



NEWSREEL WORLD

2020-10-24

Programmanus

av Alanna Leslie

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie, and it's time for Newsreel World. Today, we're heading to New Zealand, Barbados and Nigeria. But first, the United States of America.

U.S.A

ALANNA LESLIE: The 2020 Presidential election in America will impact not just Americans but people all over the world for the next four years. And many political analysts are predicting that young Americans may be key to deciding who wins. Young voters from 18 to 29 in particular have a lot of political power this year, yielding about thirty-seven percent of the total voting pool. So, what are young Americans thinking about this incredibly important vote? Reporting from Boston in the state of Massachusetts, Paige Sutherland can tell us more...

Paige Sutherland: There are a handful of groups in the U.S. that have been working for years to increase youth voter turnout. Most of these organisations focus on making voting "cool". But Dr. Sunshine Hillygus, a professor at Duke University and an expert on youth civic engagement, says getting young people interested isn't the problem, it's getting them to show up. In a recent lecture, Dr. Hillygus told the audience that during the 2018 midterm election, 80 percent of youths said they were going to vote. But only 30 percent actually did.

Sunshine: For young people, registration and voting can be a burdensome, confusing process. And they have a larger impact on new voters than on experienced voters.

Paige Sutherland: And the rules on voting aren't consistent; they differ from state to state. Restrictions include not being able to pre-register before you come of age; rejecting college IDs as a form of identification and in some places you even have to buy your own stamps if you mail-in your vote.

18by.vote promotional video: I'm eighteen by eighteen. I'm eighteen by nineteen...

Paige Sutherland: Jazmin Kay is the executive director of *18by.vote*, a non-profit organisation aimed at making it easier for 16 to 18-year-olds to navigate the voting process. Her pitch to get young people to vote is this:

Jazmin Kay: When you don't vote, you are voting. You are making the decision to say, you know what, I accept the status quo and I am good with everything.

Paige Sutherland: But young voters are still actively engaged. Like Tejas Muthusamy from Virginia. For him, this election could not be more important.



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Tejas Muthusamy: Whoever we elect now really determines whether or not we can reverse the effects of climate change because it will take years for the policies to be in effect and it will take years for us to see those effects.

Paige Sutherland: Tejas's parents immigrated to the U.S. from India so for him immigration and voting rights are huge. An ongoing issue that's also on a lot of young voters' minds today is racial injustice and police brutality especially after a fatal police encounter made headlines back in May. Here's a collection of news clips from CNN on the matter.

CNN clips: "George Floyd repeatedly told the officers that he could not breathe, after an officer knelt on his neck..." Protestors: "Hands up! Don't Shoot! Hands up! Don't Shoot! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!"

Paige Sutherland: That's certainly the case for 18-year-old Sydney Stewart of Tennessee.

Sydney: I'm black and I have a brother myself, so I'm always worried about what is happening to him or what is going to happen to my dad. Living in fear is not what I thought I would be growing up in but here we are.

Paige Sutherland: For Kelly Huang of California, there's one issue that's front and centre for her.

Kelly: Education, will I be able to afford college as I'm applying this year and thinking about student loan debt.

Paige Sutherland: Young adults can really make a difference come November 3rd, but only if they actually vote... This is Paige Sutherland reporting for Newsreel World from Boston, Massachusetts.

New Zealand

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Paige. Sticking with young people voting around the world, in New Zealand a High Court judge has just rejected the idea of lowering the voting age there to sixteen. Justice Jan-Marie Doogue said: "age may be an imperfect proxy for maturity or competence", but she believes that a line has to be drawn somewhere. Gina Dow-McLay, from the *Make it 16* organisation argued when speaking to Radio New Zealand:

Gina Dao-McLay: "The voting age of eighteen is unjustified age discrimination and a breach of human rights."

ALANNA LESLIE: New Zealand's Parliament would have to vote on lowering the voting age to sixteen. But would you want to vote in an election now if you could?



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Barbados

Rihanna - Where Have You Been

ALANNA LESLIE: Bajan music megastar Rihanna has been accused of cultural appropriation and insensitivity on social media for a recent fashion show. The show was praised for featuring a diverse array of models of different body shapes and ethnicities. But one of the tracks used during the show featured lyrics taken from sayings that are considered sacred in Islam, called hadiths. The hadiths are one of the moral frameworks used to guide Muslims in their everyday lives. Critics thought that using the hadiths alongside images of scantily-clad women was disrespectful to their faith and culture.

Kookdice tweeted: “As a Muslim, no words can describe how disappointed I am with Rihanna for letting her models dance to hadith. Hadith are the sacred words of our prophet, you can’t just use it for your lingerie show!”

ALANNA LESLIE: Rhianna has since apologised and emphasised how disheartened she was by the honest yet careless mistake.

Nigeria

National anthem of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

ALANNA LESLIE: Nigeria as a country was created by the British Empire combining some of its colonial conquests in West Africa in 1914. But how do young Nigerians feel about the future of their country, and their ongoing relationship with their former coloniser? From the city of Kano in Northern Nigeria, Umar Isa Dandago has this report:

President Muhammadu Buhari: We are bound by destiny to be the largest and greatest black nation on earth....

Umar Isa Dandago: Last month, Nigeria celebrated her 60th independence anniversary and those were just some of the remarks from President Muhammadu Buhari’s address to the nation. Nigeria proclaimed independence from British rule on October 1st, 1960. At that time, our country’s population was estimated at just forty-five million. We have grown to over two hundred million people and along the way, our country has managed to survive one civil war and eight military coups. However, for young Nigerians these historical achievements are very difficult to appreciate because of high youth unemployment which was last reported by officials to be at twenty percent. When I asked how she celebrated this 60th independence anniversary, Hafsat Ad’hama had this to say.



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Hafsat Ad'hama: We are celebrating the nation and we have hope we are never going to disappear. I believe we should only celebrate because we have the positivity and great vibe in us to be the change we've always wanted to see.

Umar Isa Dandago: There is no doubt that British colonialism significantly shaped the course of Nigeria's destiny and to this day, the two countries still maintain a special relationship. As of 2019, the U.K. Office of National Statistics estimated that there are over two hundred thousand Nigerian-born residents who live in the United Kingdom. Given these historical ties, how do young Nigerians feel about Britain?

Nura Sani Suleiman: I don't appreciate the way Britain colonised Nigeria especially if you read history. Really Britain has not done well, I don't think they have really helped us in developing our country since they have given us our independence.

Umar Isa Dandago: Do you think there's a better relationship between the government of Nigeria and the British government?

Karibullah Yusuf Nasidi: Obviously there's good rapport. There is mutual understanding. That's why now you can see most of our people prefer to go there.

Umar Isa Dandago: Yes.

Karibullah Yusuf Nasidi: Though we believe some people from British [should say Britain] come to Nigeria to have their business. Yes, so this is the thing...

Umar Isa Dandago: British colonialism significantly shaped the course of Nigeria's trajectory; but our destiny is now in our hands. We are responsible for becoming the largest and greatest black nation on earth. If we choose to be. My name is Umar Isa Dandago, reporting from Kano, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

Tasmania

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Umar.

Chris Hemsworth: We've laid some traps to catch the devils and then we're going to release them out into the wild.

ALANNA LESLIE: That's Hollywood actor Chris Hemsworth talking about Tasmanian devils. You may usually associate Tasmanian Devils with the famous cartoon character known as 'Taz', from the Looney Toons.



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Taz-Mania theme: “Come to Tasmania, come to Tasmania. We need you!”

ALANNA LESLIE: But actually, Tasmanian devils are also a real-life endangered species. They are the world’s largest carnivorous marsupial. They were once indigenous to mainland Australia but have since been wiped out. Now, they are making a comeback with the help of the famous Hollywood actor Chris Hemsworth and conservationists, including Tim Faulkner. Here’s Tim talking to news website Stuff.

Tim Faulkner: Today marks the first time in 3,000 years, or thereabouts, that the Tasmanian devil has roamed mainland forests and as an apex predator, it’s critically important.

ALANNA LESLIE: That’s all from me today. See ya!