

Battle of the Sexes- Conservative Yoon wins South Korean Presidential election on strong anti-feminist platform

What?

South Korea's Presidential election was won by Yoon Suk-yeol, a prosecutor who had never previously held elected office. Yoon's People Power Party has a more aggressive view of foreign policy, which could signal a shift in relations with North Korea. Yoon explicitly sought out the votes of disgruntled young men and promises to abolish the ministry of gender equality, believing that South Korean women do not suffer from systemic gender discrimination. This is despite South Korea having the largest [gender pay gap](#) among OECD countries. In an election decided by less than 1 percent of the vote, there was a massive difference along gender lines for younger voters with 58.7 percent of men in their 20s voting for Yoon but just 36.3 percent of women in their 20s.

So What?

If this development were to become a dominant trend, diversity and inclusion could become some of the most charged issues in politics and politicians could get into power based on promises to roll back progress on women's rights. These developments come at a time when LGBTQ and reproductive rights are under serious threat in the United States and "woke-isme" is regularly maligned in French political circles during a tense Presidential campaign. These developments are a threat to the livelihoods of those working within government to promote gender equality and other forms of inclusivity. The outright denial of disadvantage or discrimination by leading officials is a potential threat to evidence-based discussion around inequities. The stark difference between men's and women's voting patterns could become a challenging social cleavage that could bleed into many sectors and impede social policy.

Source:

[Conservative Yoon wins tight South Korean presidential race \(msn.com\)](#)

Gen Zers are tuning in to TikTok to learn about forgotten Black history

What

As communities around the country continue to discuss whether classroom curricula should include the role of race in the modern era, a new class of Black influencers has emerged on TikTok committed to picking up the slack in education about Black history. They share entertaining videos featuring forgotten lessons and firsthand stories about Black history. For example, a 24-year-old spoken word artist Nick Courmon has earned more than 100,000 followers on TikTok by informing viewers of little-known Black history figures using poetry — placing a special emphasis on spotlighting trailblazing Black women.

So What?

Kids today are expanding their knowledge and asking insightful questions in class thanks to social media. The younger generation's interest in Black history and the desire to seek out more information can act as a signal to parents, politicians and educators to take a different approach to the subject.

Sources

[Black creators use TikTok to teach forgotten Black history lessons \(today.com\)](#)

Related: [TikTok faces backlash following Black History Month event 'taken over by white creators': 'TikTok knew what they were doing' \(yahoo.com\)](#)

Rings of Power: Diversity was never an issue in Tolkien's world

What:

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power is an upcoming American [fantasy](#) television series based on stories by [J. R. R. Tolkien](#). The series is primarily based on the [appendices](#) of *The Lord of the Rings*, which include discussion of the Second Age, and it features a large, diverse cast from around the world. Tolkien's works were never defined by the color of Middle-earth characters. Accused of "wokism", of "well-thinking", of being a product of a "politically correct" time, this new iteration of the Lord of the Rings franchise under the aegis of the e-commerce giant Amazon, is under the fire of controversy for its casting choices. A controversy that feeds particularly on various current tensions in the face of major cultural and social upheavals, nourished by the struggles for the representation of diversity and women in front of and behind the screens, which have been operating for about ten years and which has accelerated since the advent of MeToo. As a result, many are offended at the idea of seeing a black-skinned Wood Elf, a black dwarf princess as well, when in their minds the Lord of the Rings universe cannot be a world where diversity exists.

So what:

If this situation were to become a dominant trend, diversity and inclusion could become some of the most charged issues in culture. In a world where one asks to be open to the culture of the other, requiring that cultural representations can only be made by people of origin could lead to a question of identity. This way of thinking is a threat to concepts such as citizenship, nationality, and belonging.

Sources:

[Anneaux de Pouvoir : La diversité n'a jamais été un problème dans le monde de Tolkien \(braindamaged.fr\)](#)

SiriusXM sued for failing to provide podcast transcripts for Deaf users

What

The Satellite radio giant SiriusXM has been sued by deaf advocacy groups for the failure of its podcasts to include transcripts for members of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. According to the complaint, shows done by Sirius subsidiaries- Pandora and Stitcher are in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by excluding those who cannot hear from experiencing podcasts without providing reasonable accommodation (like transcripts).

So What?

This lawsuit marks a shift in the way Broadcasters and creators need to re-look at their approach to accessibility of audio distribution. Transcripts are no longer a “nice to have” and they are becoming a requirement on demand. Transcriptions are the building blocks if the future of audio distribution and have relevance beyond accessibility in terms of boosting SEO. They can also benefit multi-modal learners who retain knowledge better by using multiple senses—in this case, using their ears and eyes to take things in.

Sources:

[SiriusXM sued for failing to provide podcast transcripts for Deaf users - The Verge](#)

[SiriusXM Lawsuit Over Inaccessible Podcasts Underscores The Need For Transcripts Accessible To Everyone \(forbes.com\)](#)

Related:

[Are Transcriptions the Building Blocks for the Future of Audio Distribution? | by Omny Studio team | Omny Studio blog](#)

Translating in real-time, Waverly Labs provides subtitles for in-person transactions

What

Translation tech startup Waverly Labs has created Subtitles — a counter-top screen that provides real-time translation for in-person interactions.

It says on its website: “With a two-sided screen providing near real-time translation to each person on either side, Subtitles is the perfect solution for all customer service interactions.”

After a user selects their language, everything they and the person on the other side of the screen say is captured and translated within a few seconds, appearing as text on the opposite person's screen. The tool combines speech recognition and machine translation in 20 languages and 42 dialects and is fast enough to facilitate fluid conversations. Besides handling bilingual communication, Subtitles can also be used to connect with those who are hearing impaired.

So What?

By using a service like Subtitles, brands can both make daily transactions run more smoothly, and build stronger relationships with their customers. This allows for more diverse groups of people- like the bilingual or hearing impaired to access services with lesser friction.

Sources:

[Waverly Labs provides translated subtitles for in-person transactions \(trendwatching.com\)](https://www.trendwatching.com/news/2017/07/12/waverly-labs-provides-translated-subtitles-for-in-person-transactions)

[Subtitles \(waverlylabs.com\)](https://www.waverlylabs.com)

Twitter bot exposes gender pay gap in companies

What

On International Women's Day this year, a Twitter account, @PayGapApp that sent out hundreds of tweets calling out companies for their gender pay gap had gone viral. "Employers, if you tweet about International Women's Day, I'll retweet your gender pay gap," read the account's Twitter bio. Through its tweets, the Twitter bot reveals a company's internal gender pay gap, whether women are paid higher, lower, or equal to their male counterparts within the organization. Some organizations had deleted tweets that the pay gap account had highlighted, while others responded with their plans to address the pay gap.

So What?

Companies in the future will have to do more than marketing stunts to empower and celebrate women. The virality of the @PayGapApp bot shows that people want more transparency when it comes to pay. The creators of the bot said that they created the bot to empower employees and members of the public to hold these companies to account for their role in perpetuating inequalities. Transparency of data in public can make a difference and help in demanding accountability from employers.

Sources:

[Twitter Bot Highlights Gender Pay Gap One Company at a Time - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/08/technology/twitter-bot-gender-pay-gap.html)

[Woman tweets her salary in fight for pay transparency, pay equity | GMA \(goodmorningamerica.com\)](https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/women/2022/03/08/woman-tweets-her-salary-in-fight-for-pay-transparency-pay-equity-gma-1161161161)

Related:

[2022 State of the Gender Pay Gap Report - Payscale Research](https://www.payscale.com/research/2022/State-of-the-Gender-Pay-Gap-Report)

Webex's New Features Aim To Create 'A More Inclusive Collaboration Experience' For Virtual Meetings

What

Webex recently announced a series of innovations and enhancements – with inclusivity, usability, and accessibility at the forefront. Some of the notable innovations are enhanced interpretation and Audio Intelligence.

Enhanced interpretation allows interpreters (and those who need them) to customize the experience such that it's inclusive of both parties. The functionality supports up to 110 languages and the user interface distinguishes interpreters from attendees and panelists with a unique icon. Interpreters can choose which direction they're facing, coordinate handoff with fellow interpreters, and more. As for

Audio Intelligence, it's designed to single out and boost the clarity of an individual's voice using Webex's proprietary AI technology. Users can select to optimize their own voice or optimize all voices with just a click or by keyboard shortcut.

So What?

Currently 15% of the global population lives with some form of disability. At some point in life, most of us will experience some form of temporary or permanent disability. An accessibility issue that excludes one person is often a pain point for others, so designing for those who do not have perfect vision, hearing, cognition, or mobility improves the experience for all.

Sources:

[Webex's New Features Aim To Create 'A More Inclusive Collaboration Experience' For Virtual Meetings \(forbes.com\)](#)

[New innovations in Webex: accessible design creates a more inclusive collaboration experience](#)