

Resolution Calling on State and Local Chapters to Adopt Using Accessible Digital Communications in Social Media Postings

Sponsors: Seamus Campbell (NY), Rebecca Pinn (MA)

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America are the youth arm of the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life, especially in politics; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America consists of and is represented by chapters on the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America understand some digital communications must be made and adapted in a manner and medium appropriate to meet each the needs of persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America understand social media is an essential tool for outreach to members and the public; and

WHEREAS, accessible digital communications allow for a larger audience to be reached; and

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act sets federal guidelines on best practices for creating accessible digital communications; and

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is the compliance level all government institutions and organizations receiving government funding must adopt; and

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, because of its widespread usage, has, effectively, become the standard used in the United States for digital communications to be accessible to persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, digital communications include content created on social media platforms; and

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires digital images shared on social media accounts to include a text-based alternative description of an image and its contents, commonly referred to as "alternative text" be included alongside the image; and

WHEREAS, the social media platform Twitter has an option to include alternative text in photos uploaded to its platform; and

WHEREAS, many social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram do not have the ability to add alternative text to photos uploaded to their respective platforms but do allow users to include long descriptions of images in lieu of alternative text; and

WHEREAS, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires videos have closed captioning; and

WHEREAS, both the social media platforms of YouTube and Facebook both have tools to automatically generate closed captions for videos added to their respective platforms.

WHEREAS, the necessary amount of additional work to create accessible content for social media will be minimal; therefore,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America call on its local and state chapters to begin creating accessible social media content in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disability Issues Caucus of the Young Democrats of America may be called upon to be a resource for assistance and training in how to create accessible social media content; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disability Issues Caucus of the Young Democrats of America, are called upon to provide online resources on creating accessible social media content within the next ten (10) business days to state and local chapters; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that should the Board of Directors of the Young Democrats of America deem it necessary, training sessions at future meetings and conventions of the Young Democrats of America will be conducted on creating accessible social media content.

A Resolution Urging Congressional Passage of Legislation that classifies “Lynching” as a federal hate crime, and condemns recent acts of violence and intimidation towards African-Americans and other religious and ethnic minorities.

Sponsored by: YDA Southeast Region Director Ryan Terrell (FL), YDA Jewish Caucus Chair Melanie Tolchin (FL), YDA LGBTQA Caucus Chair Carrie McFadden (CA), YDA National Committeeman Morgan Jameson (VA), Jake Sanders (FL), Lauren Calmet (FL), Luke Boggs (GA), Justin Holsomback (GA), Clayton Brown (KY), Lauren Tussey (KY), Seth Woods (KY), Colby Moore (NC), Jeni Atchley (SC), Celia Morgan (TX), Adam Strider (WV)

Whereas, The crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction.

Whereas, Lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the United States until the middle of the 20th century.

Whereas, Lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the United States, with documented incidents in all but 4 States.

Whereas, At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968, with the vast majority of cases occurring in the states that comprise the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and South-Central regions of the Young Democrats of America.

Whereas, 99 percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials.

Whereas, Lynching prompted African-Americans to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to as the “NAACP”) and prompted members of B’nai B’rith to found the Anti-Defamation League.

Whereas, mainstream news sources have reported a rise in racist, anti- Semitic, homophobic, sexist, and transphobic crimes and demonstrations since the election of President Donald Trump, including but not limited to: the KKK rally in Georgia, the rally in Charlottesville, the shooting in Pittsburgh, the vandalism of a Jewish professor at Columbia University, and the recent so-

called “joke” about attending a lynching that a Republican Senator made in Mississippi.

Whereas, United States Senators Kamala Harris of California, Corey Booker of New Jersey, and Tim Scott of South Carolina, who together are the 3 elected African-American members of the United States Senate, introduced the “Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018” earlier this year.

Whereas, the Young Democrats of America will meet at a national meeting on the dates of November 30 to December 2, 2018 in Little Rock, Arkansas, a location that served a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-twentieth century. Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Young Democrats of America condemns all acts of violence and intimidation, including lynching, against African Americans and other religious and ethnic minority groups.

Be it also resolved, the Young Democrats of America calls on all Democrats in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to support the “Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018”

Be it also resolved, the Young Democrats of America continues to condemn the Ku Klux Klan, neo-confederate groups, neo-nazis, and all organizations that seek to stoke fear and violence to marginalized groups.

Be it also resolved, the Young Democrats of America National Committee instructs the Issue Advocacy Director and all other relevant officers and committees to prioritize the passage of anti-lynching legislation as part of our ongoing issue advocacy work.