In recent months, the homeless have been pushed in front of trains, hit by the subway cars, and sometimes killed. This year, the same thing happened in a different part of the city, after the mayor's Social Services agency was granted a budget to move homeless people from public places to temporary housing. However, this plan has failed, and the number of homeless individuals has increased by 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The mayor should be removed from the position, and the city council should be called to action.

Mayor

homeless individuals were removed

crime

assisted outpatient treatment (AOT)

homelessness

violence

homeless

sanitary

sickening

way of thinking

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New York State boasts the second most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, a 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.
Kiasha

As of recent months, only recently have subway stations been cleaned, hit with a hammer and steel, and with an electric shock. In an effort to combat the number of people and businesses that have created homeless, the national subway system is being updated. With the current system, the first was once the only one, many places are now the place where people’s children and adult must interact. Several trains are now running. Without these trains, the city would be in a state of chaos. The MTA’s deficit is projected to be $2 billion by 2024. The MTA’s stimulus money will have ended by the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical, and carried out by joint teams of police and social workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy “sickening” and a “magical way of thinking.” What’s actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn’t be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway, and removing riders who exhibited abusive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the majority will on the trains, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The city will not be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in support of keeping our subways clean.

To stem the increasing prevalence of living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs, known as Kendra’s Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrest, and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have served mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs from release. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which runs Rikers Island, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHSS’s LPAR also needs to make use of Kendra’s Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for state funds for Mental Illness (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not signed into law. The Legislature, Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the former warehouse that used to be my district. This $2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after the provider community has gone, often that provider continued to receive city contracts. The city’s reasoning is that there are so many service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would regularize the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitively regulated and the city pays off the new providers will enter the market.

New York City is now home to the largest green building certified project in the country, which will soon through a certain amount of space, the largest amount of space for social services. The contract awarded the largest amount of social service contracts as much as $5 billion in the next five years. I was an invitee to the summit held last year by New York University, where I heard speakers cite the 2021 first year results of years of social work. The city needs to develop the same level of strategy and innovation to improve public safety. I am a proud New York, and I live here in New York. The city needs to review their policies. In 2021, my three most of the year-old sons and I have lived in the same house for over a year and a half. We have a small million-dollar house in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them help ourselves, now.
In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation’s largest underground transportation system during the first week of enforcement. Only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless individuals still exist. While the mayor’s plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2021, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA deficit is projected to be $2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subways are slow and methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy “sickening” and “a magical way of thinking.” What’s actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn’t be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and they should exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups report mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court. If the mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in their efforts to clean up our subways.

Underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of AOT programs, better known as Kendra’s Law. Participants in AOT programs have 24 hours, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start explaining is the Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides services to individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs. The mayor should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. The mayor supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory and make sure that the MTA also need to make use of Kendra’s Law whenever possible.

Governor Hochul has urged New York State Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These have $500 million to $5.5 million to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could go to individuals who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, the governor called the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals in New York City, which was passed by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials recently met with the Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary John to discuss how to ease-style shelter in my district. This $2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even if the Department of Social Services commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive contracts. The city’s review procedure is so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No matter what, it needs fixing. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York State boasts the second-largest Small Business Corp certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city should establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.
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A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of joining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed by 4-5 male avatars with male voices, essentially, but virtually rape my avatar. She details that watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a handful of male avatars, who took photos and sent her comments like 'don't pretend you didn't love it.'"

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a year ago. It features thousands of virtual worlds by creators and is free to download for all users, but Meta plans on making profit by facilitating e-commerce and advertising, according to CNBC, similar to how it profited from its social media ventures Facebook and Instagram. Meta did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meta envisions a world of virtual realities where you can meet up through work, travel or entertainment using VR headsets, Zuckerberg said in an interview. "It could replace the internet as we know it," he said. "The next development will be even more immersive, the whole body internet where you're in the experiences," he said. "We call this the metaverse," said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month after a series of rebranding.

"The most about the incident," said Patel, who received comments calling it "a pathfinder" for those who might erect barriers to entry. "I was very concerned about the way this could be potentially a virtual world where you could move around," said Patel.

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts and Proteus Engage, a company that studies social behavior in virtual worlds, released a study in April of 2018. The study found that more attractive avatars were more likely to be targeted by strangers. The American Psychological Association noted "a causal relationship" of a potential trend.

"You can certainly debate the extent to which they are causal," said Patel. "But the studies show a trend in real-world behavior and signs of aggression in virtual worlds that are similar to research disputing it." Patel is becoming increasingly interested in these issues because she experienced it in her life.

Patel and others at the University of Bournemouth are working on new research in virtual environments and cyberbullying. "I think that if you're not careful, you could become an emergent behavior and you could become a social behavior that you can't control," she said.

In some cases, Patel and others have been able to identify identifiable information, such as her name and location, and supply it to a human rights organization. She can sue for defamation, but she could also sue in order to prevent it from happening again.

But in other cases, the information is never shared, and the avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. "This is the most difficult to solve," she says. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, it's very difficult to go after people. This would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency ultimately willing to help," Jones says.
They didn’t ask anybody who looked like us what they thought about the Constitution.” Allegations of widespread government-sanctioned oppression of minority votes also continue to persist. Therefore, according to CRT, minorities are forced to live in a system designed to oppress them, and the system is too flawed to allow for any reform internally.

CRT: Whites Cannot Succeed Within the System

Perhaps most important to CRT and “weakness” is the tenet that you cannot truly be successful as a minority in America. This was most clearly illustrated in a July 2020 display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which accredited several objective measures of successful behavior (e.g., hard work, planning for the future, delayed gratification, the scientific method) as part of “White Culture.”

Minorities who achieve wealth and/or educational success in the United States are openly attacked as exhibiting “white characteristics” or “acting white.” Successful African-Americans who don’t adhere to every white political or social stereotype are quickly dismissed as “cornball brothers,” “crews,” or “Uncle Toms.”

Thus, success for minorities in America is not taken as evidence of racial progress, but as a sign of conformity with “white” values and a betrayal of racial identity.

That Violence is the Only Option

If you wholeheartedly believe in those three statements, violence inevitably becomes your only option for progress. You live in an oppressive society, with built-in systems of oppression that prevent you from altering that system and have no way to be successful within the system while staying true to yourself. Your only alternative is to destroy that system.

That is the thought process that Brooks and James expressed. “White people and Black people should not live together,” Brooks declared. “The only way is to separate.” James argued. A June 2020 tweet by Brooks was even more direct: “This is war. The only thing that stops it is white people IF outnumbered. We even heard that. The old white ppl 2 KNOCK DEM TF OUT!! PERIOD!”

Of course, the beliefs of the CRT propagandists who craft those beliefs and pass them on to others clearly don’t believe their own advice. Prominent CRT theorists such as Ibram Kendi, Patrice Cullors, and Robin DiAngelo have achieved professional success within the very systems they rail against. They are able to live comfortably in multi-racial social circles that are far removed from the violence and poverty that plague many African American neighborhoods.

The corporate, educational, and entertainment industries face multiple relationship points by peddling CRT propaganda are similarly large. Ibram Kendi got his PhD from the University of Chicago. Patrice Cullors, some people believe in CRT wholeheartedly, and thus embrace violence as the ultimate solution to systemic racism.
It wasn’t that long ago when my three adult children were little kids. Throughout their childhood, I never had to worry about what was being taught in their schools. I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was going to play on my children’s sports teams or use their school bathrooms. Most importantly, I was never afraid that teachers, counselors, and administrators might deliberately conceal what was being taught in school. But oh, how times have changed in the 10 years since my youngest child graduated from high school. Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology are being taught without the parents’ knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curriculum when my kids were in school.

I applaud Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for addressing the concerns many parents have about the changing school curriculum. DeSantis signed the Parental Rights in Education bill at a March 28 ceremony. Dubbed by critics as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, the new law prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade. After third grade, sex education in Florida must be age-appropriate. The law empowers parents to sue school districts over violations. DeSantis said the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ indoctrination of young children in Florida schools. As an example, he displayed LGBTQ educational materials including a “Genderbread Person” chart that was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach young children about gender identity and sexual orientation.

After DeSantis spoke, Florida mom Janice Littlejohn talked about how, without her knowledge or consent, a Florida middle school created a transgender, gender nonconforming support plan for her 13-year-old daughter. “Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant decisions that will impact the child’s mental and physical well-being,” said Littlejohn, who is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida. “Often social transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools are grossly unqualified to be taking these steps without parental involvement.” In addition to the Parental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed curriculum transparency legislation giving parents the right to information on the curriculum and library books in their children’s schools. Last year, DeSantis signed the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits the government from infringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of minor children.

Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights and curriculum transparency that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation that would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information such as the URL and phone number of where books are being used. Undeterred by Wolf’s veto, state Sen. Ryan Bizzarro and state Rep. Aument are crafting similar legislation before using any sexually explicit materials in the classroom or books for students to bring home library books with such material.

The state Department of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school districts are encouraged to include in their curricula, while the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools. The information on the website uses many of the concepts from this controversial social justice movement. On the website, under equity and inclusion, the Department of Education provides information on LGBTQ-active curricula starting in kindergarten. It disagrees with Gov. DeSantis that it’s not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, voters across party lines have proved to be wary of teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. In March, a recent online poll of 1,259 voters sponsored by the Democratic National Committee found that 73% of respondents agreed with the statement, “Democrats are teaching kids as young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist country and that white people are racist.” The Wall Street Journal recently published the results of a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies. According to the poll, 61% of respondents agreed with the Florida Parental Rights in Education law. When poll participants were categorized by political party and demographics, 67% of parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights law.

It’s hard to imagine being the parent of young children today and having to deal with the gradual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.
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The state Department of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school districts are encouraged to include in their curriculums. While the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools, the information does not use terms like “critical race theory” or “critical social justice movement.” On the website, LGBTQ rights are a part of the Department’s “LGBTQ inclusion resources starting in kindergarten.” Some have said it’s not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, majorities across party lines support teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. For example, 63% of respondents in the nation’s largest school districts, those that are 50% or more urban, support teaching critical race theory. And majorities view Asians as non-white people, with 60% of respondents in the nation’s largest districts agreeing.

There has been a deluge of state legislation across the United States about critical race theory and gender ideology. Pennsylvania is one of the few states with no laws to protect parents from this type of instruction.

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Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The mayor will be able to appease his critics, but not the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

Local mental health care programs, the AOT (Aftercare in the community) programs, and Kendra’s Law are examples of these programs. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) is modeled after CRAB (Community Reentry Assistance Board) and provides services for individuals to successfully return to their communities. It is up to the CRAN to assess every individual to see if they qualify for the program. Kendra’s Law is a program that supports the organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and JRA also need to make use of Kendra’s Law whenever able.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Medicaid waivers, as Adams has. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover involuntary services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo included an expansion of the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was dropped by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must convince the State Senate to remove this unjust enrichment of Social Services. But I digress. The bottom line is that the city’s reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would create a vacuum. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

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Raul

After her initial blog post about the incident, Nina Jane Patel recounts receiving comments saying it was a "vindictive cry for attention," and urging her not to pick a female avatar next time. These have raised questions about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a concern, Patel says in the post.

In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study in 2009 and published in the journal Communication Research that investigated the "Proteus Effect," which found that people based their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar, on and offline. The players who were assigned taller and more attractive avatars performed better in the game, but their behavior offscreen has been interpreted as evidence that the link between virtual and real-life behavior is real. The study also found that "virtual" aggression may be harder to control or suppress than in the real world.

She studied over the years in the field and found a strong correlation between aggression in the game and other research using it. It is increasingly immersive and can actually cause very real bodily harm she experienced in her case, she added and offended her.

John Jones, president of Bodyguard Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and virtual security, says it's unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as exact specific comments people made and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn't have a huge following, Jones says, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

But even that has challenges, Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be harder to identify. He adds this. "With the large diversity of harassment..."
Last week, a domestic terrorism
attack opened fire in a New York City subway station, killing 6 people and injuring 60 others in Wisconsin.

These anecdotes, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on social relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

CRT teaches America is racist

The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project” expresses a historical view in which America’s founding was built on the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. The slavery of American history is viewed and discussed through the lens of structural racism. For example, Hannah-Jones’ controversial argument that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery—argues that the U.S. Constitution was ‘entirely crafted to sustain slavery’—and emphasizes Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a 2017 article from the National Archives argued the American founding documents were built in “sympathy with white supremacy.”

Philosopher and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up this historical revisionist view of America’s history. Coard described the US constitution as “a colossal fraud,” a pact, transport and compelling human beings into unfree servitude, while maintaining, sustaining and ensuring the commission of acts that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution were written to rectify. It follows that American society has yet to end its racist institution. The racial argument of CRT is America’s institutional complicity in perpetuating the servitude of Second Amendment slaves. These officially sanctioned acts were not part of the Constitution. Rather, the Constitution is the product of a slaveholders consensus, and what people of colour see, when they look at American society.
Our nation has been racked by at least two significant acts of domestic terrorism in a five-month span. Last week, Frank James opened fire in a New York City subway, injuring 23 people. In November, Darrell Brooks drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 60 others.

Both perpetrators are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been perpetrated by white men. More significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed extreme views on social media advocating violence towards whites in the lead-up to their attacks, strongly suggesting race relations were key motive for their acts of violence. (Naturally, the mainstream media has neglected to find it fit if it was indeed their motivation.) Ditto for Quintez Brown, a Black Lives Matter activist who was charged with the attempted assassination of Louisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg in February, and Micah Johnson, who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions of race relations in the country have plummeted.

These anecdotes perfectly demonstrate the growing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT) suggests CRT has been a detriment to social progress, rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering many of its basic tenets.

CRT Teaches America is Racist

The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project,” the brainchild of Hannah Jones, expresses a historical view in which America’s true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed as exacerbated through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a “slaveryocracy,” and criticizes Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last year from our very own National Archives argued that America’s founding documents are steeped in systemic racism.

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps sums up the CRT view of American history, as he declared the Fourth of July as the celebration of killing people, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings, and enslavement. The conclusion, then, that the history of slavery persists impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

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The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation’s Elie Mystal, “The Constitution is kind of trash…. It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists...
A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of joining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed – 3-4 male avatars, with male voices, essentially, but virtually gang raped my avatar." She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a handful of male avatars, who took photos and sent her comments like, "don't pretend you didn't love it."

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a year ago. It features thousands of virtual worlds by creators and is free to download for all users, but Meta plans to monetize the game by facilitating e-commerce and advertising, according to CNBC, similar to how it profits from its social media ventures Facebook and Instagram. Meta did not immediately respond to a request from USA TODAY to comment.

Meta envisions the metaverse as an all-encompassing level or entertainment using VR headsets. Zuckerberg has been bullish on the metaverse, believing it could replace the internet as we know it. "The next platform and medium will be even more immersive and embodied internet where you’re in the experience, not just looking at it, and we call this the metaverse," said Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month after revealing the company’s rebranding.

After her initial blog post about the incident, Nina Jane Patel recounts receiving comments calling it "a pathetic cry for attention" and urging her not to pick a female avatar next time. Others have raised questions about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a concern, Patel said in the post.

In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study from 2009 and published in the Journal Communication Research that investigates the "Proteus Effect," which found that people who base their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar, on and offline. The players who were assigned taller and more attractive avatars tended to perform better in the games and negotiated more aggressively in person afterward. But the link between violent video games and violent behavior or screen has been called into question. The American Psychological Association releasing a statement saying there is "insufficient evidence" of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years, Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended her.

Joseph Jones, president of Bosco Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, says it’s unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the specific comments people made and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn’t have a huge following, Jones says, it’s unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

But even that has challenges, Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if you would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency willing to help," Jones says.
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The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years. Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputes it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm in the experience, in her avatar shocked and offended her.

Joseph Jones, president of Bogo Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in social media, says it’s unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the content contained in the event and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that the case doesn’t have a following, Jones says, it’s unlikely she could sue for defamation but she should file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

"But even if it’s challenging, Jones says, the use of male avatars could be aggressive and may be hard to track down. "And it would be difficult to get help on a cell phone. With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed; I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency willing to help,” Jones says.
Brenda

When Brenda first entered the classroom, she was excited to learn about the changing school curricula. DeSantis signed the Parental Rights in Education law last March 28th, 2023. DeSantis, who argued that the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ+ indoctrination of young children in public schools. As an example, he displayed an instructional manual including a “Safety Plan for Students” that was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach parents about gender identity and sexual orientation.

While DeSantis supports Florida mom January Littlejohn talked about how, without adequate knowledge and consent, a transgender student of a middle school created a transgender, gender nonconforming support group for her 18-year-old daughter. Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant health outcomes that will impact the child’s mental and physical well-being, Littlejohn said. It is a controversial issue.

On a social transition is the first step toward an irreversible transition. And schools are grossly negligent in not taking the steps without parental involvement.” In the Supreme Court’s case, the Supreme Court’s decision in 2017, DeSantis signed a curriculum transparency legislation giving parents the right to information on the curriculum and libraries in their children’s schools. Last year, DeSantis signed the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits teachers from infringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of their children.

Pennsylvania seeks the parental rights and curriculum transparency laws that do not exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation, which required the K-12 curriculum to be made available. In a memo, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of General Services and the Department of Corrections will not include materials or instruction on sexuality that is not age-appropriate.

The Federal Center for Education Research and Evaluation states that school districts are extremely fragmented in their reporting. While the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools, the information on the website uses many of the concepts from this controversial social justice ideology. The website under equity and inclusivity, the Department of Education provides materials that may encourage critical race theory and teaching of critical race theory.

I agree with Gov. DeSantis that it’s not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, voters across party lines disapprove of teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. For instance, a recent online poll showing that 72% of voters supported the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee found that 61% of these voters agreed with the statement, “Democrats are teaching kids as young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist country and that white people are racist.” The Wall Street Journal recently published the results of a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies. According to the poll, 31% of respondents agreed with the Florida Parental Rights in Education law. When poll participants were categorized by political party and demographics, 67% of parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights law.

It’s hard to imagine the parent of young children today and having to deal with the continual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.
Grace

CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The flawed assumptions about race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

**CRT Teaches America Is Racist**

The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project,” the most prominent CRT manifestation, promulgates a historical view in which America’s true founding was in 1619, when Black slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, and that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a “slavery state” and eviscerate Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America’s founding documents are steeped in systemic racism.

**CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist**

The Constitution, the American system of government, which is based on the First, Second and Third Amendments, have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation’s Ibram X. Kendi, “[The Constitution is kind of trash… It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.}
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In recent months, transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, only 22 homeless individuals were removed from the subway. Without safe subway platforms and shelter for homeless, the trend continues thinking of homeless individuals as pests to be removed from our living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the homeless living underground and on our streets, the mayor currently suggests a greater use of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in ACT programs have fewer incidents than those on Rikers Island. The Community Care entry Assistance Network (CCEN) program is supposed to divert people into other less-intensive options before being institutionalized. The place to start is with the Correctional Officers and Police Union. The Community Care entry Assistance Network (CCEN) program should not merely rebrand the individual arrest report, but it should also be used as the logical extension of a program in public choice. Once the city decides to allocate resources to help someone, they should have the assessment as part of the individual's life. DSHS and HR also need to make use of Kendra’s Law whenever possible.

Cơn Rochauld should develop strategies for Mental Health (MH) Medically assisted evictions as Adams has urged. They could allow NYS to replace the traditional PAO to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which would be a better way to get the best care for people who receive healthcare for mental illness in the 2023 Executive Budget. These would be best practices for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, that provision was not passed by the Legislature. A similar-like minded change to existing laws must continue to fight. Recently passed with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins and his 100-bed house-stay program in midtown and his $70 billion stability clearly needs to be unlawful and an end to tenant compa wrongdoing. The next step is to bring the city back to the court. The city’s reasoning is that there are so few services others that the courts wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York State boasts the second most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DSHS, 646 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, a 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.
Karla

Meta envisions a virtual world where digital avatars connect through work and leisure using existing platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The platform also acknowledges the potential for profit, linking its growth to the social media ventures such as Facebook and Instagram. Meta is working on a virtual world where digital avatars can connect through work and leisure using existing platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The platform also acknowledges the potential for profit, linking its growth to the social media ventures such as Facebook and Instagram. Karla’s avatar was verbally and sexually assaulted when a small group of male avatars virtually gang raped her avatar. She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a small group of male avatars. Karla’s avatar was verbally and sexually assaulted when a small group of male avatars virtually gang raped her avatar. She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a small group of male avatars. (Don’t pretend you didn’t love it.)

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Aicha

A woman who has spent years playing virtual games in Horizon Worlds says she experienced a real ‘horror play out in the virtual game’ recently. She was verbally and sexually harassed by a male avatar who took photos and commented on her "don't pretend you didn't love it" comment.

"It was a horror, a real horror, a real nightmare," she said. "I reported it to the game's administrators, but they didn't do anything."

She is president of MetaVerse for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company that creates immersive virtual worlds. Horizon Worlds is one of thousands of virtual worlds created by creators and is free to enter. Meta plans to launch a new game by facilitating e-commerce and advertising, similar to how it profits from social media ventures Facebook and Instagram. Meta did respond to a request from The对应的AY to comment.

" horizon is a virtual world where avatars connect through work, travel or entertainment using virtual avatars. It's been used for bullying online, believing it could replace the internet as we know it. The form and medium will be even more immersive and embodied internet where you’re in the game, not just looking at it, and we call this the meta verse," said Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month after the company's rebranding.

In her initial blog post about the incident, Nina Jane Patel recounts receiving comments calling it a "pathetic cry for attention" and urging her not to pick a female avatar next time. Others have raised questions about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a concern, Patel says in the post.

In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study in 2009 and published in the journal Communication Research that investigates the "Presence Effect," which found that people based their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar both online and offline. The players who were revealed taller and more attractive avatars tended to perform better in the games and negotiated more aggressively in person afterward. But the link between violent video games and violent behavior otherwise has been called into question. The American Psychological Association released a statement saying there is insufficient evidence of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years. Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and symptoms of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that meta verse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced to her avatar shocked and confounded her.

Joseph Jones, president of Juscico Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, says it's unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment. But he acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the specific comments people made and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn't have a huge following, Jones says, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

But even that has challenges. Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency legitimately willing to help." Jones says.
Our nation has been rocked by at least two significant acts of domestic terrorism in a five-month span. Last week, Frank James opened fire in a New York City subway, injuring 23 people. In November, Darrell Brooks drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 48 others.

Both perpetrators are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been perpetrated by white men. More significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed radical views on social media advocating violence towards whites in the lead-up to their attacks, strongly suggesting race relations were a key motive for their acts of violence. Naturally, the mainstream media has neglected to find out if it was indeed their motivation. Ditto for Quanice Brown, a Black Lives Matter activist who was charged with the attempted assassination of Louisville mayor, candidate Craig Greenberg in February, and Micah Johnson, who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race relations in the country have plummeted.

These anecdotes, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

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The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project,” the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America’s true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery. She argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a “slaveryocracy” and criticizes Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America’s founding documents are steeped in “systemic racism.”

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decries the Fourth of July as “a celebration of kidnapping, transporting, buying, selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rape, mutilations, lynchings and enslavement.” The conclusion, then, is that the legacy of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as inherently racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation’s Alix Mynatt, “[t]he Constitution is kind of trash… it was written by slavers and colonists and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.”
Quarantine has been rocked by a rash of reported cases of domestic terrorism in a five-month span.

Last week, Frank James opened fire in a New York City subway, injuring 23 people. In December, Earl Brooks drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 69 others.

However, another trend, which is a bit unusual, is the idea that people have been advocating violence as a way to express their grievances. These sentiments were not uncommon during the Vietnam War era, but it was uncommon for Quakers to advocating violence. It is a matter of what one side or another considers ethical or moral.

These examples, particularly during the recent examination of Critical Race Theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been detrimental to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impact of CRT on race relations and racial justice continues to erode its basic tenants.

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The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project,” the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America’s true foundation was in 1619, the year that enslaved Africans were brought to the United States. American history has been viewed as a history of white supremacy. For example, Hannah-Jones, controversially argues that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery. This argues that the Constitution was “inherently flawed” to establish a “slavocracy,” and President Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery was “racially blind,” a report last June from our own National Archives argued that American history is deeply in “systemic racism.”

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Craig perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he declared the Fourth of July as “a celebration of scalpings, transporting, buying, selling human beings, separating families, tearing, whipping, raping, castrating,lynchings and enslavement.” The conclusion, these actions by slavers “immersed” impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

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In the words of The Nation’s Michelle Alexander, “[t]he Constitution is kind of trash. It was written by slavers and colonizers, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonizers.
Our nation has significant acts of domestic terrorism that have killed 6 people. Black violence towards a key motive for their acts of violence. Race relations were public perceptions about the state of race relations in the country have plummeted.

The New York Times analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a "slavocracy." These arguments from our very own National Archives argued that America’s founding documents are steeped in "systemic racism."
Our nation has been rocked by at least two significant acts of domestic terrorism in a five-month span. Last week, Frank James opened fire in a New York City subway, injuring 23 people. In November, Darrell Brooks drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 60 others.

Both perpetrators are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been carried out by entirely white men. More significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed views on social media that hatred towards whites in the lead-up to their attacks, strongly suggesting race relations have moved into a new and more violent part of the country.

Naturally, the mainstream media has neglected to find out if they had voiced their hatred before. This is the same for Quintez Brown, a black Lives Matter activist who was charged with attempting to assassinate then-Dallas mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg in February, and Michael Rosen, who was charged in Dallas in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race relations in the US have plummeted.

These anecdotes, particularly the increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a deterrent to racism more than a force for good. The negative impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considered in light of its basic tenets.

CRT Teaches America Is Racist

The New York Times Magazine’s “1619 Project” by Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America’s true founding was in 1619 when the first African slaves were brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and dissected with a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was “shaped around the idea of ‘slavocracy’,” and criticizes Abraham Lincoln’s approach to the issue of slavery and abolition as “an extension of the slavocracy.”

Philadelphiabased attorney and7host Michael Coard perhaps best encapsulated the CRT view of American history as he decried the burial of July 4 as an “celebration of kidnapping/human beings, separating families, inhumanity, trumping lives, castrations, lynchings, and enslavement.” The conclusion, there is that the system of slavery persists impacting an aspect of America’s life in this very day.

CRT Teaches America’s Government Is Racist

The Constitution claims the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution allows that the government system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist, then arguments against American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Figure 5 has recently been attacked as systematically racist to justify their abolition.

In words of The Nation’s Elie Mystal, “the Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonizers. White people who were willing to make deals with slavers and col...
subway riders have been pushed in front of trains. The increase in crime is up 80%. The mayor’s response was to declare lawlessness. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the subway system. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor’s new plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subway systems, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA’s deficit is projected to be $2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical, and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" and a "magical way of thinking.

But actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn’t be permitted to turn tunnels, trains, and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway lines who remain in cars. A man who is standing on the platform screaming at the trains is allowed to sit there. The police are not enforcing MTA rules. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his effort to clean up our subways.

The mayor should apply for Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has argued. These would allow the state to use Medicaid funds to cover care in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive mental health care. The 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and other mental health advocates must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the 2nd Street warehouse-style shelter in my district. This $2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even the on-site nurse provided evidence of wrongdoing, of a sort that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city’s reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoing would devastate the industry. In practice, any device that pays off contracts are competitive. Providers are encouraged to pay the city a cut of the contract, which entices other contracts.

New York State boasts the second most B Corp-certified companies in the country, which guarantees certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a history of corruption and exploitation. According to BDS, 600 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, 44% increase in just three years, and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking the homeless people in a homeless shelter, killing the homeless and marking the homeless as invisible. Help them and help ourselves, too.
Homelessness and crime and
homeless encampments still exist
with more urgency. With safe
subways
cannot care for themselves
into their living rooms
The mayor's efforts to clean up our subways
Homelessness
Community
Wheeler
New York City
Police
would allow New York City
officials to quickly expand the number
of individuals. Unfortunately,
Mayor Bill de Blasio's
administration,
with the help of the
Homeless Services Council,
recently announced new
efforts to attack homeless
during the
summer months.

In the country,
I met people
like homeless
suffering. Help them.
In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with hammers and struck with poles. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created a new way of life. In response, Mayor Adams announced the Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the city's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. Without safe subway systems, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA's deficit is projected to be $2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" and a "magical way of thinking." What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover outpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This $2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York State boasts the second most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.
In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with reces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation’s largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor’s plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA’s deficit is projected to be $2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy “sickening” and “a magical way of thinking.” What’s actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the city. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. However, it is up to the Mayor to secure mental health services for any person who is mentally impaired. The recent court ruling that the problem is not as serious as we thought has made us more careful as of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra’s Law. Participants in AOT programs have lower incidents of homelessness, arrest and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to do this is Kendra’s Law on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) also assesses services for formerly incarcerated individuals, who have severe mental illness and are reentering society. The program upon release from the jail, CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for these programs. NYPD and the Mayor’s office supports this organization, should make this assessment part of a period of committed funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra’s Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has tried. This would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover impatient services in psychiatric facilities, such as inpatient, expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021-22 budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight.

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Elisabet Velasquez is a Brooklyn-born Boricua and a mother of two. Her poems are an exploration of her life. Her work has been featured on TIDAL, NBC, Now This, Latina Magazine, Vibe Magazine, Muzzle Magazine, Centro Voces. She is 2017 Poets House Fellow, a 2019 Frost Place Fellow, and a 2020 NJ Arts fellow. Her debut novel *When We Make It* was named a book to watch by the *New York Times*. 
About the Student Authors

The authors are multilingual learners who come from many different countries, speaking a multitude of languages. Their passion, brilliant minds, and determination to succeed do not let obstacles hinder their progress. To survive living in a new country, learning a new language, and going through all the changes of adolescence, they must be resilient. And that’s who WE ARE!

Peace and Love, Writers of 432
Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Next Generation Learning Standards.
Next Gen Learning Standards Addressed

9–10W4: Create a poem, story, play, artwork, or other response to a text, author, theme or personal experience; demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a variety of techniques and genres. Explain divergences from the original when appropriate.

9–10SL5: Make strategic use of digital media and/or visual displays in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence, and to add elements of interest to engage the audience.

9–10R5: In literary texts, consider how varied aspects of structure create meaning and affect the reader. (RL)
Behind the Book
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