the Mexican Holiday?](#) [Oscar Lopez, *The New York Times*, 1 November 2021]

Day of the Dead, or Día de Muertos, is one of the most important celebrations in Mexico, with roots dating back thousands of years, long before Spanish settlers arrived. It has become a blend of Catholic tradition and Mexican mysticism, commemorating death as another element of life and as a way to remember and honor loved ones. In bustling markets, stalls sell decorated skulls made of sugar or chocolate and sheets of tissue paper, cut into delicate shapes, adorn stores and restaurants. In houses all over the country, families carefully place photographs of their ancestors on an altar beside candles and a traditional Mexican pastry as incense fills the air. In flower shops, freshly cut marigolds line the storefronts. While the colorful festivities have appeared in Oscar-winning movies and even commercials for major companies, for Mexicans it

remains an intimate family tradition, a moment to remember and honor those we have lost, and allow them back into our homes, even just for an evening. And in a country where violence and tragedy have become pervasive, it is also a reminder of Mexico's ability to persevere and laugh at anything—even death.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Women of color growing force as mom influencers](#) [Astrid Galvan, *The Associated Press*, 1 November 2021]

Kisha Gulley was once kicked out of a Facebook group for mothers with autistic children after a contentious debate she felt was racial. Over and over, she clashed with the White-dominated groups she'd sought out for support as a new mom. So Gulley, who is Afro Latina, started her own parenting blog and social media accounts. It's now a source of income for her. The multibillion-dollar world of sleep training guides, toddler activity ideas, breastfeeding tips and all things parenting has traditionally been overwhelmingly White. Parenting book jackets feature mostly White faces. The so-called mom influencers that brands choose to advertise their products have, until recently, also been mostly White. This has left a hole for women of color — especially new moms—who struggle to find culturally relevant parenting advice and products. Increasingly, they're taking matters into their own hands.

DISCRIMINATION

[LGBT rights ballot drive officially dead after appeal denied](#) [David Eggert, *The Associated Press*, 2 November 2021]

The Michigan Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to hear the appeal of an LGBTQ-rights ballot committee that contended officials wrongly disqualified tens thousands of voter signatures it submitted for an initiative to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The decision, issued in a short order, came months after the Board of State Canvassers declined to certify the petitions. Election officials had determined Fair and Equal Michigan had about 263,000 valid signatures, roughly 76,000 short. The proposal would have revised the state's 1976 civil rights law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. Organizers wanted to place the measure before the Republican-led Legislature, where similar legislation has long stalled. If lawmakers did not act, it would have gone to a statewide vote in November 2022.

[Supreme Court turns down chance to consider whether a Catholic hospital can be sued over transgender rights](#) [Robert Barnes, *The Washington Post*, 1 November 2021]

The Supreme Court turned down the chance to consider whether a Catholic hospital can be sued over refusing a transgender patient treatment the hospital says would violate its core religious beliefs. A California court said Evan Minton could pursue his lawsuit after a hospital canceled a scheduled hysterectomy after learning days before that he was transgender. The operation was part of his treatment for gender dysphoria, a condition in which an individual's gender identity does not conform to the sex they were assigned at birth. Minton was scheduled to receive the operation in 2016 at Mercy San Juan Medical Center near Sacramento, a hospital in the Dignity Health chain. Minton sued, and the California Court of Appeals said he could go forward with

his claim that Mercy's actions violated the state's civil rights law, which protects LGBTQ individuals. The California court said Minton had shown adequately for purposes of a lawsuit that the hospital denied him treatment because he is transgender, and thus denied him the "full and equal" access to medical care that California law requires.

[Texas Governor Signs Transgender Youth Sports Ban](#) [Aallyah Wright, *Stateline*, 27 October 2021]

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott this week became the latest governor to sign a bill to bar transgender youth from competing on high school sports team that don't align with their biological gender at birth. Lawmakers and supporters of the bills argued that allowing transgender girls to participate in sports threatens athletic opportunities for cisgender women and girls. LGBTQ advocates point out that barring transgender youth from playing sports [can pose risks](#) to their mental and physical health. The Texas legislature has introduced over 40 bills on the matter, [more than any other state](#). Governors in Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota vetoed legislation in their states. And in West Virginia, a federal judge issued a temporary injunction this summer stopping the law from being enforced. LGBTQ advocacy and human rights organizations such as the Trevor Project and the Human Rights Campaign have issued [statements](#) condemning Abbott's actions. "This is a dark and frightening day for thousands of families in Texas who fear for the safety and future of their transgender children," Rebecca Marques, Human Rights Campaign Texas state director, said in a statement. "Transgender kids, just like any kid, simply want to play sports with their friends."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

DIVERSITY

[Arab American and Muslim mayors sweep local elections in Detroit suburbs](#) [Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, *PBS News*, 3 November 2021]

Voters in three Detroit suburbs chose, for the first time, mayors who are both Muslim and Arab American in historic local elections on Tuesday, marking a shift in political power to a region that has the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the U.S. Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Hamtramck, all located in southeastern Michigan, have seen decades of economic growth and cultural advancement driven by Arab American immigration and investment, but have struggled with representation. How Arabs are represented—both in Census data by not having a distinct "Arab" category, or the lack of representation in elected office—has long been a concern in the community. Residents and experts say these elections reveal the maturing political progress—sometimes against the backdrop of racism or Islamophobia—of the Muslim and Arab Americans that have become integral to the fabric of those communities.

[Marine veteran Winsome Sears becomes first female and woman of color elected as Virginia's lieutenant governor](#) [Li Cohen, *CBS News*, 4 November 2021]

Republican Winsome Sears was elected as Virginia's new lieutenant governor on Tuesday night, becoming the first woman and the first woman of color to serve in the position. This is the not the first barrier Sears has broken. Sears, a U.S. Marine veteran, previously served in Virginia's House of Delegates. She was the first Black Republican woman, first female veteran and first

“legal immigrant” woman elected to that position, she says on her campaign website. “When my father came to this country August 11th of 1963, he came at the height of the civil rights movement from Jamaica. ... And he only came with \$1.75,” she said in her victory speech. “...When I joined the Marine Corps I was still a Jamaican, but this country had done so much for me I was willing, willing to die for this country.”

[New Black NBA Coaches Wonder Why It Took So Long to Get a Shot](#) [Scott Cacciola, *The New York Times*, 1 November 2021]

Jamahl Mosley has traveled the world for basketball. He spent 16 seasons on NBA coaching staffs, developing his skills and hoping for his big break to be a head coach. He had heeded his mother’s advice about playing college basketball for a Black coach, to learn leadership skills from someone who looked like him. The doubts about his ever getting that kind of job only surfaced in recent years when he interviewed for—and was turned down for—seven NBA head coaching jobs. The NBA’s coaching and executive ranks have long been dominated by White men, even though more than 70 percent of players are Black. But this year, Mosley became part of an unusual off-season, in which seven of eight head coaching vacancies were filled by Black candidates. Five of them, including Mosley, who was hired by the Orlando Magic in July, are first-time head coaches. The uptick—13 of the league’s 30 coaches are now Black and two others are not White—came during a broader national conversation about race and hiring practices. Black players harnessed their voices to seek change that they felt was overdue.

[Southcom welcomes Army general as its first woman leader](#) [Jacqueline Charles, *The Tampa Bay Times* (St. Petersburg, Fla.), 31 October 2021]

An emotional Navy admiral bid farewell to the U.S. Southern Command on Friday as he ended his tenure at its helm, and a nearly four-decade military career, in a change-of-command ceremony filled with tributes, accolades and a history-making moment: After retiring his colors, Navy Adm. Craig Faller, 60, welcomed four-star Army Gen. Laura Richardson, 57, as his successor at Southcom, which is headquartered in Doral and has responsibility for the Latin American and Caribbean region. Richardson last commanded the U.S. Army North and became the first woman to head Southcom—and only the second woman four-star U.S. military general to head a U.S. geographic combatant command. The transfer of power took place inside Southcom’s transformed gymnasium before representatives of the armed services from across South and Central America, and the Caribbean along with Austin and Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

EXTREMISM

[Ex-Maryland man who joined al-Qaida sentenced at Guantanamo](#) [Ben Fox, *The Associated Press*, 29 October 2021]

A military jury imposed a sentence of 26 years Friday on a former Maryland man who admitted joining al-Qaida and has been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center. But under a plea deal, the man could be released as soon as next year because of his cooperation with U.S. authorities. The sentencing of Majid Khan is the culmination of the first trial by military commission for one of the 14 so-called high-value detainees who were sent to the U.S. naval base

in Cuba in 2006 after being held in a clandestine network of overseas CIA detention facilities and subjected to the harsh interrogation program developed in response to the 9/11 attacks. Khan, a 41-year-old citizen of Pakistan who came to the U.S. in the 1990s and graduated from high school near Baltimore, earlier pleaded guilty to war crimes charges that included conspiracy and murder for his involvement in al-Qaida plots such as the deadly bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in August 2003.

[Feds seek tougher sentences for veterans who stormed Capitol](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 3 November 2021]

During his 27 years in the U.S. Army, Leonard Gruppo joined the Special Forces, served in four war zones and led a team of combat medics in Iraq before retiring in 2013 as a lieutenant colonel. During his six minutes inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, Gruppo joined a slew of other military veterans as a mob of pro-Trump rioters carried out an unparalleled assault on the bastion of American democracy. He's among dozens of veterans and active-service members charged in connection with the insurrection. Now, cases like his are presenting a thorny question for federal judges to consider when they sentence veterans who stormed the Capitol: Do they deserve leniency because they served their country or tougher punishment because they swore an oath to defend it? The Justice Department has adopted the latter position. In at least five cases so far, prosecutors have cited a rioter's military service as a factor weighing in favor of a jail sentence or house arrest. Prosecutors have repeatedly maintained that veterans' service, while commendable, made their actions on Jan. 6 more egregious.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Rioter who bragged she wouldn't go to jail gets prison term](#) [Jacques Billeaud and Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 4 November 2021]

A real estate agent from suburban Dallas who flaunted her participation in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol on social media and later bragged she wasn't going to jail because she is White, has blond hair and a good job was sentenced on Thursday to two months behind bars. While some rioters sentenced for the same misdemeanor conviction have received only probation or home confinement, prosecutors sought incarceration for Jennifer Leigh Ryan of Frisco, Texas, saying she has shown a lack of candor and remorse for her actions when the pro-Trump mob attacked the Capitol building and delayed Congress' certification of Joe Biden's Electoral College victory. They also said Ryan's belief that she's shielded from punishment shows she doesn't grasp the seriousness of her crime. Though Ryan said she was sorry for her actions, Cooper questioned whether she is remorseful and has respect for the law. "Your actions since Jan. 6 make me doubt some of those things," the judge said.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Toxic Positivity Can Harm Your Mental Health. Here's How to Spot It](#) [Jaime Osnato, *Livestrong.com*, 19 October 2021]

Making the best of things can be a useful strategy in the face of hard times (2020, we're looking at you). But when we choose to see only the bright side and banish "bad" feelings rather than deal with them, we've crossed the line into toxic positivity. There's no denying the power of

positivity, which can provide comfort and hope when you need it most. But an extreme “don’t worry, be happy” attitude can dismiss pain, grief and trauma and even potentially cause damage to ourselves and others. That’s why we spoke with Juhee Jhalani, PhD, a New York City-based clinical psychologist, to learn about the traps of toxic positivity and healthier ways to keep an optimistic outlook without dismissing darker emotions. Toxic positivity is the idea that positive thinking should always be favored over negative emotions. It’s an active attempt to overlook or push aside any less-than-happy thoughts or feelings like anger, sadness or frustration, Jhalani says. But toxic positivity fails to consider the complexity of life and the full spectrum of emotions that come with it. It oversimplifies situations—underscored by the premise that positivity can fix anything that’s wrong in one’s life—and in doing so, it can minimize a person’s very real, painful emotions.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Why demisexuality is as real as any sexual orientation](#) [Jessica Klein, *BBC News*, 5 November 2021]

Earlier this year, when then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s daughter, Michaela Kennedy-Cuomo, came out as “demisexual”, she was met with public condescension. Many mocked her demisexuality—a lack of sexual attraction to others without a strong emotional connection. Few acknowledged demisexuality as “real”. Demisexuality, which [falls on the asexuality spectrum](#), differs from simply wanting to wait for a deep bond to form before having sex with someone; rather, it’s more akin to the experience of being asexual until that type of connection forms, at which point the sexual attraction extends only to that person. For allosexuals, on the other hand (people who aren’t on the asexual spectrum), waiting to have sex until forming a deep connection is more of a preference, and less of necessity to developing sexual desire. Elle Rose, a 28-year-old based in Indiana, began identifying as demisexual after describing their sexuality to a friend a few years ago. “She looked at me and was like, ‘Elle, you’re describing demisexuality,’” says Rose. Rose partly attributes dismissive attitudes towards demisexuality in the U.S. to “purity culture”, in which women are at once highly sexualised in the media, but also expected to save themselves for the right person (or marriage, particularly in religious settings).

INTERNATIONAL

[China LGBT rights group shuts down amid hostile environment](#) [Huizhong Wu, *The Associated Press*, 5 November 2021]

*An influential LGBT advocacy group in China that has spearheaded many of the legal cases pushing for greater rights is halting its work amid growing restrictions on social activism. LGBT Rights Advocacy China announced it was ceasing all activities and shutting down its social media accounts in an announcement on social media Thursday. “We are deeply regretful to tell everyone, Queer Advocacy Online will stop all of our work indefinitely,” the group said on WeChat, using the name of its social media account. It closed its accounts on WeChat and Weibo, two widely used platforms in China. A member confirmed that all the group’s activities have been shut down. The member, who spoke to *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity because of safety concerns, declined to say why. Group founder Peng Yanzi did not respond to a request for comment. LGBT Rights Advocacy China did work across the country, pushing for the rights of*

gay people and raising awareness about the community. It advocated for same-sex marriage and fought workplace discrimination by helping individuals sue their former employers.

[Defence Minister Anand moving military sexual misconduct cases into civilian justice system](#)

[Peter Zimonjic, *CBC News (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)*, 4 November 2021]

In one of her first acts as Canada's new defence minister, Anita Anand announced today she's transferring the investigation and prosecution of sexual misconduct cases within the Canadian Forces into the civilian justice system. The military has been reeling over a series of sexual misconduct investigations. Since early February 2021, 11 current and former senior Canadian military leaders have been sidelined, investigated or forced into retirement from some of the most powerful and prestigious posts in the defence establishment. "There's no doubt that there's a crisis in the Canadian Armed Forces," Anand said Thursday evening on CBC's Power & Politics. "That crisis has been brought to light many times over the past few months." Anand is leading an external review into sexual harassment and misconduct in the Canadian military. She's advising the federal government on how an independent, external reporting system—one which allows victims to report acts of violence and misconduct without fear of reprisal—can be put in place.

[Israel's ultra-Orthodox protest women's prayer at holy site](#) [Shlomo Mor, *The Associated Press*, 5 November 2021]

Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews gathered at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to protest against a Jewish women's group that holds monthly prayers there in a long-running campaign for gender equality at the site. For decades the "Women of the Wall" group has campaigned for equality of worship at the wall, one of Judaism's holiest sites. Israel's religious institutions are dominated by the ultra-Orthodox, who are opposed to any changes at the site, where men and women pray in separate areas. The dispute has sharpened since the swearing-in of a new government in June pushed Israel's ultra-Orthodox parties into the opposition. A newly elected lawmaker who is also a Reform rabbi has used his parliamentary immunity to bring Torah scrolls into the women's section in defiance of rules enforced by the ultra-Orthodox administrators of the site.

[Mexico to play in empty stadium for 2 World Cup qualifiers](#) [*The Associated Press*, 1 November 2021]

Mexico will have to play in an empty stadium for its next two home games in World Cup qualifying because of persistent anti-gay chants by fans, FIFA said Monday. The Mexican soccer federation was also fined 100,000 Swiss francs (\$110,000) for charges of "discriminatory behavior by supporters." It's the latest punishment in a long-standing campaign to stop fans from directing slurs at opposing players. Mexico will host Costa Rica on Jan. 30 and Panama on Feb. 2 in an empty stadium, costing the federation millions of dollars in lost revenue. The anti-gay chants were heard last month when Mexico hosted qualifiers against Canada and Honduras. The storied Azteca Stadium drew a combined attendance of more than 130,000 fans for those games. The Azteca was empty when Mexico opened World Cup qualifying in September against Jamaica because of a previous FIFA punishment.

[Saudi women barrel into workforce in changing kingdom](#) [Raya Jalabi, *Reuters*, 4 November 2021]

Stepping out of a shared taxi in central Riyadh, Reham Al-Ahmed walked into the shopping mall where she works four days a week selling cosmetics. Al-Ahmed, a high school graduate, is the first woman in her family to have a job. Her parents had never wanted her to work but they eventually relented as life in the capital became too expensive. With steep new taxes and cuts to government subsidies, many families are increasingly relying on women to work. In so doing, women are negotiating a new place for themselves in their country's delicate social fabric—a trend celebrated by some and watched suspiciously by others in a country still tethered to its conservative traditions. Al-Ahmed, who lives at home with her parents and five younger siblings, chose a shop with mostly female clients to allay her parents' concerns about mixing with men. "I used to feel guilty asking my father for anything," the 24-year-old said. "But since I started working, I'm proud I can help out my family."

[Sweden moves closer to getting first woman prime minister](#) [*Reuters*, 4 November 2021]

Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson moved a step closer to becoming Sweden's first woman prime minister on Thursday when the ruling Social Democrat party elected her as its leader in place of Stefan Lofven. Lofven, the current prime minister, wants to step down before national elections due in September 2022. Neighbouring Norway got its first female leader 40 years ago. Sweden's failure to follow suit has grated on a country that prides itself on leading the world in gender equality and has a self-described "feminist" foreign policy. The 54-year-old will become prime minister if a majority in parliament does not reject her in a confirmation vote, probably this month.

MISCELLANEOUS

[2020 Census May Have Missed More Than 1.6M Residents](#) [Kate Elizabeth Queram, *Nextgov*, 3 November 2021]

New research from the Urban Institute found that minorities were likely underrepresented in the population count, leaving some states with a windfall of federal funding while others came up short. The [report, released this week](#), is one of a host of studies examining the 2020 census, a massive undertaking that occurred against the backdrop of multiple crises that threatened its accuracy. There was the pandemic, announced officially in the United States on March 13, 2020, "a day after the 2020 Census began mailing information to households to participate," the report said. The spread of Covid-19 led to the deployment of an online response tool, but likely also limited participation among already hard-to-count populations due to delayed field operations and hiring. The Urban Institute report comes months ahead of the expected release of what's known as a [modified race file](#), a data analysis from the U.S. Census Bureau that reassigns people who identified only as "some other race" into Black and non-Black categories. The agency will also release results from a [post-enumeration survey](#), a standard sampling designed to assess the accuracy of the count, sometime next year.

[Better Data Would Help Federal Response to Missing Indigenous Women, Watchdog Says](#) [Alexandra Kelley, *Nextgov*, 2 November 2021]

The Government Accountability Office issued four major recommendations for law enforcement to consider in an effort to better solve cases of missing and murdered indigenous women, emphasizing improved data collections and analysis practices. [Published in an audit released on Monday](#), GAO researchers reviewed the federal response to missing and murdered Native American and Alaskan women, focusing on the Justice and Interior departments' procedures to handle these cases as tribal jurisdictions ask for better federal assistance and more resources in tackling missing indigenous women's cases. Researchers at the GAO issued four recommendations for both departments, focusing on more efficient data collection strategies to capture an accurate image of the number of indigenous women who are missing or killed. While the audit notes that two recent federal laws, Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act, have enhanced data entry requirements, government agencies need to implement and improve data analysis practices in federal databases to better document and track crimes against indigenous women.

[Mental Health Teams Increasingly Dispatched to Answer 911 Calls](#) [Sharon O'Malley, *Route Fifty*, 27 October 2021]

Clinicians are showing up in situations once handled by police. There are signs the efforts are leading to fewer arrests and helping to connect people in crisis with needed services. When the owner of a busy Florida warehouse phoned the Orange County Sheriff's Office to complain about a homeless trespasser with a history of illegally entering the building, the officers didn't show up alone. This time, they brought a mental health professional along. The responding sheriff's deputy "really did not want to arrest her, but the person was not supposed to be there and was refusing to leave," Sgt. Bruce Vail said. The clinician convinced the woman to voluntarily enter a mental health facility, and no arrest was made. The incident is one of more than 380 that two deputy-clinician teams have defused since the sheriff's office launched its [Behavioral Response Unit](#) in January. The unit pairs a deputy with a mental health professional, who follow another deputy to calls that potentially involve someone with a mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder or is under the influence of drugs.

[Navy Approves Five Permanent Medical, No Religious Exemptions for COVID-19 Vaccine to Date](#)

[Heather Mongilio, *USNI News*, 1 November 2021]

The service has approved five permanent medical exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine so far, said Navy spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Andrew DeGarmo. No one has been separated or discharged, as of Nov. 1, for not receiving the vaccine and the final snapshot will likely not be ready until Nov. 28, DeGarmo said. The Navy has not released how many administrative exemptions—which is the category religious exemptions fall under—have been granted in terms of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is mandatory for all active-duty sailors and reservists. However, the Navy has not approved a religious waiver for vaccinations in the past seven years, DeGarmo said. There are two categories of exemptions for vaccinations: administrative and medical. Under medical, there are two types: temporary and permanent. A permanent exemption could be granted for those who have an allergy to a component of a vaccine. Permanent medical exemptions are granted by the first medical flag officer in a person's chain of command, DeGarmo said. Appeals are decided by the Navy surgeon general.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)[New Website and App Seek to Streamline Army’s Exceptional Family Member Program](#)[Rebecca Alwine, *Military.com*, 2 November 2021]

The Army is seeking feedback from families currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program regarding the new, centralized case management system, called the Army Enterprise EFMP system (E-EFMP). Among the concerns and problems the E-EFMP hopes to solve are issues that families have voiced over the past few years, such as repeat paperwork with each move, inconsistencies from installation to installation and having to physically visit an EFMP office to have their questions answered. EFMP families can “test-drive” the new system and provide feedback. You can do that [here](#) . Feedback for the developers and program managers are encouraged.

[The story of a fighter: Breast cancer survivor inspires others](#) [Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Michael W. Hazlett, *Military Times*, 31 October 2021] [COMMENTARY]

October gained new meaning to me six years ago following a youth group trip to Lake Champion, New York. The trip changed my life, all because of a chaperone named Janell West—or Mama Nell, as she is lovingly known. She had a commanding presence. As soon as she set foot on the bus, everyone knew she was in charge. After laying down the rules for our youth group trip, she told us everybody called her “Mama Nell.” I really got to know Mama Nell when we arrived at Lake Champion. This vibrant and strong woman took me under her wing and broke through the negativity in my mind about family, faith, and other personal struggles. She got up in front of the entire group of kids and began to tell her story, which let me know she was a safe person to go to about anything in life. Mama Nell is the reason I hold October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month—near and dear to my heart. The U.S. Navy identifies the month of October for breast cancer awareness and provides public information regarding breast cancer. It is important to tell stories like Mama Nell’s in order to bring awareness to this important issue. Like many others, her story is the story of a fighter.

[White House continues tradition of observing “Veterans and Military Families month” throughout November](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 1 November 2021]

White House officials last week issued a proclamation extending Veterans Day commemorations throughout all of November, declaring the celebration “National Veterans and Military Families Month.” The move follows similar month-long recognition efforts from the previous presidential administration. In a statement, President Joe Biden said the month should serve as a chance to “show our appreciation to the spouses, partners, children, caregivers and survivors of our service members and veterans for their selfless sacrifice on behalf of the nation.” White House, Defense Department and Veterans Affairs officials are expected to take part in numerous events honoring veterans and military families throughout November, including a number of memorial ceremonies on Nov. 11.

[\[PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION\]](#) [\[DOD SPOTLIGHT\]](#)**MISCONDUCT**

[Air Force colonel claims she was fired for refusing to order subordinates to get COVID vaccine](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 2 November 2021]

An Air Force colonel who was relieved of command last month at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, claims she was fired after she refused to order her subordinates to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Col. Katheryn Ellis, the former commander of the 14th Medical Group, told Task & Purpose that on Oct. 12 she was told by the commander of the 14th Flying Training Wing, Col. Seth Graham, to issue an order for two of her civilian employees to get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus. “To clarify, my religious beliefs prevent me from taking the vaccine, actively promoting the vaccine, and from administering the vaccine to others myself (I’m a nurse),” Ellis said in a text message. “These objections were included in my religious accommodation request.” The Air Force saw it differently. On Oct. 21, the colonel was relieved of command due to a “loss of trust and confidence in her ability to lead and maintain readiness of the men and women of the 14th Medical Group,” Rita Felton, a spokesperson for Columbus Air Force Base, said on Oct. 22. Ellis had been in command for just four months.

[Army relieved “old school” battalion leader over poor command climate](#) [Davis Winkie, *Military Times*, 3 November 2021]

The Army relieved a South Korea-based battalion commander in May after an investigation sparked by anonymous racism complaints revealed not Equal Opportunity violations but rather a “negative command climate” within the unit, according to a report Army Times obtained via the Freedom of Information Act. The unit’s command sergeant major was officially reinstated following the investigation, but he was quickly replaced. In [December 2020, Army officials announced](#) the command team of the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, Lt. Col. Sean McBride and Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Salomone III, was “immediately” suspended when 8th Army “received allegations of racism, bigotry and discrimination in one of our formations via the Eighth Army Anonymous Assistance line.” However, the ensuing Army Regulation 15-6 investigation found that McBride and Salomone did not violate the service’s Equal Opportunity policies. But McBride’s rebuttal memo, which Army Times also obtained, expressed dismay at how senior leaders had announced the suspension following anonymous complaints that ultimately weren’t substantiated as EO violations.

RACISM

[“Act of anti-Semitism”: Police investigate desecration of Torah scroll at fraternity house](#) [Asha C. Gilbert, *USA TODAY*, 1 November 2021]

The president of George Washington University is speaking out after a fraternity house was vandalized and a Torah scroll was desecrated. The Tau Kappa Epsilon house was broken into over the weekend and members found detergent dumped onto religious texts, including a Hebrew Torah, when they arrived home Sunday morning, according to CNN. The Torah is the Jewish holy scripture, composed of the Five Books of Moses. “I am appalled by the anti-Semitic vandalism that occurred at the TKE fraternity house, especially the desecration of the Torah scroll,” GWU President Thomas LeBlanc said in a [statement](#). “Any act of antisemitism is an attack on the entire GW community and cannot, and will not, be tolerated.” Chris Osborne, TKE chapter president, told CNN there was a Bible also in the room, but the Torah was the only one vandalized. He said

the TKE fraternity chapter is made up of 25% Jewish members. “I believe it was a hate crime,” Osborne told the outlet.

[After 196 years, college grants tenure to a Black professor](#) [Janet McConnaughey, *The Associated Press*, 4 November 2021]

Louisiana’s oldest college is celebrating its first lifetime appointment to a Black faculty member, and discussing why this racial milestone took nearly two centuries to accomplish. “I think that’s the million-dollar question. It’s something I know will be highlighted and discussed” at Centenary College of Louisiana’s event Thursday honoring the now-tenured associate professor Andia Augustin-Billy, college spokeswoman Kate Pedrotty said. Racism is why this took 196 years, said school archivist Chris Brown. “Structural and institutional and systemic racism has been present ever since the college was founded, largely by enslavers,” he said. This history is undeniable, but it’s also in the past, said Christopher Holoman, president of the Methodist-affiliated college in Shreveport. “Any institution that is as old as Centenary, particularly one in the South, must take account of the role that racism played in its history,” Holoman said. “As we move forward, Centenary is committed to full inclusion of all members of our community and working towards a just society.”

[American Psychological Association apologizes for contributing to systemic racism](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 1 November 2021]

The country’s leading scientific and professional psychology organization has issued a formal apology to communities of color for hurting them by contributing to systemic racism. “The American Psychological Association failed in its role leading the discipline of psychology, was complicit in contributing to systemic inequities, and hurt many through racism, racial discrimination, and denigration of people of color, thereby falling short on its mission to benefit society and improve lives,” the group said in a news release. “APA is profoundly sorry, accepts responsibility for, and owns the actions and inactions of APA itself, the discipline of psychology, and individual psychologists who stood as leaders for the organization and field,” it added. The group adopted the [apology](#) and two other resolutions relating to [racism and health equity](#) on Friday after they were approved unanimously by its governing body.

[Judge says “there appears to be intentional discrimination” in Arbery jury selection, but allows trial to move forward with 1 Black juror](#) [Devon M. Sayers, Alta Spells and Christina Maxouris, *CNN*, 4 November 2021]

After a long and contentious jury selection process in a coastal Georgia county in preparation for the trial for Ahmaud Arbery’s killing, a panel of 12 people was chosen Wednesday—consisting of one Black member and 11 White members. The jury was selected after a two-and-a-half-week selection process that ended with prosecutors for the state accusing defense attorneys of disproportionately striking qualified Black jurors and basing some of their strikes on race. Judge Timothy Walmsley said the defense appeared to be discriminatory in selecting the jury but that the case could go forward. “This court has found that there appears to be intentional discrimination,” Walmsley said Wednesday. The court heard arguments for more than two hours about why defense struck the potential jurors before Walmsley ultimately denied the state’s motion and ruled there were valid reasons, beyond race, for why the jurors were dismissed. Of

the 16 total jurors selected—including the four alternates—five are men and 11 are women, according to the pool reporter inside the courtroom. Lee Merritt, an attorney for Arbery’s family, wrote on Twitter about the number of Black potential jurors who remained, saying in a post, “Only one of the 16 potential jurors is African-American.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

RELIGION

[Diwali 2021: India celebrates festival of lights under shadow of Covid-19](#) [BBC News, 3 November 2021]

A time for feasts, prayers and fireworks, Diwali is one of the most important festivals in India. It is known as the festival of lights as people illuminate oil lamps or candles to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The symbolism seems particularly meaningful at a time when coronavirus continues to disrupt people’s lives. Although cases have fallen considerably over the past month, India is still one of the world’s worst-hit nations, officially recording more than 35 million cases and over 450,000 deaths. For some, Diwali marks the beginning of a new year. It is also the social highpoint for Indians as people—buoyed by festive cheer—throw parties, meet friends and family and exchange gifts. The exact dates of the festival change each year and are determined by the position of the moon, but it typically falls between October and November. This year, Diwali is being celebrated on Thursday, 4 November.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SEXISM

[Competition Drives the Gender Pay Gap? Maybe Not](#) [Kyle Mittan, *Futurity*, 3 November 2021]

*Researchers find that women enter competitions at the same rate as men—when they have the option to share their winnings with the losers. The study appears in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. If we’re finally going to close the gender pay gap, then we have to understand the sources of it—and also solutions and remedies for it,” says Mary L. Rigdon, associate director of the University of Arizona Center for the Philosophy of Freedom and a faculty affiliate in the department of political economy and moral science. In 2021, women will earn 82 cents for every dollar earned by men, Rigdon says, meaning women work nearly three months extra to receive the same amount of pay. This statistic does not account for certain characteristics, such as an employee’s age, experience, or level of education. But even when considering those characteristics, women are still paid about 98 cents for every dollar earned by men, Rigdon says. In other words, a woman is paid 2% less than a man with the same qualifications.*

[International Handball Federation changes “sexist” uniform regulations following criticism](#)

[George Ramsay, *CNN*, 1 November 2021]

The International Handball Federation has changed its much-criticized uniform regulations for beach handball, meaning female players will now wear shorts instead of bikini bottoms. The change comes after the Norwegian women’s beach handball team was fined for wearing shorts in a game against Spain earlier this year. The European Handball Federation had said the shorts

were “improper clothing” in the statement announcing the 1,500 euro (around \$1,735) fine—150 euros (\$173) per player. The new uniform regulations, which are dated October 3, state that “female athletes must wear short tight pants with a close fit” and also include tank tops for women, rather than the crop tops stipulated in the old regulations. Male players are also instructed to wear tank tops and shorts, although there is no stipulation for the shorts to be tight-fitting as stated in the women’s regulations.

[Wives do not earn as much as their husbands, says new global study](#) [Geeta Pandey, *BBC News*, 13 October 2021]

According to a [new global study](#) of the difference in earnings between couples, the answer for most women is no. The study examined publicly available data from 45 countries across a four-decade period—from 1973 to 2016—for the first global survey of intra-household gender inequality in wages. The researchers, Professor Hema Swaminathan and Professor Deepak Malghan, of the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, used data from 2.85 million households made up of heterosexual couples between the ages of 18 and 65 years. The data was collated by a non-profit, the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS). The researchers ranked countries on overall inequality and intra-household inequality. According to their results, gender inequality persists across countries, over time, and across rich and poor households. “The most recent wave of data suggests that when both members of the couple are employed, there is not a single country, not even in the richest or most developed parts, where wives earn as much as their husbands,” Prof Malghan says. “Even in the Nordic countries, which have the lowest levels of gender inequality in the world, we found the women’s share is less than 50% everywhere.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Cori Bush brings poster to House floor outlining “tips to not commit sexual assault”](#) [Cristina Marcos, *The Hill*, 2 November 2021]

Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) on Tuesday brought a poster to the House floor outlining “tips” for how people can avoid committing sexual assault. Bush, who has openly recounted her own experience as a sexual assault survivor, presented the tongue-in-cheek suggestions to challenge what she described as a societal tendency to engage in “victim-blaming.” “We’re tired of being told that if we had just done this or done that, it wouldn’t have happened to us. We’re tired of being told to feel guilty about what we wore or what we said,” Bush said. Instead, Bush said, the onus of sexual assault prevention measures should be placed on perpetrators. She then outlined several ideas for countering thoughts of committing sexual assault. Bush discussed how she was sexually assaulted as a teenager in an interview with *Vanity Fair* shortly before she testified before the House Oversight and Reform Committee in September about her subsequent experience getting an abortion. Bush noted that she initially blamed herself for the assault, which occurred during a church trip.

[Government suspends training at sea program after college student says she and others were raped](#) [Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, *CNN*, 3 November 2021]

The federal government’s academy for merchant mariners is halting a key training program that sends students thousands of miles away from campus on commercial ships after a 19-year-old student was allegedly raped at sea. The decision by the Department of Transportation, which oversees the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), came just weeks before students were set to embark on their “Sea Year” voyage, in which students are typically sent in pairs to work alongside older, predominantly male crew members. In a letter to students notifying them that the program has been temporarily suspended, school and transportation officials said the academy and the maritime industry were confronting a “challenging time” and that the decision to halt the program was “one of the most difficult we have faced.” Just days earlier, congressional lawmakers expressed concern that students at the academy were being put in danger while participating in the Sea Year program.

SUICIDE

[Making a “warrior call” to help overcome isolation, mitigate suicide](#) [Leroy Petry, *Military Times*, 4 November 2021] [COMMENTARY]

Many vets who take their lives are terribly isolated, a trend that worsened amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Veterans Affairs stresses that isolation is “arguably the strongest and most reliable predictor of suicidal ideation, [suicide] attempts and lethal suicidal behavior.” That helps explain why approximately two-thirds of those vets who die by suicide have never stepped into a VA center. A growing and important grass roots effort known as Warrior Call focuses on overcoming that isolation and reaching people before they slip into an abyss. Think of Warrior Call as a national day of connection. Warrior Call is asking that “all Americans make a call to a warrior, with a vet or active-duty service members, and connect them with support, if necessary,” said Frank Larkin, a former Navy SEAL and Warrior Call co-chair, whose own Navy SEAL son died from suicide. The first National Warrior Call Day is on Nov. 21. On that day, all Americans should make a call to a warrior—the first of several such calls throughout the year and connect them with resources such as [Vets4Warriors](#) or the [VA](#).

[New White House suicide prevention plan for troops, vets emphasizes gun safety](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 2 November 2021]

White House officials on Tuesday will unveil their new plan to end veteran and military suicide, with an increased focus on firearm safety and expanding mental health options for individuals in distress. The plan, designed to guide prevention efforts in both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, will also put an emphasis on a network of other support services—including financial and employment assistance—to provide “stability” to individuals transitioning from military to civilian life. The last three presidential administrations have publicly pledged to make military and veteran suicide prevention a top priority, and announced a series of new intervention programs. Despite that—and a significant financial investment from Congress into the problem—the rate has remained largely steady for the last decade.

[Suicide rates fall again—but not for young adults and some people of color](#) [Becky Sullivan, *NPR*, 3 November 2021]

When the pandemic began in early 2020, some worried that mass isolation and a spike in unemployment could cause suicide rates to skyrocket. Now, a [new study](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the opposite happened: Suicides dropped by 3% in 2020, continuing a downward trend that began in 2019 after nearly two decades of increases. According to the report, roughly 46,000 people died by suicide in 2020, about 1,600 fewer than the year before. The drop was most striking in April, when 14% fewer people died by suicide than in April 2019. The overall decline was driven almost entirely by a drop in suicides among white people, who die by suicide at rates higher than almost any group in the country. While America is 62% White, roughly 75% of suicides in 2020 were carried out by White people. But for other ethnic groups, the study shows, numbers are still climbing, particularly among men. The suicide rate for Hispanic men rose by 5% in 2020. Rates also went up for Black men and American Indian-Alaska Native men, though the report warned those increases were not statistically significant.

VETERANS

[Former U.S. soldier POW Jessica Lynch shares her story with women veterans here](#) [Maudlyne Ihejirika, *Chicago Sun Times*, 1 November 2021]

Eighteen years after she was captured by Iraqi forces on March 23, 2003—at age 19, becoming the first American prisoner of war and first woman to be rescued since World War II—former U.S. soldier Jessica Lynch still wrestles with post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, the 38-year-old elementary school teacher in West Virginia, who became a household name after the incident four months into the Iraq War, has learned to cope with both the physical and mental scars, just as all veterans do, she told veterans here Saturday. Lynch had been invited to speak at the center in Ashburn, the only veterans center in Illinois devoted to aiding women in the military—named for a Black soldier who served in the Afghanistan War, killed by an improvised explosive device detonated near her security post. Many of the women veterans gathered at the center identified with that post-service trauma as they shared their own stories of service to their country, and resilience in the face of physical injuries or the struggle to break gender and race barriers.