

RENMUN VII

Peace in Permanence



March 5-6, 2022

Chair Report

Chair Introduction

Greetings delegates,

It is truly a pleasure to welcome you all to the US Senate at RENMUN VII! We are Bill Koo and Valerie Yum, from Diocesan Boys School and Chinese International School respectively. We are delighted to have you for this conference and are honored to chair this committee. We look forward to seeing you (hopefully in person) and having fruitful debate!

The United States of America, being one of the P5 members, is an extremely important member of the United Nations. The United States Senate, defined as the upper chamber of Congress, is an extremely important organ that aims to protect the rights of individual states as well as safeguard minority opinion. Unlike other Model UN committees, the US Senate is composed of senators and not delegates, and even the rules of procedure are slightly different — bills are written instead of resolutions; motions of cloture must be made instead of motions to move into voting procedure; and unmoderated caucuses are mostly replaced by party caucuses.

Since the US Senate is an intermediate council, we hope that both novice and experienced delegates will be proactive in raising any questions about procedures, and the chairs will do their best to foster a welcoming environment for you all. Furthermore, if you have any enquiries about the topic, please feel free to email us.

Best wishes,

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Addressing the use of excessive force by law enforcement

Records suggest that labor strikes were the very first instances of excessive force by law enforcement in the United States, the most prominent examples being the Railroad Strike in 1877, the Pullman Strike of 1894, and the Great Steel Strike in 1919 – the list goes on. The situation has deeply worsened in the status quo, where many Americans see incidents of the use of excessive force by law enforcement as racially induced. What this means is that the perpetrators are more likely to use, in some cases, unjustifiable amounts of force because of the alleged victim's skin color. Cases like these are even more commonly seen since the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement, which made headlines recently after African-American George Floyd suffocated to death due to excessive force used by four police officers. The key details of this case will be addressed later on in this chair report.

The history of police brutality is described as “long and painful” by the Washington Post, where the source claims that people of African-American descent are 2.5 times more likely to be shot and killed by police officers when compared to their caucasian counterparts. To quote Martin Luther King Jr, he says in his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech that blacks “can never be satisfied as long as [they are] the victims of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.” This, in and of itself, accentuates the fact that racially induced violence (one of the key clashes that I will highlight later on in this chair report) from law enforcement is something that has existed and amassed for such a long time.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Black Lives Matter (BLM)	A social movement that advocates for equality for black people. The movement highlights incidents of racially motivated police brutality that highlights the discrimination against black people.
ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards)	This term was trending on social media alongside the #BlackLivesMatter that many Democratic senators and celebrities have endorsed. This term can also be represented as “1312” numerically.

	<p>The term is associated with dissidents who believe that all police officers, when wearing their uniforms, are not deemed racist, but are in support of a corrupt system. Those who use the term “ACAB” also agree that the police are simply failing to protect the vulnerable population of the country</p>
“No justice, no peace”	<p>A phrase that is chanted at BLM protests, emphasizing the need for systemic change regarding racially induced crimes, in order to serve justice to the African American population.</p>
Defunding the police	<p>The police system uses up billions of dollars from taxpayers, and it is argued that this sum of money could be reallocated to health care and education. Some claim that police officers’ most basic duty of preventing crimes simply is not practiced, and the role of the police, more superior and more authoritative than that of a regular citizen, allows for the law to protect them of their wrongdoings, George Floyd as a case in point.</p>
Excessive Force	<p>Excessive force is defined as “force in excess of what a police officer reasonably believes is necessary”. An example of this would be the illegal use of a baton and causing an assault and battery on a person.</p> <p>Excessive force can come in the forms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intimidation - Threats of violence - Racial profiling and other discriminatory acts - Illegal search and seizure - Assault and battery - Negligent police chases - Coerced confession - Unwarranted use of tasers or firearms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denial of medical assistance - Sexual assault or abuse - Wrongful death
Law Enforcement	<p>Law enforcement is defined as the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety.</p> <p>There are three main types of law enforcement, local, state, and federal. Local law enforcement agencies include police and sheriff departments. State agencies include the state or highway patrol. Federal agencies include the FBI and the U.S. Secret Service.</p>

Background Information

The US has struggled with law enforcement stretching back to the first instance in 1877 during the Railroad Strike. During these labor movement strikes, violence ensued as a response to conflict of whether union recognition would be extended – this included things like union members and their replacement workers who crossed picket lines.

Additionally, title 6 of the civil rights Act made it illegal for local (police and sheriff departments) and state (state or highway petrol) law enforcement officers to discriminate against a particular demographic of citizens ie. ethnicity, gender, nationality, affiliation etc. As deduced by the above, police brutality is defined as the excessive and unwarranted use of force by law enforcement.

Potential Clashes

The violence in the BLM protests

Some (arguably most) media have depicted the protestors of the BLM movement to be violent. By association, some now believe the misconception that the BLM movement, as a whole, is a violent one and therefore cannot be supported and endorsed by senators. Critics even say that the BLM protests were even more violent than the chaos that the 1960s civil rights movement ensued — where supporters fought to abolish institutionalised racial discrimination.

The extent to which force is considered “excessive”

The word excessive inherently denotes ambiguity, and this is a clash that is constantly debated. This term should be one that is defined on a case by case scenario, but we can analyze how two types of people determine whether a force is considered “excessive” or not. On one hand, BLM activists believe force is excessive due to racial profiling, meaning that police officers will exert “excessive” amounts of force because they believe that for example, a black man is more likely to have committed a crime compared to that of a caucasian man. On the other hand, statements from those in support of the police or those who believe racial profiling is not a systemic issue, indicate that force used was not “excessive” and was even appropriate when handling this case.

Acts of Self Defense

Individuals have the right to use self-defense as a legal justification for the use of force in times of danger. However, many have abused this right enshrined in the constitution, and so the Senate must clarify the boundaries of when an individual can use this avenue of legal defense. In the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, who fatally shot two men and heavily wounded another, his legal defense against charges of homicide was based upon this premise. This happened during the protests of the non-fatal shooting of a black man, Jacob Blake, by a white police officer. In court, Rittenhouse was charged with two counts of homicide, one count of attempted homicide, two counts of reckless endangerment, one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, and one count of curfew violation. However, the jury unanimously decided that Rittenhouse was not guilty of any of the above after the judge dismissed the unlawful possession charge and the curfew violation charge for being “legally unsupported”. Because the three men that Rittenhouse physically hurt were all caucasian, his crime was not accused of being racially induced. However, this case really highlights the extent to which self-defense should be allowed.

The reactions of other races (eg. Asians)

With BLM being largely successful, we must also consider the impact of affirmative action (such as but not limited to new laws being in place to benefit those of African American descent) on other races. For example, this can be seen in Black applicants now having a higher quota in elite universities compared to that of other racial minorities in the US, like Asians and Arabs etc. Evidence of this form of affirmative action can be seen in an open letter from current and former students at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) demanded that 25 percent of the school’s professors be black by 2022.

After incidents of police brutality or racially induced violence, BLM protests ensue, and the media collaboratively choose to report that instead of Asian hate crimes, for

example. This is important because Asian hate crimes are at an all time high due to Asians in the US being wrongfully deemed for so-called bringing COVID to America.

Funding towards law enforcement

On November 18th of 2021, the justice department just announced 139 million USD for law enforcement hiring to advance community policing. The police system is fully funded by taxpayers, and since some see the police as more of a threat towards citizens' personal safety than a body that aims to enforce stability and security within the communities, they argue that law enforcement bodies such as the police should be defunded and reallocated to other causes like health care and education.

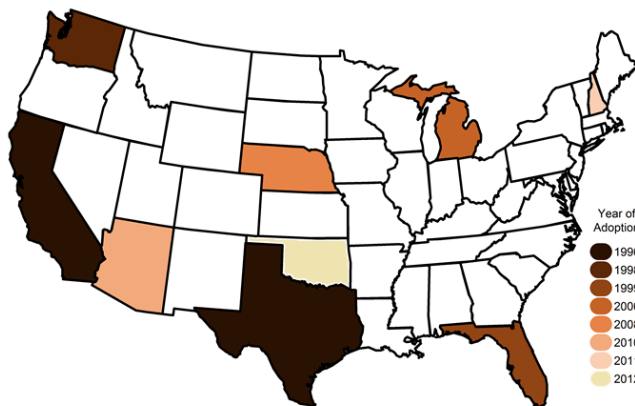
Culture of racial discrimination within some states

It's a fact that racial discrimination is evident in America Today. But what were the root causes and how did this come to be? To understand this better, we can look at the Civil Rights Movement. Protestors fought against black voter suppression as well as discriminatory employment laws, and a parallel can be drawn comparing this movement to the ongoing Black Lives Matter one, where protestors are dedicated to fighting for racial equality as well as anti-Black violence.

Ultimately, we know that discrimination is heavily ingrained with the US, but

The implications of affirmative action

States like California, Washington, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Idaho have outrightly banned affirmative action (below is a map that illustrates the aforementioned).



Seeing the negative effects of such makes us question why states choose to ban affirmative action in the first place. Through researching the ban in relation to a phenomenon of interest, undergraduate enrollment in this case, we understand that caucasians' enrollment share is heavily affected after adopting this ban. Furthermore,

if neighboring states adopt a ban, the state of interest is less likely to adopt a ban. It is also important to note that some states are unable to adopt this policy even if individuals advocate for the banning of race-based affirmative action.

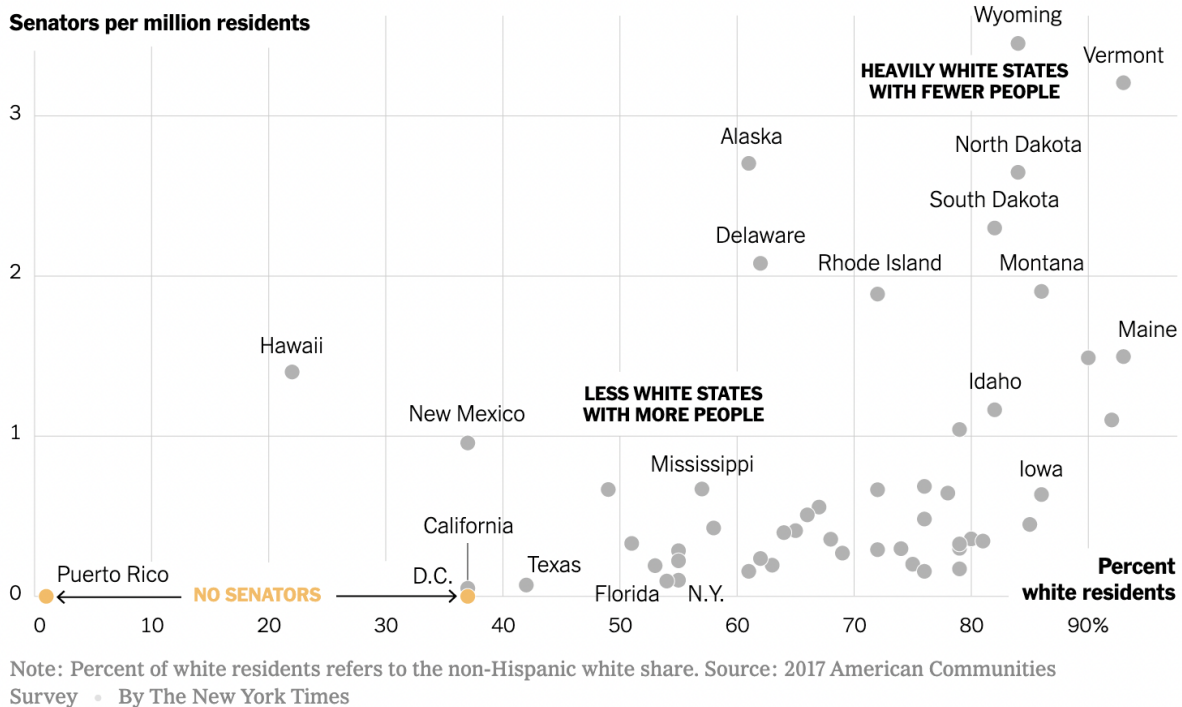
Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
African-Americans	African-Americans have long been the target of racially induced violence, whether during Black Lives Matter related crimes in recent years, or in history. Hence, this supports the fact that blacks are inherently prejudiced against in this scenario.
Democrats	<p>Over the past couple of years, Democrats have been known for their advocacy of racial liberalism. This includes their support of equal rights, fair housing laws and school busing etc, and this has cost them the support of some whites.</p> <p>See graph below for more detail.</p>
Republicans	<p>Republicans are known to deny the allegations of racially induced violence, claiming that law enforcement agencies exert different levels of force on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Mitch McConnell is currently being shamed by Democrats for refusing to let senators vote on a bill that would allow for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act's requirement. Protestors have gone so far enough to protest in McConnell's private backyard.</p> <p>Ted Cruz (R-TX) and John Kennedy (R-LA), are not in support of universities receiving federal funding if they had clear cut policies that undoubtedly discriminate against Asian-American students in admissions. Cruz</p>

	<p>states that "the ongoing discrimination that is being directed against Asian-Americans by colleges and universities across the country, including preeminent institutions such as Yale and Harvard."</p> <p>See graph below for more detail.</p>
Law Enforcement	<p>To elaborate on the aforementioned use of excessive force by law enforcement, it is important to establish that there are three main types of "law enforcement" agencies, and the police force is a relatively small body under this umbrella term. Police as well as sheriff departments are considered "local agencies", "state agencies" include the state or highway patrol, whereas federal agencies include organs like the US Secret Service as well as the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). The purpose of this paragraph is to clarify that police brutality is certainly the most common type of excessive violence by law enforcement, but to reestablish that they are only a sector of law enforcement and do not represent all the bodies of the government as mentioned above.</p>
Southern states	<p>Southern states are known to have especially polarizing views compared to the rest of the country. This can be seen in history where Southerners infamously ended the strong federal enforcement of equal rights, and even when they were not allowed to deprive African-Americans of voting, they found other ways to limit the rights of the black man and disenfranchised them as much as possible.</p>

How the Senate Favors White Americans

More populous states, whose power is diminished by the Senate's structure, tend to be more racially diverse. States with fewer people have a greater share of white residents. Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., have no senators and are both heavily nonwhite.



Above is a beautifully illustrated graph that represents “How the senate favors white Americans”. This is directly correlated to their views on Asians and other races.

Case Study

George Floyd

On May 25th 2021, George Floyd was caught using a counterfeit 20 dollar bill and was reported to 911 as “drunk”. This crucial detail is overlooked and this misunderstanding could have cost Floyd his life.

Four police officers arrive at the scene and Three of them kneel on Floyd, applying excessive pressure on his body to keep him from moving. One of the police officers, Chauvin, kneels on Floyd’s neck, and continues to do so after Floyd clearly says he “cannot breathe” and pedestrians film and yell “get off of him now”. Chauvin continues to kneel on him even after they have

	<p>called for medical assistance, and only stops kneeling on his neck one minute after the paramedics arrive on scene and ask him to remove his knee in order to check Floyd's pulse.</p> <p>Chauvin was later charged with 2nd degree murder and the 3 other police officers, Keung, Lane, and Thao, were aiding and abetting 2nd degree murder.</p> <p>Especially with footage taken by innocent bystanders who show no biases, the cry for justice was loud and clear, and incited protests all over the country. Floyd's death is seen as a wake up call for many, a symbol that racially induced violence is something that constantly happens across the country.</p>
Kyle Rittenhouse	<p>As aforementioned: Kyle Rittenhouse fatally shot two men and heavily wounded another, his legal defense against charges of homicide was based upon this premise. This happened during the protests of the non-fatal shooting of a black man, Jacob Blake, by a white police officer. In court, Rittenhouse was charged with two counts of homicide, one count of attempted homicide, two counts of reckless endangerment, one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, and one count of curfew violation. However, the jury unanimously decided that Rittenhouse was not guilty of any of the above after the judge dismissed the unlawful possession charge and the curfew violation charge for being "legally unsupported". Because the three men that Rittenhouse physically hurt were all caucasian, his crime was not accused of being racially induced. However, this case really highlights the extent to which self-defense should be allowed as we consider the use of excessive force from law enforcement.</p>

Possible Solutions

1. Affirmative action

Again, the extent of which this should be allowed (if at all) is still being debated all over the country, but this is a possible way we can alleviate the use of excessive force by law enforcement.

2. Defunding the police

One of the discussed solutions include defunding the police force, an agency of law enforcement. As discussed, some believe that they are not doing their duty of “protecting citizens” and instead bring more harm than good to society. Of course, the ways and extent of which this should be implemented, needs to be further discussed.

Past Actions

1. Civil Rights Movement (1963-1964)

Excessive force by law enforcement is often accused of being racially motivated, and so it is important to mention key events in US history where racism is largely protested against. An important figurehead and leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr, sought to fight against black voter suppression as well as the silencing of victims of police brutality. In the minister’s inspirational “I Have A Dream” speech, he imagines a world where racial discrimination and segregation cease to exist in the United States. Throughout his lifetime, he notably passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, where it bans racially induced discrimination in work places and public facilities. This was monumental at the time.

Guiding Questions

1. What measures should be taken to ensure that the violence happening from BLM protests are contained and not repeated?
2. What are the root causes of the use of excessive force by law enforcement?
3. What measures should be put into place to prevent systemic racism in the future?
4. What kinds of affirmative action are effective? What kinds should be allowed? Should they be allowed in all states?
5. When considering reforms regarding institutionalized racism, to what extent should the interests of other racial groups (such as Asians) be considered?

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