

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 9 DECEMBER 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[After a Spike in Sexual Assaults on Troops, Is Real Change on the Way?](#) [Jennifer Hlad, *Defense One*, 7 December 2022]

When the Pentagon's annual sexual-assault report landed on Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's desk in September, its findings left the longtime reform advocate neither happy nor surprised: fiscal 2021 brought a sharp increase in sexual assaults, as well as other disturbing trends. but Gillibrand says the 2022 NDAA changes don't go far enough. Commanders still have some prosecutorial authority over the 11 covered crimes, including the ability to approve witnesses, decide whether someone can be dismissed, and negotiate a settlement. The duties of a convening authority must be completely removed, she said, to avoid "unintended or intended bias," and to ensure the person making those decisions is well trained in prosecution.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Army creates new legal office for murder, rape and other serious crime](#) [Todd South, *Military Times*, 5 December 2022]

The Army has appointed a top military lawyer to oversee how the service prosecutes serious criminal offenses such as murder, rape and sexual assaults. The restructuring comes as Congress has called for revamping the handling of military sexual assault cases and ongoing inquiries into sex crimes and homicide cases in each of the military branches.

[Just Half of Americans Trust the Military, Survey Finds](#) [Marcus Weisgerber, *Government Executive*, 5 December 2022]

Americans' trust and confidence in the military increased slightly over the past year, but remains near a five-year low, according to a new survey by the Ronald Reagan Institute. Conducted in early November after the U.S. midterm elections, the study found that 48 percent of the American public trusts and has confidence in the military, up from 45 percent last year but way down from 70 percent in 2018.

[The military fielded over 200 domestic extremism reports last year](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 5 December 2022]

The services took in 211 reports of domestic extremism between October 2021 and September 2022, 183 of which launched investigations, [according to data in a recently released report by the Defense Department inspector general](#). Of those, 48 service members were subject to military legal action and 112 were referred to civilian law enforcement for investigation, according to data compiled by the services and submitted to the IG.

[What Federal Employees Need to Know About Giving and Receiving Gifts in the Workplace](#) [Michael Gennaro, *Government Executive*, 7 December 2022]

The holiday season is in full swing, and federal employees can join in on most of the fun without breaking ethics rules. But before you accept a gift in the workplace, there are a few limitations to keep in mind. Here is a refresher on the rules at federal offices. The gift rules for executive branch employees are designed to avoid conflicts of interest, either actual or perceived, and were updated in 2016. Accepting a gift from someone who does business with an employee's agency is also forbidden, and can be a crime if an employee takes certain actions after receiving the gift.

CULTURE

[Army Quashed Deal with “Call of Duty” After Video Game’s Publisher Faced Harassment Scandals](#)

[Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 1 December 2022]

The Army killed a major marketing effort revolving around video-game publisher Activision Blizzard and its blockbuster “Call of Duty” franchise after the company became embroiled in gender discrimination and sexual assault lawsuits, service officials confirmed to Military.com Thursday.

[The Army’s Fitness Test Might Be Revamped Yet Again for Gender-Neutral and Job-Specific Standards](#)

[Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 7 December 2022]

The Army will likely have to implement further changes to its embattled fitness test, just months after the long-in-development Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, was finally rolled out, as Congress pushes for gender-neutral and potentially job-specific standards. The requirement would largely take the ACFT back to what Army planners were hoping for, though widespread skepticism from Capitol Hill and Wormuth effectively forced the service to have gender-specific standards shortly after a Military.com report on early test data showed that half of women could not pass the planned test.

[Cherokee Nation wants to send a delegate to the House—it’s an idea older than Congress itself](#)

[Julie Reed, *The Conversation*, 6 December 2022]

In 1835, the Cherokee Nation was promised a delegate in Congress as part of the same treaty—Treaty of New Echota—that led to the death of thousands on the Trail of Tears. Nearly 200 years later, the Cherokee are still fighting to make that promise a reality. If the Cherokee Nation is successful in its bid, Kimberly Teehee, the nominated delegate, will join delegates representing the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and other U.S. territories as a nonvoting member of the House.

[Female fans feel safe at Qatar World Cup thanks to reduced alcohol consumption](#)

[Philip O’Connor and Helena Williams, *Reuters*, 6 December 2022]

Many supporters were up in arms at the idea of the World Cup taking place in a conservative country like Qatar where the sale of alcohol is highly restricted, but for some female fans it has led to a safer experience at the tournament. Ellie Molloson, who is an ambassador for a campaign to tackle sexism in football called HerGameToo, said that her father had been so concerned that he accompanied her to Qatar to ensure that she would be safe, but it turned out his services as a chaperone were not needed. The 19-year-old said that the lack of alcohol had contributed to a less bawdy atmosphere around the games at the World Cup, but in her opinion it was mostly cultural.

[How the Coast Guard plans to boost recruitment after years of shortfalls](#)

[Caitlin Yilek, Norah O’Donnell and Angel Canales, *CBS News*, 7 December 2022]

If you want to eat well during your military service, the U.S. Coast Guard might be the military branch to join. And if you join as a cook, you’re in line for one of the guard’s biggest recruitment bonuses: \$50,000. But bonuses aren’t everything, as Admiral Linda Fagan seeks to stem the recruiting shortfalls that have plagued the guard—like the other branches—in the past few years. This year, the guard’s first woman commandant told a congressional committee in July, the service is projected to miss its 4,200 target by more than 1,000 recruits. The service has missed its recruitment goals for the last four years, falling short an average of 20% each year.

[Jeremy Pope on The Inspection: “We’ve Never Really Seen This”](#) [David Canfield, *Vanity Fair*, 6 December 2022]

He [Jeremy Pope] connected with the writer-director, Elegance Bratton, whose story of enlisting in the military, as a gay man vying to win the approval of his unaccepting mother, provides The Inspection’s basis. He connected with the script’s rigorous interrogations of Black masculinity, of what it means to be gay and to serve in an institution that wasn’t—isn’t—always so accepting of people like him.

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[Meet the next Sergeant Major of the Army](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 8 December 2022]

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville announced who the service’s next top noncommissioned officer Thursday afternoon during a professional forum in Alexandria, Virginia. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Weimer was selected to succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, who will depart the role in August 2023.

[WHO renames monkeypox as mpox, citing racist stigma](#) [Bill Chappell, *NPR*, 28 November 2022]

Monkeypox disease now has a new name: mpox. The World Health Organization announced the long-awaited change on Monday, saying the disease’s original name plays into “racist and stigmatizing language.” Critics say the name “monkeypox” plays into racist stereotypes about Black and African people, and it’s been used along with anti-gay slurs. They also note that rodents, not monkeys, are the main source of the virus.

[Yellen honors pioneers as U.S. prints first banknotes with women’s signatures](#) [Andrea Shalal, *Reuters*, 8 December 2022]

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Thursday hailed fellow pioneers during the unveiling of the first U.S. banknotes printed with two women’s signatures, while calling for “much more” work to advance equity for women and minorities. Yellen, the first woman to head the Treasury and chair the U.S. Federal Reserve, said the new banknotes being produced at the Treasury’s Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) site in Fort Worth, Texas, were a reminder of the contributions of women who have worked at Treasury and in economics.

DISCRIMINATION

[Ageism, amplified by ads and social media, runs deep—but expert says we can change that](#) [Nathan Abse, *Federal Soup*, 5 December 2022]

*Nathan Abse interviews Dr. Becca Levy, professor of psychology at the Yale School of Public Health, expert on aging in America and author of the book *Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live*. Levy explores current research on ageism in this country as well as ways—both as individuals and as a society—we might mitigate its toxic effects. She is noted as being a pioneer on this important subject, one that focuses on “how positive and negative age stereotypes” in our culture can affect the health and well-being of all of us as we age.*

[The Blindness of “Color-Blindness”](#) [Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Atlantic*, 2 December 2022]

[\[COMMENTARY\]](#)

Affirmative action has been implemented in its various forms for well over half a century, for 75 percent of my existence, for nearly 40 percent of the years since the Emancipation Proclamation. The policy has changed the human landscape of our country, and especially that of higher education, where I have

spent most of my life. But now it was being challenged before a Supreme Court that every pundit predicted would overturn it.

[Brown University becomes first Ivy League school to add official caste protections](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, *NBC News*, 5 December 2022]

Brown University is the latest in a string of schools to add caste protections to their nondiscrimination policies, a measure aimed at giving Dalit students official channels to report bias. The private university in Providence, Rhode Island, is the first Ivy League school to mention casteism in its [general policy](#), according to the Dalit civil rights organization [Equality Labs](#). But the push for caste-equity has been sweeping schools and institutions all over the U.S. in the last few years.

[Education Dept. and AFGE Reach a Settlement on Dozens of Complaints Stemming From 2018 Management Edict](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 22 November 2022]

The nation's largest federal employee union last week announced that it had reached a settlement with the Education Department to resolve dozens of unfair labor practice complaints, arbitrated grievances and other litigation stemming from the department's 2018 unilateral imposition of a [draconian new contract](#).

[Feds to Allow HIV-Positive People to Serve in Public Health Roles](#) [Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 2 December 2022]

The Biden administration will no longer prevent individuals with HIV and hepatitis B from serving in federal public health rolls, [reversing longstanding policy](#). Those with chronic hepatitis B and HIV will now be eligible for roles within the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a division of the Health and Human Services Department. Developments that have made both viruses manageable conditions spurred the change, HHS said in an announcement that coincided with World AIDS Day.

[Former SpaceX employee alleges age discrimination in complaint](#) [Loren Grush, *Los Angeles Times*, 30 November 2022]

A former SpaceX employee is alleging in an essay published Wednesday that he experienced ageism while working at the Elon Musk-run company and has filed a complaint claiming discrimination with Washington state authorities. John Johnson said he first came to the company in 2018 to work as a principal engineer in optics and early on got "consistently solid" performance reviews. "I was quite hardcore," he wrote in the essay published on the whistleblower site Lioness.

[House passes Respect for Marriage Act, sending landmark marriage equality bill to Biden](#) [Melissa Quinn, *CBS News*, 8 December 2022]

The House on Thursday approved legislation that provides federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages, sending the landmark bill to President Biden's desk for his signature and capping a decades-long shift in Americans' attitudes toward gay marriage. The bill repeals the Clinton-era Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits and recognition to same-sex couples, and it safeguards marriages by requiring that valid marriages are recognized regardless of "sex, race, ethnicity or national origin."

[Interracial marriages to get added protection under new law](#) [Denise Lavoy, *The Associated Press*, 7 December 2022]

One day in the 1970s, Paul Fleisher and his wife were walking through a department store parking lot when they noticed a group of people looking at them. Fleisher, who is White, and his wife, who is Black, were used to “the look.” In the more than half-century since, interracial marriage has become more common and far more accepted. So Fleisher was surprised that Congress felt the need to include an additional protection in the Respect for Marriage Act, which goes to the House for a vote expected Thursday. It would ensure that not only same-sex marriages, but also interracial marriages, are enshrined in federal law.

[Latest Twitter lawsuit says company targeted women for layoffs](#) [Daniel Wiessner, *Reuters*, 8 December 2022]

Twitter Inc has been hit with another lawsuit stemming from the recent purging of half its workforce, this one accusing the social media company of disproportionately targeting female employees for layoffs. The proposed class action filed late on Wednesday in San Francisco federal court said that after Twitter was taken over by Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, it laid off 57% of its female workers compared to 47% of men.

[LULAC sues Houston over lack of Latino representation on the City Council](#) [Suzanne Gamboa, *NBC News*, 6 December 2022]

The nation’s oldest Latino civil rights organization accused the city of Houston in a federal lawsuit of denying Latinos fair representation by allowing voters citywide to elect five council members. The lawsuit filed Monday by the League of United Latin American Citizens alleges the use of at-large districts—where all voters across the city can vote for the candidates, instead of voters within a specific district—violates the Voting Rights Act.

[A Positive HIV Test Shattered His Dreams of Serving in the U.S. Army. Now He’s Suing](#) [Jordan Gonsalves, *TIME*, 1 December 2022]

Living with HIV automatically disqualifies a person from joining the armed forces. That means there’s no record of the number of people who have intent to enlist but don’t even try because they know there’s no point, due to Department of Defense (DOD) policies. On Nov. 10, 2022, Lambda Legal, a legal organization focused on LGBTQ+ civil rights, filed a class-action lawsuit against DOD over its policy banning civilians living with HIV from joining the military.

[A Union and the EEOC Have Reached a Settlement Over the Agency’s Failure to Negotiate Office Reentry](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 5 December 2022]

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the American Federation of Government Employees last week reached a settlement agreement to resolve unfair labor practice complaints stemming from the agency’s failure to negotiate with the union over its return to office procedures earlier this year.

DIVERSITY

[As DOJ, GSA publicly report on Section 508 progress, U.S. Access Board driving change](#) [Jason Miller, *Federal News Network*, 30 November 2022]

For the first time in a decade, the Department of Justice will issue a report on agency progress in meeting accessibility requirements under Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. DOJ told the Senate Special Committee on Aging in a [Nov. 14 letter](#) that it has been working with the General

Services Administration and will release the mandated report in the coming weeks. Without a doubt, the results will be mixed across the board as accessibility has been [swept under the radar](#) for much of the past decade

[Employment helps adults with intellectual disabilities see what they're capable of](#) [Hunter Lacy, NPR, 5 December 2022] [PHOTO ESSAY]

In recent years, I have become interested with the world of meaningful employment for adults with disabilities. What does it look like? Is it possible for their unemployment rate to lower? How can more companies employ neurodiverse individuals? My interest stems from my connection to my brother Chase. I know and love Chase, as well as his friends. I want them to experience as full a life as anyone else. The difficult moments come when I remember that Chase cannot work—he is too cognitively disabled to understand the concept of a job much less hold one down.

[GovExec Daily: Making Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work for the Federal Workforce](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 8 December 2022] [PODCAST]

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order directing a comprehensive reimagining of how the federal government encourages diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility among the federal workforce. The phrase “diversity, equity, inclusion and inclusion” is often misunderstood, but the Biden order brings forward policy and establishes pathways for DEIA goals to be achieved at agencies. As part of Government Executive’s State of the Federal Workforce event recently, I spoke to Dr. Janice Underwood, Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility at the Office of Personnel Management.

[Not Many Federal Law Enforcement Officers Are Women. The Marshals Service Is Looking to Change That](#) [Courtney Bublé, *Government Executive*, 30 November 2022]

The Marshals Service is looking to ease these and other challenges for its female officers with another first: In September, it became the first federal law enforcement agency (and the 200th overall) to sign onto the 30x30 Pledge, a nationwide initiative launched in March 2021 that seeks to increase the representation of women in recruitment classes for law enforcement—a field long dominated by men at all levels—to 30% by 2030.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[A Proclamation on International Day of Persons With Disabilities, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 2 December 2022]

Here in the United States, people with disabilities are three times less likely to be employed, and those who are employed often earn less than their peers for doing the same work. Public spaces, including transit systems and voting locations, are still often inaccessible. And across the globe, disabled people routinely face violence, harassment, exploitation, abuse, and other barriers to their full participation in society.

[Same-sex households in the U.S. surpass 1 million for the first time, data shows](#) [Brooke Sopelsa, *NBC News*, 30 November 2022]

The number of same-sex couple households in the U.S. has surpassed 1 million for the first time, according to recently released government data. There were more than 1.2 million same-sex couple households across the country in 2021, up from 540,000 in 2008, an increase of 120%, the data, taken from the [Census Bureau’s annual American Community Survey](#), showed.

[This officer is the first woman to serve as XO of a submarine](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Military Times*, 1 December 2022]

A woman is serving as the executive officer of a submarine for the first time—just over 10 years after the Silent Service opened to women. Lt. Cmdr. Amber Cowan, who joined the Navy in 2010, reported for duty to the ballistic missile submarine Kentucky, based out of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington, as its executive officer Nov. 12.

[U.S. House Democrats elect Hakeem Jeffries as first Black party leader](#) [Richard Cowan and Moira Warburton, *Reuters*, 30 November 2022]

Hakeem Jeffries was unanimously elected on Wednesday to become the Democratic Party's top leader in the U.S. House of Representatives beginning in January, making him the first Black American to hold such a high-ranking position in Congress.

EXTREMISM

[Colorado gay club shooting suspect charged with hate crimes](#) [Colleen Slevin, *The Associated Press*, 6 December 2022]

The suspect accused of entering a Colorado gay nightclub clad in body armor and opening fire with an AR-15-style rifle, killing five people and wounding 17 others, was charged by prosecutors Tuesday with 305 criminal counts including hate crimes and murder. Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, sat upright in a chair during the hearing and appeared alert. In an earlier court appearance just a few days after the shooting, the defendant's head and face were covered with bruises and Aldrich had to be prompted by attorneys to respond to questions from a judge.

[Domestic extremism is rare in the military, "but it is an issue"](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military.com*, 7 December 2022]

The Pentagon is still working on getting an idea of just how common extremist activity and affiliations are among service members. Total complaints have numbered in the hundreds over the past few years, but experts warn that even low prevalence still poses a risk, given the military's unique position. By the numbers, the services reviewed 211 reports in fiscal year 2022. Half of those were referred to civilian law enforcement, and another quarter were handled by military judicial or administrative action.

[How to address antisemitic rhetoric when you encounter it](#) [Wynne Davis, *NPR*, 1 December 2022]

In April, the Anti-Defamation League released a report saying that antisemitism had reached an all-time high in the United States in 2021. More than 2,700 antisemitic incidents were reported to the organization that has been tracking these occurrences since 1979. With this type of hateful rhetoric on the rise, it's important to not let comments pass by when you hear them. But there's a big difference between rebuking a celebrity online and confronting a friend or acquaintance in person. So, what can you do?

[Man who punched Asian woman more than 100 times sentenced to 17.5 years in prison](#) [Nicki Brown, *CNN*, 30 November 2022]

A man seen in surveillance video punching an elderly Asian woman more than 100 times and stomping on her body in Yonkers, New York, has been sentenced to more than 17 years in state prison, prosecutors announced Tuesday. Graphic surveillance video of the incident posted by Yonkers police

*shows the brutal March 11 attack, which took place after the 67-year-old woman, who is of Filipino descent, walked past Esco. Prosecutors said he called her “Asian b*tch” shortly before the attack.*

[The Military Still Has No Good Way to Spot Extremist Recruits and Troops on Social Media](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 6 December 2022]

The Pentagon still hasn't implemented a social media vetting process to identify extremists trying to join the ranks despite a high-profile push to root out the activity by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, according to a new think tank report released Tuesday. Social media posts could provide the military with important indicators of who is participating in violent domestic extremism, the [Center for a New American Security](#), based in Washington, D.C., said in the report. But the services do not have a uniform standard to apply to such screening, and the virtual world is beset with challenges such as confirming identities and sorting out pseudonyms.

[Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes found guilty of seditious conspiracy](#) [Robert Legare, *CBS News*, 29 November 2022]

Founder of the far-right Oath Keepers group Stewart Rhodes and co-defendant Kelly Meggs were convicted of seditious conspiracy and other charges related to the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol attack on Tuesday—the most serious charges any defendants have faced in the wake of the riot.

[A Texas man was arrested and charged for threatening a Boston doctor who provides care to the transgender community](#) [Amanda Musa and Christina Maxouris, *CNN*, 3 December 2022]

The FBI on Friday arrested a Texas man who allegedly called and threatened a Boston doctor who was providing care to transgender individuals, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts [said in a news release](#). Matthew Jordan Lindner, 38, has been charged with one count of transmitting interstate threats and is scheduled to appear at a federal court in Boston at “a later date,” the release said.

[Two men, one a descendant of Holocaust survivor, indicted in connection with threat to attack NYC synagogue](#) [Lauren del Valle, Eric Levenson and Kristina Sgueglia, *CNN*, 7 December 2022]

A grand jury indicted two men—one of whom is Jewish and a descendant of a Holocaust survivor—in connection with an online threat last month to attack a synagogue in New York City. Christopher Brown and Matthew Mahrer were both indicted on charges of conspiracy and weapons possession. Brown also was charged with a felony count of making terroristic threats as a hate crime, and possession of a weapon as a crime of terrorism, among other charges.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Can younger workers speak up without managers bristling?](#) [Nicole Kobie, *BBC Worklife*, 7 December 2022]

As millennials and Gen Zers make up more of the workforce each year, there's one big difference emerging that sets them apart from their predecessors. Unlike the generations that came before them, these younger workers are more eager to be heard in the workplace, [whether that's suggesting improvements or innovations; questioning salary and benefits](#), such as flexible working; and even pressing on larger issues, such as [company values](#) and [diversity](#). Yet while younger workers want to be heard more than ever, they face an underlying paradox: despite the desire to speak up—and often

encouragement from employers and colleagues alike to do so—it's not as simple as coming forward to raise a concern or advocate for themselves.

INTERNATIONAL

[Feminists are protesting against the wave of anti-feminism that's swept South Korea](#) [Ashley Ahn, NPR, 3 December 2022]

Feminists in South Korea are planning to conduct nationwide protests against gender-based violence this weekend, the first to occur simultaneously in several major cities since the pandemic. It's a response to an anti-feminist wave that has swept across South Korea, creating a tense gender war where discourse around women's rights is taboo and men claim they are now the victims of gender discrimination.

[For Indonesia's transgender community, faith can be a source of discrimination—but also tolerance and solace](#) [Sharyn Graham Davies, *The Conversation*, 6 December 2022]

Shinta Ratri, an Indonesian transgender woman, taught transgender people at the Al-Fatah Islamic boarding school she founded in 2008 that God didn't care if you were gay or transgender. Located in Yogyakarta, in southern Java, the school provided a safe space in a country where faith and transgender identities are often seen to be incompatible. Even though Indonesia transitioned to a secular democracy in 1998, all adults have to carry an identity card that clearly states their religion.

[Germany arrests 25 accused of plotting coup](#) [Paul Kirby, *BBC News*, 7 December 2022]

The group of far-right and ex-military figures are said to have prepared for a "Day X" to storm the Reichstag parliament building and seize power. A man named as Heinrich XIII, from an old aristocratic family, is alleged to have been central to their plans. The plotters are said to include members of the extremist Reichsbürger [Citizens of the Reich] movement, which has long been in the sights of German police over violent attacks and racist and antisemitic conspiracy theories. They also refuse to recognise the modern German state.

[Japan court upholds ban on same-sex marriage but raises rights issue](#) [BBC News, 30 November 2022]

A Tokyo court has upheld a ban on same-sex marriage in Japan, but also said that the ban was a violation of human rights. The compensation case was brought by four couples who claimed the law was discriminatory. Japan is currently the only G7 nation that does not recognise same-sex marriage. Campaigners have welcomed the ruling as an indication to the government that it needs to change to change the law.

[New Zealand says self-identity enough for transgender athletes in community sport](#) [Reuters, 5 December 2022]

Transgender athletes will be able to participate in community sport in New Zealand in the gender they identify with and not need to prove or justify their identity, according to guiding principles released by Sport New Zealand (SNZ) on Tuesday. The guidelines do not apply to elite sport and it will be up to individual sports to define where and how transgender athletes participate, the governing body said.

[Ngozi Fulani: Lady Susan Hussey's race comments were abuse, says charity boss](#) [BBC News, 1 December 2022]

A Black British charity boss who was repeatedly asked where she was “really” from at a royal reception has told the BBC the encounter was “abuse”. Ngozi Fulani was questioned about her background by Lady Susan Hussey, Prince William’s godmother, at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday. The late Queen’s lady-in-waiting has since resigned. Ms Fulani likened the conversation with Lady Hussey, 83, to “an interrogation”.

[Russian parliament passes law banning “LGBT propaganda” among adults](#) [Reuters, 24 November 2022]

Russia’s parliament approved on Thursday a bill that widens a prohibition of “LGBT propaganda” and restricts the “demonstration” of LGBT behaviour, making any expression of an LGBT lifestyle almost impossible. Under the new law, which still needs the approval of the upper house of parliament and President Vladimir Putin, any action or information that is considered an attempt to promote homosexuality—whether in public, online, or in films, books or advertising—could incur a heavy fine.

MISCELLANEOUS

[The Defense Department Finally Has a Permanent Watchdog](#) [Courtney Bubl , Government Executive, 5 December 2022]

After almost seven years, the Defense Department has a confirmed, permanent watchdog. On November 30, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Robert Storch to be Defense inspector general. He was most recently the National Security Agency IG and before that, deputy IG and whistleblower ombudsperson at the Justice Department. He also held leadership roles on the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

[FEVS survey: Satisfaction down, engagement steady](#) [Federal Soup, 5 December 2022]

Just 10 federal agencies reported gains in the global satisfaction score over this last year, according to the [most recent Federal Employees Viewpoint Survey](#)—and none of those agencies are at the top end of the agency size spectrum. More than 550,000 feds participated in the wide-ranging survey of their views on their work, workplaces and leadership. The Global Satisfaction Index across government employers dropped from an average of 64 to 62. A disappointing result, considering the broad features of work life covered by this particular gauge.

[How does military life affect teens? Landmark study aims to find out.](#) [Karen Jowers, Military Times, 6 December 2022]

About 40,000 military members and veterans with children ages 11 to 17 are being invited to participate in a [Defense Department study](#) that looks at the health and well-being of military-connected youth and their families. These parents are getting their invitations by email and through postal mail. Parents will be provided information about signing in to take the confidential online survey. The Study of Adolescent Resilience, or SOAR, is part of the largest and longest-running health research in military history, the Department of Defense Millennium Cohort Study.

[How We Breathe Is the Key to an Effective New Treatment for Anxiety and PTSD](#) [Blake Stilwell, Military.com, 1 December 2022]

While treatments for PTSD have improved since the start of the Global War On Terrorism, incidences of PTSD and anxiety disorder have risen dramatically, as high as 327% between 2000 and 2012. Incidences of trauma can lead to major depressive disorders, substance abuse, poor social function and

suicide. Freespira, a new digital treatment, may offer an effective treatment for panic disorder, anxiety disorders and PTSD. Freespira is a 28-day treatment that retrains patients with certain disorders to build a kind of muscle memory that normalizes how they breathe.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Study recruits troops to see how sleep deprivation affects the brain](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 6 December 2022]

A high-tech MRI may be able to detect precisely how brain function changes with lack of sleep. It's part of a [troop study getting underway](#) at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Researchers will use General Electric's MRI system Microstructure Anatomy Gradient for Neuroimaging with Ultrafast Scanning—or MAGNUS—to watch the brains of both healthy sleepers and the chronically sleep-deprived to see if the process the brain undergoes to clear out “waste” every night is affected by insomnia.

[White House looks to accelerate AI in government through its “Bill of Rights”](#) [Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, 5 December 2022]

The White House in October released its [blueprint for a “Bill of Rights”](#) for the design, development and deployment of AI and other automated systems. The AI Bill of Rights outlines what more than a dozen agencies will do to ensure AI tools deployed in and out of government align with privacy rights and civil liberties. The administration, as part of those efforts, is working on new federal procurement policy and guidance, to ensure agencies purchase and implement AI and automation tools that transparent and free of bias.

RACISM

[Atlanta school under federal investigation after allegations principal assigned Black students to classes based on race](#) [Nick Valencia, *CNN*, 1 December 2022]

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has launched an investigation into an Atlanta public elementary school after allegations the principal was assigning Black students to certain classes. In the letter provided to CNN, the Office for Civil Rights said it will investigate [allegations of discrimination based on race](#) and whether Atlanta Public Schools subjected students at the school “to different treatment based on race.” It will also look into whether the district retaliated against the complainant.

[NYC subway rider beaten and called a racial slur for refusing to give up his seat, police say](#) [Marlene Lethang, *NBC News*, 2 December 2022]

Two New York City teenagers were charged with hate crime assault after they allegedly beat a subway passenger who refused to give up his seat and directed anti-Asian statements toward him, police said. Dream Commisso, 19, was arrested Tuesday on charges of hate crime assault, aggravated harassment, assault, menacing and harassment. A 17-year-old, who was not named due to his age, was arrested Thursday on the same charges.

RELIGION

[Appeals court weighs order to force Corps to accommodate Sikhs](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Military Times*, 2 December 2022]

At the core of oral arguments Tuesday about religious accommodations for Sikhs at Marine boot camp was one question: If the other service branches let Sikhs wear their hair and beards long, why won't the Marine Corps follow suit? Three Sikh men—who have signed up for the Marine Corps but have not yet shipped off—sued in April for religious accommodations that would allow them to enter boot camp with long hair, turbans, beards and steel bracelets in accordance with Sikh practice.

[Beyond beliefs: does religious faith lead to a happier, healthier life?](#) [David Robson, *The Guardian*, 3 December 2022]

*In his *Pensées*, published posthumously in 1670, the French philosopher Blaise Pascal appeared to establish a foolproof argument for religious commitment, which he saw as a kind of bet. If the existence of God was even minutely possible, he claimed, then the potential gain was so huge – an “eternity of life and happiness”—that taking the leap of faith was the mathematically rational choice. Pascal’s wager implicitly assumes that religion has no benefits in the real world, but some sacrifices. But what if there were evidence that faith could also contribute to better wellbeing? Scientific studies suggest this is the case. Joining a church, synagogue or temple even appears to extend your lifespan.*

[Bodhi Day: Practice loving kindness on day of enlightenment](#) [Candace McKibben, *The Tallahassee Democrat (Tallahassee, Fla.)*, 2 December 2022]

The winter holidays we have entered are a time for fellowship, joy, and for religious people around the world, worship. For many Buddhists, including those in Japan and Western countries, Bodhi Day is a holy day celebrated on Dec. 8, and marks the day that Siddhartha Gautama, a prince in northern India destined to become the next king, became the Buddha through the attainment of enlightenment. The word “bodhi” means awakening or enlightenment.

[Orthodox Judaism can still be a difficult world for LGBTQ Jews—but in some groups, the tide is slowly turning](#) [Orit Avishai, *The Conversation*, 5 December 2022]

Yeshiva University, the storied modern Orthodox Jewish university in New York City, is in the midst of a legal battle over its refusal to recognize the YU Pride Alliance, an undergraduate club. While YU does not object to LGBTQ students’ presence, it claims that the club is inconsistent with Jewish teachings. The Pride Alliance sued the university for discrimination in 2021, and YU countered that being required to give the club official status would violate religious freedom.

[Web designer opposed to gay marriage at center of U.S. Supreme Court clash](#) [Andrew Chung, *Reuters*, 2 December 2022]

The wedding websites that Colorado-based web designer Lorie Smith would like to create for clients might offer ceremony details, pictures, a story about the couple and a biblical quote celebrating how through marriage they “become one flesh.” They would not, however, show same-sex nuptials. Smith, an evangelical Christian who believes marriage is only between a man and a woman, has taken her fight to refuse to make wedding websites for same-sex couples and to advertise that policy to the U.S. Supreme Court in a major case to be argued on Monday. Smith is appealing lower court rulings backing Colorado.

SEXISM

[GovExec Daily: Why Women Execs Are Leaving Their Jobs During the “Great Breakup”](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 29 November 2022] [PODCAST]

*The “Great Resignation” has not affected everyone equally across the American workforce. According to data from Leanin.org, the gap between women and men in senior roles quitting their jobs is the largest it’s ever been. Things like burnout and workplace stress have affected women leaders quite a bit since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Barbie Winterbottom is a Forbes council member, HR and talent acquisition expert and the author of the book *The Five Imperatives*. She joined the podcast to discuss how women are experiencing the pandemic in the workplace.*

[The trust crisis facing women leaders](#) [Josie Cox, *BBC News*, 30 November 2022]

More women than ever before are running the world’s biggest companies, but research shows that the rise in representation has been accompanied by a fall in trust in female leaders. It paints a grim picture for those who manage to break through the metaphorical glass ceiling. In November, new data from [The Reykjavik Index for Leadership](#), an annual survey that compares how men and women are viewed in terms of their suitability for positions of power, showed trust in women leaders has fallen markedly throughout the past year. It’s the first decline in this measure since Kantar Public, an evidence and advisory public-policy business, started collecting data in 2018.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Five soldiers with 10th Mountain Division jailed on rape charges](#) [*Military Times*, 2 December 2022]

Five male soldiers assigned to 10th Mountain Division have been arrested and jailed on charges that they drugged and raped two women in Rosepine, Louisiana near Fort Polk. The two women told police that shortly after drinking alcohol with the soldiers they felt amplified effects of the alcohol and suspected their drinks had been laced with some kind of drug, according to the police statement. After the women were “incapacitated,” each soldier “engaged in non-consensual sexual contact” with both of the women, according to police.

[Major U.S. police departments plagued by officer-on-officer sexual abuse and retaliation](#) [Emily R. Siegel and Simone Weichselbaum, *NBC News*, 9 December 2022]

*The #MeToo movement sparked a societal reckoning against sexual misconduct, ushering in reforms designed to reduce workplace harassment and prompting the firing of abusive men in a variety of industries. But many women in law enforcement say the movement has yet to arrive. Sexual harassment and gender discrimination remain rife in some of the country’s largest police departments, and many of those accused of them don’t face significant punishment, according to an *NBC News* review of more than 60 lawsuits that were settled or won at trial, interviews with more than 15 female officers and an analysis of internal police documents.*

[Marine recruiter accused of sexually assaulting prospective recruit](#) [Irene Loewenson, *Military Times*, 2 December 2022]

A Marine recruiter in Arkansas was arrested Friday for allegedly using his position of trust and authority to have sex with an underage prospective recruit. Independence County police arrested Staff Sgt. Duncan Quade Weathers, 27, on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, according to Sheriff Shawn Stephens and court documents.

[Read the Full Report on the Washington Commanders \[Sexual Harassment Misconduct\]](#) [*The New York Times*, 8 December 2022]

A report by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform found that the Washington Commanders owner Daniel Snyder, aided by the NFL, worked to suppress evidence in an investigation of sexual harassment claims made against Snyder and the team. The committee also said Snyder went to extraordinary lengths to stall investigations into him and his team.

[\[REPORT\]](#)

[Virginia school superintendent fired after investigation into sexual assault against students](#) [Matthew Barakat, *The Associated Press*, 7 December 2022]

A northern Virginia school board has fired its superintendent after a [special grand jury accused him](#) of lying to the board about the sexual assault of a student. The Loudoun County School Board voted unanimously Tuesday night to fire Scott Ziegler after holding a closed session.

SUICIDE

[4 Navy sailors assigned to same facility die by apparent suicide within weeks, amid growing concerns of mental health crisis](#) [Melissa Chan, *NBC News*, 1 December 2022]

At least four U.S. Navy sailors assigned to the same facility in Virginia died by suicide in the last few weeks, including one as recently as Saturday, military officials and family members said. It is the latest cluster of Navy suicides this year to spark concerns of a fleetwide mental health crisis.

[DOD Begins Hiring “Prevention” Workforce](#) [DOD News Service, 30 November 2022]

Last month the Defense Department released the Annual Report on Suicide in the Military for 2021, which showed a 15% decrease in suicides from 2020 to 2021. But that hasn't meant the department can shift focus away from suicide prevention, the deputy secretary of defense said. One example of work being done by the department involves creating the healthy climates necessary to address a range of problematic and harmful behaviors, including suicide. This will be accomplished, in part, with a new and dedicated primary prevention workforce focused on community-based prevention.

VETERANS

[Hawaii Remembrance Draws Handful of Pearl Harbor Survivors](#) [Audrey McAvoy, *The Associated Press*, 7 December 2022]

A handful of centenarian survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor joined about 2,500 members of the public at the scene of the Japanese bombing on Wednesday to commemorate those who perished 81 years ago. The audience sat quietly during a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the same time the attack began on Dec. 7, 1941. Only six survivors attended, fewer than the dozen or more who have traveled to Hawaii from across the country for the annual remembrance ceremony in recent years. Part of the decline reflects the dwindling number of survivors as they age. The youngest active-duty military personnel on Dec. 7, 1941, would have been about 17, making them 98 today. Many of those still alive are at least 100.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Last of Mexico's “Aztec Eagles” World War II veterans dies at age 98](#) [*The Associated Press*, 1 December 2022]

The last veteran of Mexico's relatively small contingent of World War II veterans has died, Mexico's Defense Department announced Thursday. The department said former Sgt. Horacio Castilleja

Albarrán was 98 when he died Wednesday. A cause of death was not provided. Castilleja Albarrán was one of about 300 Mexican soldiers and airmen in Squadron 201, known as the Aztec Eagles, who were sent from Mexico to help in the U.S. war effort against Japan. The aircraft squadron fought alongside the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Philippines in 1945. Mexico was late to enter World War II, but declared war after German submarines sank several Mexican oil tankers.

[VA reviewing “unacceptable” racial disparity in veterans receiving benefits](#) [Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, 1 December 2022]

The Department of Veterans Affairs is working on a study focused on racial disparities in its benefits claims decisions—an issue that spans decades, according to a [federal lawsuit filed Monday](#). A lawsuit filed Monday with the U.S. District Court in Connecticut, and led by Yale Law School’s Veterans Legal Service Clinic, claims that between 2001 and 2020, the VA was more likely to reject the disability compensation claims of Black veterans than White veterans.