

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 28 JANUARY 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Sexual harassment in the military now a crime under Biden order](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 26 January 2022]

Sexual harassment was formally added to the Uniform Code of Military Justice on Wednesday, a move that advocates hope can both help punish offenders and prevent other serious crimes from developing. The [executive order](#) from President Joe Biden also ends some legal questions about whether military officials could prosecute the crime directly or would need to use other misconduct charges to effectively punish violators. Under the language outlined in the defense bill, harassment is defined under the new code as making an unwanted sexual advance, demanding sexual favors or other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature where victims are led to believe that refusal could endanger their career or safety. The new language also specifies that harassment can occur in person or online, to include the unwanted sharing of intimate or pornographic imagery.

[Supreme Court agrees to hear challenge to affirmative action in higher education](#) [John Kruzel, *The Hill*, 24 January 2022]

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a challenge to the use of race in college admissions decisions, teeing up a potentially landmark showdown over affirmative action in higher education. The case arose after a conservative-backed group, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), sued Harvard and the University of North Carolina, alleging the schools illegally discriminate against Asian American applicants. The court's announcement came in a brief order without noted comment or dissent. The cases, which have been consolidated, are expected to be heard during the court's next term, which begins next fall. Harvard, in court papers, denied that its policy is discriminatory. The school accused SFFA of a brazen attempt to upend decades of precedent allowing schools to promote on-campus diversity by considering the racial makeup of their student bodies.

[World remembers Holocaust as antisemitism rises in pandemic](#) [Vanessa Gera and Samuel Petrequin, *The Associated Press*, 27 January 2022]

Holocaust survivors and politicians warned about the resurgence of antisemitism and Holocaust denial as the world remembered Nazi atrocities and commemorated the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp on Thursday. "I have lived in New York for 75 years, but I still remember well the terrible time of horror and hatred," survivor Inge Auerbacher, 87, told the German parliament. "Unfortunately, this cancer has reawakened and hatred of Jews is commonplace again in many countries in the world, including Germany." Commemorations took place amid a rise of antisemitism that gained traction during lockdowns as the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated hatred online. The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution in November 2005 establishing the annual commemoration, and chose Jan. 27—the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945.

[\[PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT\]](#)

CULTURE

[American Hockey League suspends Krystof Hrabik 30 games for racial gesture against Boko Imama](#) [Cydney Henderson, *USA TODAY*, 21 January 2022]

San Jose Barracuda forward Krystof Hrabik has been suspended for 30 games for using a racial gesture, the American Hockey League announced on Friday. Hrabik directed the racial gesture toward the Tucson Roadrunners' Boko Imama, who is Black, during Tucson's 4-3 win against San Jose on Jan. 12. Early reinstatement will be based on his progress in racism sensitivity training with the National Hockey League's Player Inclusion Committee. Imama has experienced racism before. In 2020, the Bakersfield Condors' Brandon Manning used a racial slur toward Imama, who played for the Ontario Reign at the time. "It's frustrating and disheartening that this is still going on in 2022!" Imama wrote on Twitter. "Even though I honestly believe the sport has made positive strides, WE still have a long way to go to educate the ignorant and make hockey a safe place for everyone."

[A California redwood forest has officially been returned to a group of Native tribes](#) [Rachel Treisman, *NPR*, 26 January 2022]

A conservation group is returning guardianship of hundreds of acres of redwood forestland to a coalition of Native tribes that were displaced from the land generations ago by European American settlers. Save the Redwoods League purchased the 523-acre area (known as Andersonia West) on the Lost Coast of California's Mendocino County in July 2020. It announced on Tuesday that it had donated and transferred ownership of the property to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, a consortium of 10 Northern California tribal nations focused on environmental and cultural preservation. The forest will be renamed "Tc'ih-Léh-Dũñ"—which means "fish run place" in the Sinkyone language—as "an act of cultural empowerment and a celebration of Indigenous resilience," the league said in a [release](#).

[Groups Work to Eliminate, Diminish Barriers to Women's Military Service](#) [Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 23 January 2022]

Women make up roughly 20% of the Air Force, 19% of the Navy, 15% of the Army and 9% of the Marine Corps. Tens of thousands of women contribute every day to defending the nation. Their differences and needs must be considered for the United States military to function. This is especially true since 2013, when then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, repealed the combat exclusion policy. From privates to four-star generals, women serve in every rank and can serve in any specialty in the military. But simply changing the policy is not the end of the process, and that is where programs like the Air Mobility Command's Reach Athena and the Department of the Air Force Women's Initiative Team come in. These groups look at the totality of women's service to find and eliminate barriers to ensure all can serve to their full potential.

[House Democrats ask military historians to document treatment of LGBTQ troops](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 January 2022]

House Democrats want military historians to document the effects of the previous bans on LGBTQ troops in an effort to prevent similar prohibitions in the future. Reps. Mark Takano, D-

Calif., Adam Smith, D-Wash., and Jackie Speier, D-Calif., [wrote to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Friday](#), urging him to conduct a historical review of LGBTQ treatment in the military and “fully examine the legacy” of policies like “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” “The military services employ a significant complement of professional historians who could document and examine the impact of these prohibitions on the military,” the lawmakers wrote. “We believe that this unique resource should be leveraged to fully understand the experiences of LGBTQ+ service members and other personnel who served during this era in which open service was banned.” The lawmakers want a historical review to include oral histories of some of the LGBTQ troops who served when Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and preceding policies were in place.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Marine Corps will stop punishing Marines who can’t shave due to painful razor bumps](#) [Jeff Schlogol, *Task & Purpose*, 21 January 2022]

Starting on Jan. 31, Marines with a painful condition where facial hair curves back into the skin and causes inflammation will no longer be punished for not shaving. Another change is that medical officers rather than commanders will have the authority to issue temporary and permanent “no shave” chits to Marines diagnosed with razor bumps that cannot be treated by topical medications, the [MARADMIN says](#). These changes suggest that the Marine Corps is becoming more accommodating about facial hair than the Navy, which banned no-shave chits in October 2019. The Marine Corps’ sister sea service decided that sailors need to be clean-shaven to wear the face mask for their firefighting gear.

[Minnie Mouse trades iconic dress for a pantsuit. Not everyone’s a fan.](#) [Wilson Wong, *NBC News*, 27 January 2022]

The debut of Minnie Mouse’s first-ever pantsuit has prompted many people on social media to criticize the character’s new fit. On Tuesday, Disneyland Paris announced Minnie was temporarily ditching her iconic red-and-white polka dot dress in honor of Disneyland Paris’ 30th anniversary. She will also wear it in honor of Women’s History Month this March. Minnie will instead sport a navy blue pantsuit with black polka dots and her signature bow created by British fashion designer Stella McCartney. “I wanted Minnie to wear her very first pantsuit at Disneyland Paris, so I have designed one of my iconic costumes—a blue tuxedo—using responsibly sourced fabrics,” McCartney said in a statement published by D23, the official Disney fan club. “This new take on her signature polka dots makes Minnie Mouse a symbol of progress for a new generation. She will wear it in honor of Women’s History Month in March 2022.”

[States weigh a raft of proposed laws to limit race, sexuality lessons in schools](#) [Heidi Przybyla and Adam Edelman, *NBC News*, 28 January 2022]

In just the first three weeks of 2022, more than 70 bills have been filed in 27 states seeking to regulate how and what educators may teach about race, history and sexuality in schools, [according to an analysis](#) a free speech advocacy group published this week. Advocates say the sheer number of bills—as well as how severe many of them would be—is part of a robust effort by conservative lawmakers in GOP-controlled state legislatures to censor lessons surrounding race and sexuality. The analysis, conducted by PEN America, a nonprofit group that promotes

freedom of expression, found that at least 71 bills have already been introduced or pre-filed in state legislatures across the country in 2022.

[Tennessee school board bans teaching of Holocaust graphic novel “Maus”](#) [BBC News, 27 January 2022]

A school board in Tennessee has banned a Pulitzer prize-winning novel about the Holocaust from being taught in its classrooms. Board members voted in favour of banning the novel because it contained swear words and a naked illustration. The graphic novel “Maus: A Survivor’s Tale” depicts how the author’s parents survived Auschwitz during the Holocaust. Author Art Spiegelman said he was “baffled” by the decision. Mr Spiegelman’s parents were Polish Jews who were sent to Nazi concentration camps during World War Two. In a McMinn County Schools board meeting in January, members said that they felt that the inclusion of swear words in the graphic novel were inappropriate for the eighth grade curriculum. In the meeting’s minutes, the director of schools, Lee Parkinson, was quoted as having said, “There is some rough, objectionable language in this book.” Members also objected to a cartoon that featured “nakedness” in a drawing of a mouse.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[USPS will issue a forever stamp honoring the Black Native sculptor Edmonia Lewis](#) [Eric Levenson, CNN, 23 January 2022]

The U.S. Postal Service will issue a forever stamp Wednesday honoring Edmonia Lewis, the Black Native artist whose 19th century marble sculptures gained her international acclaim and are now held by the Smithsonian. “As the first African American and Native American sculptor to earn international recognition, Edmonia Lewis challenged social barriers and assumptions about artists in mid-19th century America,” the USPS said in a statement. Lewis, born in 1844 in Greenbush, New York, to a Black father and Chippewa (Ojibwa) Native American, attended Oberlin College in Ohio and established herself as a professional artist in Boston, according to the Smithsonian. She moved to Rome in 1865 and there began to work with marble, sculpting busts of prominent figures as well as biblical and ancient historical works, the Smithsonian said.

DISCRIMINATION

[Biden Administration Releases New Transgender Federal Prison Policy](#) [Kate Sosin, *The 19th*, 26 January 2022]

*The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has reissued its [Transgender Offender Manual](#), which once again includes the Obama-era policy, Kristie Breshears, chief of public affairs for the agency, confirmed in a statement to *The 19th*. Under Trump, transgender people in federal prisons were housed based on sex assigned at birth alone. Biden’s policy builds off the Obama-era guidance and goes a step further, requiring prison staff to use a transgender person’s lived name and pronouns. “After reviewing our policy regarding transgender inmates, we have made several updates to meet the community standard of medical and mental health care, appropriately manage and support the offenders, and meet legal requirements as determined by case law, statutes, and federal regulations,” BOP said in a statement. An NBC News investigation in 2020 found that of the nearly 5,000 transgender people detained in state prisons, just 15 total had been*

housed according to their lived genders, exposing them to discrimination, harassment and sexual assault.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[What to know about the 3 officers now on trial in George Floyd’s death](#) [Hannah Grabenstein, *PBS News*, 25 January 2022]

Opening arguments began on Monday for the trial of three former police officers who were part of the arrest of George Floyd when he was killed by fellow officer Derek Chauvin in June 2020. Unlike the criminal case that resulted in Chauvin’s conviction for murder in a state court last year, the trial of the three officers—Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kueng—is a federal civil rights case and will be more complex in many ways because prosecutors must prove the officers were obligated to prevent Floyd’s death, or offer medical attention and willfully did not. In this trial, Thao, Lane and Kueng face federal civil rights violation charges. These are criminal charges and the trio could face life in prison if convicted. Unlike charges such as murder or assault—the sort of cases most people understand to be crimes—these charges are brought by the federal government, which oversees civil rights crimes.

DIVERSITY

[Diversity and the Cyber Workforce](#) [Natalie Alms, *Government Executive*, 27 January 2022]

The federal government’s cybersecurity workers are less diverse than the overall pool of government employees. In terms of gender, women make up a smaller proportion of federal IT jobs than they do in the overall federal workforce. Data shows that the cybersecurity workforce in government isn’t as diverse as the rest of government, said Dexter Brooks, associate director of the Office of Federal Operations in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, during a Jan. 25 panel on cybersecurity and diversity held by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE). About 45% of the federal workforce is women, but women make up less than 30% of federal IT employees, said Brooks. And both women and people of color hold leadership positions at a lower rate in the IT space than the government writ large, Brooks said. But DEIA is getting more attention. The White House released a sweeping [executive order](#) in 2021 on DEIA in the government workforce.

[First Woman Takes Command of USS Constitution](#) [Petty Officer 2nd Class Grant Grady, *USS Constitution Public Affairs*, 24 January 2022]

Cmdr. Farrell became Old Ironsides’ 77th commanding officer and the first woman to serve as the ship’s commanding officer in the ship’s 224 years of history, dating back to 1797. The first female commissioned officer to serve aboard USS Constitution was Lt. Cmdr. Claire V. Bloom, who served as executive officer and led the historic 1997 sail, the first time Old Ironsides sailed under her own power since 1881. The first female crew member was Rosemarie Lanam, an enlisted Sailor, who joined USS Constitution’s crew in 1986. Today women comprise more than one third of the 80-person crew. USS Constitution is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

[Teen pilot Zara Rutherford becomes youngest woman to fly the world solo](#) [Tamara Hardingham-Gill, CNN, 20 January 2022]

Teenage aviator Zara Rutherford has become the youngest woman to fly around the world solo. The 19-year-old, who has dual British-Belgian nationality, landed at Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport in western Belgium on Thursday, completing an epic 41-country journey spanning over 52,000 kilometers (32,300 miles), and broke two Guinness World Records in the process. Not only has she beaten the record held by American Shaesta Waiz, who was 30 when she circumnavigated the globe unaccompanied in 2017, Rutherford also now holds the title for the first woman to circumnavigate the world in a microlight aircraft. She is also the first Belgian to fly around the world alone. While she's flown to an array of destinations, such as Singapore, Egypt and Greece, along with Russia and South Korea, Rutherford has been unable to explore any of them on land due to Covid-19 restrictions.

[VMI leader blasts White critics of diversity in scathing Facebook post](#) [Chloe Folman, *The Hill*, 28 January 2022]

Former Army Major General Cedric T. Wins, the first Black superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, wrote a strongly worded Facebook post last week in response to a person who accused VMI of teaching “critical race theory,” The [Washington Post reports](#). VMI recently requested an extra \$6.1 million in funding to pay for reforms after a state-ordered investigation found that the school harbors a “racist and sexist culture.” Wins responded to Villani’s comments in a VMI Facebook group of 3,700 members, telling him, “You advised the listeners to urge the members of the General Assembly to ‘look very seriously’ at VMI’s funding request, a request you have no understanding about. VMI’s funding request will pale in comparison to that of the other public colleges in the state. You have no understanding of DEI [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion] or what it means, or how much of the funding for DEI is represented in our request.”

EXTREMISM

[Biden team promises new approach to extremism, but critics see old patterns](#) [Odette Yousef, NPR, 27 January 2022]

As President Biden begins his second year in office, his administration continues to roll out efforts aimed at the threat of violent domestic terrorism. It has identified violent White supremacy and extremist militias as the greatest current threats. Its arsenal includes a program at the Department of Homeland Security called the [Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships \(CP3\)](#). Billed as an entirely new approach to prevention, top officials say it puts local communities at the center in the fight against the spread of ideologies that inspire targeted violence and terrorism. But some outside observers worry that it closely resembles earlier problematic anti-terrorism efforts at DHS, and that it falls short of meeting a post-Jan. 6 reality in the U.S.

[Man who wore “Camp Auschwitz” sweatshirt during U.S. Capitol riot pleads guilty](#) [Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN, 26 January 2022]

The man who was photographed inside the U.S. Capitol wearing a “Camp Auschwitz” sweatshirt on January 6, 2021, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor trespassing charge on Wednesday. Robert

Packer, 57, could face up to six months in prison when he is sentenced in April, though many defendants who pleaded to the same charge and are not accused of violence received much less or no jail time. When FBI agents searched Packer's home after his arrest in January, they found swastika artwork, a folder titled "Whites Only Material," and pictures of Hitler and other Nazi imagery, according to court documents. Other rioters on January 6 have espoused anti-Semitic views, and senior U.S. officials have said [White supremacists played a role](#) in the insurrection.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Culture Counts: Three Ways to Achieve Better Outcomes](#) [Melissa Dimitri, Katherine Krause and Jonelle Hilleary, *Government Executive*, 24 January 2022]

Imagine that today is the first day of your new leadership role at a federal agency. You've heard rumors the agency has a "culture problem." Different offices don't share information. Employees distrust managers. Absenteeism is at an all-time high. Your team works remotely across the country. Where do you begin to create change? Take a hard look at the culture; it's well worth it. Grant Thornton's [research](#) with Oxford Economics drew a clear correlation between culture and overall organizational performance. We're not talking about employee perks and trendy office incentives, but rather developing a culture of performance. Employees who describe their culture as healthy are 1.7 times more likely to say their team collaborates effectively and 2.4 times more likely to say they are unlikely to leave their job in the next year. In today's competitive talent market, those numbers are significant. Changing the agency's culture, though, only happens with concerted action.

[Why people aren't as picky in love as they think](#) [Bryan Lufkin, *BBC Worklife*, 27 January 2022]

Finding a life partner is considered a major milestone—one that requires deliberation and careful assessment. We want someone whose long-term plans match our own: someone to whom we're attracted, someone with whom we feel comfortable sharing our home, finances and, maybe, children. This person is our life partner, after all—naturally, we assume we'll take care with the decision. But it turns out we may be less selective about whom we spend our lives with than we think. [Research shows](#) hidden biases mean we'll give people a chance, even if they don't quite meet our criteria. And when we do pick a partner, we're driven by a psychological tendency called "progression bias" to stay in the relationship, rather than end it. In other words, we're hard-wired to be in a romantic relationship, say psychologists, despite trends among young people to shun marriage in favour of a calculated approach to singlehood. Yet, even as the combination of evolutionary instincts and societal pressures steer us towards the coupled life, being aware of our progression bias could help us understand why we pick the partners we do—and why we stay with them.

INTERNATIONAL

[Aboriginal flag: Australian government secures copyright after row](#) [BBC News, 25 January 2022]

The Australian government has bought the Aboriginal flag's copyright in a bid to "free" the symbol of identity from bitter fights over who can use it. Indigenous artist Harold Thomas created

the flag in 1971 as a protest image but it is now the dominant Aboriginal emblem and an official national flag. Despite this, many Aboriginal people say the flag has been “held hostage” by copyright deals that limit its display. The flag can now be reproduced by anyone without fear of legal threats. “The flag belongs to all Aboriginal people. Why do they have to pay for it?” one petition organiser, Laura Thompson, told the BBC in 2020. “It’s a symbol of our people’s survival. Many of us don’t identify with the Australian flag because for us it represents colonisation and invasion.”

[Auschwitz: Dutch tourist fined over Nazi salute at former death camp](#) [BBC News, 23 January 2022]

The 29-year-old woman made the gesture in front of the Arbeit Macht Frei (Work Sets You Free) gate. The woman—who has not been named—was later charged with engaging in Nazi propaganda. Prosecutors issued a fine, which she agreed to pay. The woman said the act had been a bad joke, Poland’s PAP news agency reports. She had been posing for a photo taken by her husband at the time. It is not the first time foreigners have been detained for promoting Nazi propaganda in Poland—a charge that can carry up to two years in prison.

[Australian Open: Grand Slam event stages first Pride Day at Melbourne Park](#) [Jonathan Jurejko, BBC Sport, 25 January 2022]

As darkness fell on Melbourne, the outside shell of Rod Laver Arena illuminated in rainbow colours. It was a symbolic move on the Australian Open’s first official Pride Day, and provided the most eye-catching moment of Monday’s event. Celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and aiming to improve inclusivity within tennis, it provided splashes of colour across Melbourne Park all day. Most importantly it continued to raise awareness about the issues still faced by those who identify as LGBTQ+ and educating those who don’t. Rowen D’Souza is the tournament director of Glam Slam, an event being held at the Australian Open for LGBTQ+ players, and he has been working closely with Tennis Australia on its Pride Day. “I think tennis is a sport which has an opportunity to do so much more in LGBTQ+ inclusivity and promotion than other sports,” he told BBC Sport.

[Brewdog chief James Watt accused of inappropriate behaviour](#) [Mark Daly and Myles Bonnar, BBC News, 24 January 2022]

The chief executive of Scottish beer giant Brewdog has been accused of inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power in the workplace by former staff. Former Brewdog USA workers said Mr Watt’s behaviour made female bartenders feel “uncomfortable” and “powerless”. Lawyers for Mr Watt said the allegations were false and he denied behaving inappropriately. The company, which has more than 100 bars and employs more than 2,000 people worldwide, says it is worth about £2bn. The BBC Scotland Disclosure team started investigating the company after almost 300 former and current Brewdog employees signed a letter last year accusing Mr Watt of presiding over a toxic culture of fear. The documentary [The Truth about Brewdog](#) features interviews with 12 former Brewdog USA staff who have alleged inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power in the workplace by Mr Watt.

[Catalonia pardons women executed for witchcraft](#) [BBC News, 27 January 2022]

The Catalan regional parliament has formally pardoned hundreds of women executed for witchcraft between the 15th and 18th centuries. MPs passed a resolution by a large majority to rehabilitate the memory of more than 700 women who were tortured and put to death. Spanish historians have discovered that Catalonia was one of the first regions in Europe to carry out witch hunts. It was also considered one of the worst areas for executions. Witches were often blamed for the sudden death of children or for poor harvests, according to Pau Castell, a professor of modern history at the University of Barcelona. Pro-independence and left-wing groups say the women were “victims of misogynistic persecution” and want their memory honoured by naming streets after them.

[Honduras inaugurates first female president, Harris vows closer U.S. ties](#) [Trevor Hunnicutt and Gustavo Palencia, *Reuters*, 27 January 2022]

Xiomara Castro was sworn in as Honduras’ first woman president on Thursday in front of a cheering crowd including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, who pledged U.S. government support to stem migration and fight corruption. Castro, flanked by her husband, former President Manuel Zelaya, was sworn in at a packed soccer stadium where supporters applauded her vows to fix the country’s massive debt burden. In a meeting shortly after the ceremony, Harris promised to collaborate on migration issues, economic development and fighting impunity, and said she welcomed Castro’s plans to request United Nations help to establish an anti-corruption commission.

[LGBT rights: New French law to criminalise “conversion therapy”](#) [BBC News, 26 January 2022]

France has passed a new law criminalising the use of so-called “conversion therapy” to attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ people. The measure was passed unanimously by the National Assembly, 142 votes to 0. Anyone convicted under the new law could face fines of up to €30,000 (£25,000) and two years in jail. President Emmanuel Macron praised the move, tweeting that “being oneself is not a crime”. The law had already been overwhelmingly backed in the French upper house, the Senate, where it was passed by 305 votes to 28, with the conservative Republicans party opposing it.

[Nusrat Ghani: Muslimness a reason for my sacking, says ex-minister](#) [BBC News, 23 January 2022]

*A Muslim MP says her faith was raised by a government whip as a reason why she was sacked as a minister in 2020. According to the *Sunday Times*, Tory Nusrat Ghani said that when she asked for an explanation it was stated her “Muslimness was raised as an issue”. Conservative Chief Whip Mark Spencer said Ms Ghani was referring to him and added her claims were completely false and he considered them defamatory. Ms Ghani was appointed to a post at the Department for Transport in 2018, becoming the first female Muslim minister to speak in the Commons. She lost that job in a mini-reshuffle of Mr Johnson’s government in February 2020. Speaking to the *Sunday Times*, Ms Ghani said that when she asked for an explanation, a government whip had told her that “Muslimness was raised as an issue” during discussions about the reshuffle, and her status as a “Muslim woman... was making colleagues uncomfortable”.*

[Pakistan’s first female Supreme Court judge sworn in](#) [BBC News, 24 January 2022]

Pakistan's first female Supreme Court judge has been sworn in in the capital Islamabad. Ayesha Malik, 55, now sits on a bench with 16 other male colleagues in the Muslim-majority country's top court. Lawyers and activists said it was a rare victory after decades of struggle to get representation for women in Pakistan's male-dominated society. Justice Malik, who was educated at the Pakistan College of Law and Harvard University, has served as a high court judge in the city of Lahore in eastern Pakistan for the last two decades. She is seen to have played an important role in challenging patriarchal legal mores in the province. Last year, she outlawed the use of so-called "virginity tests" during rape examinations of sexual assault victims.

[WHO staff complaint, email allege racism and abuse in Asia](#) [Maria Cheng, *The Associated Press*, 27 January 2022]

Current and former staffers have accused the top director of the World Health Organization in the Western Pacific of racist, unethical and abusive behavior that has undermined the U.N. health agency's efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic. The allegations were laid out in an internal complaint filed in October and again in an email last week, sent by unidentified "concerned WHO staff" to senior leadership and the executive board and obtained by the Associated Press. The internal complaint and the email describe a "toxic atmosphere" with "a culture of systemic bullying and public ridiculing" at WHO's Western Pacific headquarters in Manila, led by Dr. Takeshi Kasai, director of a vast region that includes China and his home country of Japan. The AP also has obtained recorded snippets of meetings where Kasai is heard making derogatory remarks about his staff based on nationality. Eleven former or current WHO staffers who worked for Kasai told the AP he frequently used racist language.

[Women are a growing group of Canadian military veterans, but services are lagging](#) [Danielle Edwards, *The Canadian Press*, 24 January 2022]

Halifax artist Jessica Wiebe served eight years in the Canadian Armed Forces as an artillery gunner, often the lone woman in a male-dominated environment. "I really want to bring awareness to the fact that female narratives of war have been largely omitted from dominant discourse historically," Wiebe said in a recent interview. "Bringing female narratives to the forefront is really important to understand the needs of female vets as they transition out of the military." Maya Eichler, a professor at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax and Canada Research Chair in social innovation and community engagement, echoed that sentiment in testimony this week before a Nova Scotia legislature committee. She said women are the fastest-growing segment of veterans in Canada, but support systems have historically been designed around men. Eichler told the standing committee on veterans affairs there's a lack of support and services for women veterans and others, including gender diverse and LGBTQ veterans, as well as veterans who suffered sexual trauma while serving in the military.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Austin Directs DOD to Develop Action Plan on Civilian Harm Mitigation](#) [Jim Garamone, *DOD News*, 27 January 2022]

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has issued a [memo](#) directing DOD to build an action plan on civilian harm mitigation and response, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said today.

For years, the United States military has stressed avoiding civilian casualties whenever possible. “The protection of civilians remains vital to the ultimate success of our operations,” Kirby said. “As the secretary has noted on more than one occasion, it is a strategic and a moral imperative.” Austin has directed DOD to establish a civilian protection center of excellence. “Part of what the 90-day review will do is determine how that properly and most effectively fits into a structural framework for the department,” the official said. The center will look at the issue holistically spanning “not only the policy and strategic side of things, but very much the operational piece of things,” the official said.

[DHS Expands Fields of Study In STEM Training Program](#) [Alexandra Kelley, Nextgov, 24 January 2022]

The Department of Homeland Security is implementing over 20 new areas of study in their STEM Optional Practical Training program to develop and potentially retain a technologically savvy workforce for both the federal government and private sector. [Announced on Friday](#), DHS officials added new fields of study to the list of qualifying STEM bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree programs for F-1 visa recipients to stay in the U.S. for up to 36 months while they earn their degree. The expansion of eligible STEM topics for program qualification comes as the U.S. continues to advance its global ranking and competitiveness in fields like mathematics, technology, and science. In late 2021, [national data suggested](#) that the U.S. workforce is consistently falling behind other nations in the number of employees with advanced STEM skills and career paths. Out of 100 countries, the U.S. ranked at 29th place regarding the number of its students participating in areas of study like operating systems, cloud computing and mathematics courses.

[SAT going digital in shifting college admissions landscape](#) [Carolyn Thompson, The Associated Press, 25 January 2022]

The SAT exam will move from paper and pencil to a digital format, administrators announced Tuesday, saying the shift will boost its relevancy as more colleges make standardized tests optional for admission. Test-takers will be allowed to use their own laptops or tablets but they’ll still have to sit for the test at a monitored testing site or in school, not at home. The format change is scheduled to roll out internationally next year and in the U.S. in 2024. It will also shave an hour from the current version, bringing the reading, writing and math assessment from three hours to about two. Once essential for college applications, scores from admission tests like the SAT and rival ACT carry less weight today as colleges and universities pay more attention to the sum of student achievements and activities throughout high school.

MISCONDUCT

[Army investigating Fort Hood soldier for mocking sexual harassment in TikTok video](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 21 January 2022]

A Fort Hood specialist is being investigated after posting a TikTok video mocking “quid pro quo” sexual harassment. Gallimore is assigned to 11th Signal Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, and though he is wearing sergeant’s rank in one of his videos, a III Corps spokesman confirmed that he is a specialist. His chain of command began taking action “immediately” upon learning of the

video, said Sgt. Maj. Jeremy Crisp, a spokesman for III Corps. Online, the video drew criticism for making fun of “quid pro quo,” a type of sexual harassment identified in Army Regulation 600-20 that includes “demanding sexual favors in exchange for a promotion, award, or favorable assignment.” Efforts to reach Gallimore for comment on TikTok and through his chain of command were unsuccessful. He has since posted an apology “to all the women that felt disrespected by my video ... ‘cause I posted it and I wasn’t thinking.”

RACISM

[A California student has been disciplined after making racist comments at a high school basketball game, school district says](#) [Sarah Moon, CNN, 27 January 2022]

A high school student in Orange County, California, was disciplined after making “inappropriate and inflammatory racist comments” toward a Black basketball player during a game last week, the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) said in a statement. In a video uploaded to social media by Sabrina Brown, who said she is the parent of the basketball player from Portola High School who was being targeted, an attendee of the game can be heard shouting, “Where is his slave owner?” “Chain him up” and other racist slurs. SVUSD Superintendent Crystal Turner issued a [statement](#) Tuesday in response to the incident at Laguna Hills High School.

[Couple arrested after launching hateful rant against family, including 10-year-old boy, on train](#) [Marlene Lenthang, NBC News, 21 January 2022]

A New York couple has been arrested and charged after they were filmed launching a hateful rant against a family on a train earlier this month, calling them “foreigners” and “immigrants with no rights.” Justin Likerman, 37, of Ronkonkoma, Long Island, and Kristin Digesaro, 38, of Huntington, Long Island, turned themselves into transit police Wednesday afternoon, MTA police confirmed. Both were charged with endangering the welfare of a child, and Likerman was additionally charged with second-degree aggravated harassment, according to officials. The charges are in collaboration with the Manhattan District Attorney’s office and the Hate Crimes Unit, officials said. The Manhattan District Attorney’s office said that Likerman and Digesaro were arraigned in criminal court and released on their own recognizance.

[Deputies: DeLand man charged in “unprovoked, racially motivated attack” on teens’ car](#) [Spectrum News (DeLand, Fla.), 27 January 2022]

A DeLand man is facing enhanced charges in “an unprovoked, racially prejudiced attack on a car occupied by three high school students at a gas station in the Osteen area,” on Jan. 22, according to the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office. The three teens, 17-to-18 years old, told deputies they were getting gas at the Circle K at 320 N. S.R. 415, when a man they didn’t know became hostile and aggressive toward them and started “using racial slurs.” According to a release from the sheriff’s office, the suspect, identified as 58-year-old Richard Burnham, used a pipe from his truck to smash the front passenger window and dent the passenger door panels before the teens could drive away. The victims said the suspect followed them in his truck for about two miles on S.R. 415 before turning away. Deputies have since enhanced his charges to a

hate crime because of his alleged use of racial slurs. After being booked into the Volusia County Jail, Burnham posted the \$40,000 bond Wednesday evening.

[Lawsuit: 1st Wyoming Black sheriff fires deputy for racism](#) [Mead Gruver, *The Associated Press*, 24 January 2022]

Wyoming's first Black sheriff last year fired a White deputy who is accused of tormenting a Black subordinate for years with racist name-calling that led him to quit, a new federal lawsuit reveals. Albany County Patrol Sgt. Christian Handley once drove past and yelled a profanity and the N-word at Cpl. Jamin Johnson while Johnson and his wife and children were walking out of their home, according to one example of racism alleged in the discrimination lawsuit filed last week. Johnson is suing Handley, seeking a jury trial if necessary and damages for the years of racism that he says led up to his decision to quit in 2017. The allegations put a new spotlight on the sheriff's office in Laramie, the Albany County seat known for the murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in 1998, a crime that drew unprecedented attention to LGBTQ rights and hate crimes.

[NYPD arrests woman after she allegedly spit on an 8-year-old Jewish boy](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 21 January 2022]

The New York City Police Department has arrested a woman accused of harassing and spitting on an 8-year-old Jewish boy outside a Brooklyn synagogue last week, authorities said. The woman, identified as 21-year-old Christina Darling, was charged with multiple counts including aggravated harassment as a hate crime, acting in a manner injurious to a child and menacing as a hate crime, the NYPD said on Friday. The alleged incident took place last Friday police when said the woman approached three children outside the Kehal Tiferes Avrohom Ziditshov Orthodox synagogue. Police said she shouted "anti-Jewish statements" before spitting on the boy and walking away. The children's father, Aryah Fried, told CNN affiliate WCBS the woman said, "something along the lines of Hitler should have killed you all." Fried said his son responded to the woman saying he would save his little sister, prompting the suspect to spit on his face and say, "we will kill you all, I know where you live, and we'll make sure to get you all next time."

[Police investigate antisemitic fliers left at hundreds of South Florida homes overnight](#) [Hannah Knowles, *The Independent*, 24 January 2022]

Florida police are investigating the origins of antisemitic fliers left overnight at hundreds of homes in the Miami Beach area, local officials said on Sunday as they denounced the latest incident to rattle Jewish communities in the United States. Police in Miami Beach and nearby Surfside, Fla., said they increased patrols in neighborhoods and at religious institutions in response. The fliers appeared in the wake of high-profile attacks on Jewish people, including a gunman's hostage-taking last weekend at a Texas synagogue and a woman's arrest in New York after she allegedly spat on an 8-year-old child and made hateful statements. The papers mixed vitriol against Judaism with comments about coronavirus measures, according to authorities, and listed a number of government and pharmaceutical company leaders whom it identified as Jewish. Similar fliers have been found California and Texas, officials said. Miami Beach

RELIGION

[Thich Nhat Hanh: “Father of mindfulness” Buddhist monk dies aged 95](#) [BBC News, 22 January 2022]

Thich Nhat Hanh, an influential Vietnamese Buddhist monk, has died at the age of 95. A prolific author and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh, is often referred to as the “father of mindfulness”. Thich Nhat Hanh, was exiled from Vietnam in the 1960s after opposing the war. During the height of the Vietnam War, he met with Martin Luther King, persuading the civil rights leader to speak out against the conflict. King later nominated Thich Nhat Hanh for a Nobel Peace Prize, describing him as “an apostle of peace and non-violence”. During his lifetime, he wrote more than 100 books that were translated into more than 40 languages. His last book was published in October 2021. He travelled on regular speaking tours of Europe and the U.S., talking about the practice of mindfulness.

SEXISM

[1970s relic no more: The Equal Rights Amendment is about to take effect. Or not.](#) [Jenna Greene, Reuters, 26 January 2022] [COMMENTARY]

Better late than never is an excellent principle when writing thank-you notes or repaying debts—but does it apply to amending the U.S. Constitution? That’s one way to look at the fight over the Equal Rights Amendment. If its proponents are to be believed, the ERA will go into effect on Jan. 27, exactly two years after Virginia became the 38th state to ratify it. But opponents point out that the deadline set by Congress to ratify the amendment expired 40 years ago. They say the ERA is DOA.

[\[PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT\]](#)

[More women in STEM lead people to label them as “soft sciences”](#) [Brooke Migdon, The Hill, 24 January 2022]

*People are more likely to attach a “soft science” label to a field in science, technology, engineering and math, otherwise known as STEM, if participation in that field is led by women, according to new research. A [recent study](#) by researchers at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and Indiana University found that when an individual is led to believe that female participation in certain STEM fields is greater than that of men, they are more likely to describe that discipline as a “soft science” rather than a “hard science.” “Stereotypes about women and STEM persist, even in the face of evidence that women can and do productively participate in STEM fields,” Alysson Light, a professor at USciences and the study’s lead author, writes in *The Conversation*. “These stereotypes can lead people to simply devalue the fields in which women participate.” That means jobs in math and science can also wind up being categorized as “pink collar” occupations, or jobs that are predominantly held by women. People in “pink collar” jobs, like teachers and nurses, are more likely to be underpaid for their work.*

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Former president of Florida International University says he caused “discomfort” to a colleague in letter explaining abrupt resignation](#) [Melissa Alonso, CNN, 24 January 2022]

Former Florida International University President Mark Rosenberg, who abruptly resigned Friday citing health concerns, acknowledged Sunday that his workplace conduct towards a colleague was part of his reasoning for stepping down. “I unintentionally created emotional (not physical) entanglement,” Rosenberg said in a statement shared by the university. “I have apologized. I apologize to you. I take full responsibility and regret my actions.” No specifics about his actions were disclosed in the Sunday statement, but two people close to the administration told The New York Times an investigation began last month when a young female employee informed another colleague of Rosenberg’s behavior. The woman sat down for an interview last week with outside legal counsel investigating the behavior, according to the Times, and text messages were obtained showing communications between her and Rosenberg.

SUICIDE

[The Army has an alarming suicide problem in Alaska, despite flooding area with resources](#) [Tom Vanden Brook, *USA TODAY*, 27 January 2022]

The Army’s mental health emergency in Alaska spiked in 2021 with 17 suspected suicide deaths—more suicides than in the previous two years combined. The crisis has deepened in recent months: eight soldiers have died in cases of suspected suicide since October, according to figures released by the Army to USA TODAY. The deaths have rattled soldiers there and seized the attention of the Pentagon’s top civilian and military leadership as well as lawmakers on Capitol Hill. The Army is rushing resources and focusing attention on Alaska during the dark, frigid winter to prevent more suicides. The issue has defied conventional solutions, including more than \$200 million spent in recent years to improve working conditions and barracks for soldiers in a far-away state where temperatures can drop to 60 degrees below zero and endless summer days disrupt sleep. The Army’s suicide deaths in Alaska, which have been devastating for families, also have deeply affected soldiers serving there. Soldiers cite horrific encounters and complain of long waits to see behavioral health counselors.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

VETERANS

[“Atomic Veterans” Finally to Get Commemorative Service Medal](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 27 January 2022]

After decades fighting for recognition of their sacrifices to their country—to include getting cancer and dying—veterans exposed to radiation while serving may be eligible for a new medal. Under a law passed by Congress in late December, the Department of Defense must design and create an “Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal” for those who were “instrumental in the development of our nation’s atomic and nuclear weapons programs.” Exactly who would be eligible for the new award isn’t stipulated by the law; the legislation leaves eligibility determination to the secretary of defense, with members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committee able to weigh in on any recommendations. Since 2019, veterans who served between 1945 and 1992 and were part of development of the U.S. nuclear program have been eligible for a certificate recognizing their service in the atomic age.