

NEWSREEL WORLD

2020-09-11

Programmanus, avsnitt 8

av Alanna Leslie

Alanna Leslie: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and it's time for the first Newsreel World after the summer break. Today we're heading to South Africa, India and Australia.

South Africa

There's no doubt what has been the biggest global news story since we've been away. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted pretty much every country in the world. Millions have been infected and hundreds of thousands of people have died. South Africa has been particularly badly affected and accounts for more than half of the total number of cases in Africa – well over half a million. And many people believe that the pandemic has exposed deeper inequalities in South African society which still exist nearly 30 years after the end of apartheid. Here's Carissa Cupido with more.

Carissa Cupido: In South Africa, the government's response to COVID 19 was a 21-day lockdown. While policymakers attempted to limit the spread of the virus through lockdown regulations, they faced the challenge of balancing the prioritisation of health against the economic costs. With rules around restricting movement, the banning of alcohol and cigarette sales and closing non-essential industries, the already widened gap between the rich and the poor was exacerbated. We spoke to the youth in South Africa about their experiences and how they feel lockdown has affected them.

Bila: Hi, it's Bila. The anti-blackness of policing and media has only been highlighted during lockdown all the way down to shop security. It has all been very biased, not being a cis het man already exposes me to a different level of violence and mistreatment. But lockdown has been anti-poor more than anything and, due to class privilege, I have been somewhat spared the harshness of things like job insecurity.

Bassi: My name is Bassi... there has been a sort of sense of solidarity in South Africa, but it has also deepened inequalities where people who are marginalised and marginalised communities have continued to help each other in whatever way possible. But the help that was available was very exclusive to certain people.

Lisaidi: My name is Lisaidi and I think that I have been lucky enough to not have been adversely affected by the lockdown because of my race or my class, because I am able to stay at home and be under lockdown. However, because of my sexuality, I have experienced homophobia and judgement at home that has affected how I was treated and forced to leave.

Carissa Cupido: In 2018, the World Bank deemed South Africa as the world's most unequal society. Given that an estimated ten percent of the population owned seventy percent of the nation's assets. With the legacy of apartheid deeply entrenched in our daily lives, this segregation was and still is split along racial lines.

TikTok

Alanna Leslie: A recent TikTok trend has seen people pretending to be Holocaust victims. Users of the app have shown themselves with fake bruises and injuries while wearing clothes that Jews were ordered to wear by the Nazis. The Auschwitz museum has condemned this practice and said that some of the videos went “beyond the border of trivialisation... stories of people who were imprisoned and murdered in Auschwitz are incredibly tragic, painful and emotional.” However, the museum does not think that the people taking part in the trend should be shamed, but rather we should see it as an “educational challenge”.

Australia

Alanna Leslie: The Black Lives Matter movement has been around for some time but it gained further international traction after the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minnesota in the United States earlier this year. This incident led to protests in over 60 countries calling for an end to what many call the systemic racism which exists in many nations. Sarah Allely reports from Australia. And a word of warning, this report contains some very strong language.

Sara Allely: George Floyd’s killing in the US has fuelled a Black Lives Matter movement in Australia. Indigenous or Aboriginal Australians have used it to draw attention to their own high numbers of deaths in custody by police and prison guards. M.C. Dobby is a young indigenous hip hop artist who lives near Wollongong, south of Sydney, who recently released a track called “I Can’t Breathe”, and the video is all about the Australian Black Lives Matter movement.

Yab! Sick of having to explain myself. They want to know the history, the pain might help. They making me what I need to restrain myself. If I were you, I would educate myself. Oh, no. They want me to hate myself, degrade, dismiss and erase myself. They said Australia and America’s not the same, I say David Dungay they don’t even know the name... [...]

MC Dobby: It has triggered a lot of interesting mixed reactions. And the message is not even anything that I made up. It’s not anything that I’ve started to say. It’s been, you know, it is quite literally, George Floyd said, “I can’t breathe” before he died. And David Dungay Jr said, “I can’t breathe” before he died. It took a black man in America for people to really stand up. Just know now that from this point moving forward, we’re unforgiving. I’m trying to not be so hesitant to talk about it anymore. I feel so upset for all the families, who have been fighting and fighting and fighting for justice.

Sara Allely: When George Floyd was killed in May and the riots spread around the US, there was a lot of media coverage in Australia, but the Aboriginal community asked Australians to look at what was happening in their own country. This spurred support and protests and Black Lives Matter rallies were organised. As Black Lives Matter was taking off in Australia. A 16 year old Aboriginal boy was tripped up, pushed to the ground and stood on by police after being a bit cheeky and rude to the officer.

“What the fuck?

What? Oi! What the fuck? You just slammed him on his face. Oi!

What the fuck is this?

He’s in pain. I’ve never heard that.

You just slammed him on his fucking face.”

Sara Allely: His friend recorded on his phone and it went viral on social media. Police were questioned and it became a news story.

Okira Jessie Freeone: My name is Okira Jessie Freeone. I’m twelve years old and I’m an Aboriginal girl born and raised in Sydney, Hurlstone Park. Well, I’m very passionate about the Black Lives Matter. It’s like

an issue that's very close to my heart like I took a kneel at school for four minutes and 32 seconds with a few other kids to represent each Aboriginal death in custody since 1991.

Sara Allely: And what do you think needs to change in Australia to have justice for indigenous people?

Okira Jessie Frecone: Well, I need the acceptance. Like the attitude, it's going to be hard for racism to stop. It's obviously a thing that's naturally going to happen, but for it to become less of a big situation problem.

Sara Allely: This is Sara Allely reporting for Newsreel World in Sydney, Australia.

India

Alanna Leslie: Could video games save the planet? The creators of Angry Birds 2 and ten other games have banded forces to try and promote sustainability through their apps. For example, people who play Transformers: Earth Wars will soon start seeing messages about renewable energy while being encouraged to take part in a UN green energy survey. The makers of the games hope that all of this will help the users learn about the positive impact sustainability can have on our planet. Finally, meet the world's fastest human calculator.

Bhanu Prakash: There was a person on a calculator and he was doing calculations there and I was doing the calculations here. And then we found out that I was quicker than the guy on the calculator.

Alanna Leslie: Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash there, speaking during a Tedx Talk.

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash: At just 20 years old, he's just won gold at the Mental Calculation World Championships. Bhanu says he thinks about numbers "all the time" and is the fastest human calculator in the world.

Bhanu Prakash: The whole point of me doing this record was not to get the record, it was to prove [to] the world that we as people should believe that we are way ahead of all the machines which have been built until now.

Alanna Leslie: But how and why did Bhanu develop such incredible abilities?

Bhanu Prakash: On one festival evening I met with a road accident. For months, I was, I don't know, recovering. I didn't have anything to do, I was cut off from the world. And then there were some puzzle books which were gifted by my dad. What interested me the most was doing calculations. Doing mental mathematics, doing calculations didn't develop me in just doing it quickly. It wasn't just teaching me mathematics, it was teaching me something more. It developed me as a person overall.

Alanna Leslie: As a young adult, Bhanu wants to eradicate maths phobia. He's now founded a tech start-up which is working with the Indian government to help students with their maths. His start-up has reached more than 10,000 school children in the past couple of years.

And on that upbeat note it's time for me to say goodbye – till next time