

Transcript

Virtual Symposium: *Understanding and Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying*

Raising Your Voice for Good: Youth Against Bullying and Hate

October 18, 2023

Introduction

Moderator: Good afternoon! I think that it has been a wonderful two days, and I so appreciate your coming back to hear what I believe is the best panel you can hear from because this is our youth! This is our youth that have given their time to be able to present to you. So, my name is Tina, and I'll be your moderator for your final panel this afternoon. I am a U.S. Army veteran and have eight years as a juvenile justice professional. I currently work in the office of OJJDP as a senior program manager. Today, we are so excited to highlight a panel of youth who represent a diverse sector of the United States. They represent what is good, insightful, and rich about what happens when youth voices get a chance to share. This session's title is Raising Your Voice for Good: Youth Against Bullying and Hate. As we know, bullying can occur during or after school hours. While most reported bullying happens in the school building, a significant percentage occurs in places like playgrounds, buses, or social media.

The 2021 Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that nationwide, 15% of students in grades 9-12 report being bullied or report being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey. According to the Government Accountability Office, GAO, one in four students experience bullying based on race, national origin, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, which covers the examining data from 2018 to 2019. Bullying can affect everyone. Those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who are the witnesses to bullying. Bullying is linked to many adverse outcomes, including impacts on mental health, substance use, and suicide risk which are things we have heard over the last day and a half.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or OJJDP continues a comprehensive national initiative to prevent youth hate crimes and identity-based bullying. Operating from a youth-based lens that focuses on prevention and earlier intervention, OJJDP is taking a multiprong approach through this initiative to do the following:

- Increase awareness of youth hate crimes and bias-based bullying, identify best practices and evidence-based strategies to build protective factors in youth, and help youth resist and disengage from extremist hate groups.
- Ensure youth have a voice on hate crimes and an opportunity for partners to work meaningfully and for young people with and for young people.
- Provide grantees, interested communities, and the field with extensive tools to change the attitudes and behavior of youth to hate crime offenders and at-risk youth.
- Develop and implement the OJJDP Hate Crime and Identity-based Bullying Prevention Curriculum.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: I am so excited to introduce and engage with our panel. First, we have [redacted]. [Redacted] is in 12th grade and lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, and participates in Carter's Crew, fostering personal growth and well-being of young people. [Redacted] can you share a word that describes you and why did you choose this word? I'm sorry, [redacted], you're on mute. Sorry, we can't hear you.

Panelist: Can you hear me now?

Moderator: Yes!

Panelist: One word that describes me is as a nice person that is trying to help others and always will be there for them. I'm very supportive.

Moderator: And why did you choose this word?

Panelist: Because I chose this word because this is how I express myself.

Moderator: Wonderful! Thank you so much. Next is [redacted], who is in 10th grade and resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, and participated in Carter's Crew. Share one word that fits you best and why did you choose that word?

Panelist: Enthusiastic. I chose enthusiastic because I would like to challenge myself to do things I haven't done before.

Moderator: That's wonderful! Thank you so much! Then we have [redacted], who is in the 10th grade and resides in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. They participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. [Redacted], can you share one term that best describes you and why did you select that term?

Panelist: A term that best describes me is compassionate because I like to spread kindness, and everyone deserves to be treated well.

Moderator: That's excellent. Thank you so much! Our next speaker is in the 11th grade and resides in Louisville, Kentucky, and he's a Big Brothers Big Sisters participant. Please share with us one adjective that best describes you and why you chose that?

Panelist: One word that describes me well is, I would say lighthearted because like, I'm always laughing and making jokes and it's hard for me to be serious most of the time. I just am more of a happy person.

Moderator: Thank you so much. Our final panelist graduated high school last year and is a first-year college student majoring in human services. He resides in Little Rock, Arkansas and participates with Carter's Crew. [Redacted], can you give us a word that best describes you and tells us why that word.

Panelist: The best word to describe me is perseverance. I think in my life, I have overcome a lot and I have been able to just get above it.

Moderator: Wonderful! Thank you so much! Thank you all for providing us with a little bit about you.

So, in this next segment, we have curated several questions for our panelists to address. Each youth is given an opportunity to address each question. So, our first question is, share with us why you agreed to be on this panel. So, we are going to begin with [redacted].

Panelist: One thing, why someone wants to see someone like me is because it's always more powerful to hear something straight from the horse's mouth, you know, from someone who is a part of the experience. So, someone like me who has been bullied throughout their life. I can see why I would be an appealing person to do that.

Moderator: Thank you so much. [Redacted]?

Panelist: Well, I agreed to be on it because I have a strong voice and I feel like if younger people are hearing about a younger person, they are like, appreciative.

Moderator: Yes! Thank you so much. That's very helpful. [Redacted], what about you?

Panelist: The balance between being young and being able to express things I went through and shed light on the things in my community and the things in my life.

Moderator: Thank you so much! Yes! Thank you. [Redacted], and what do you think? Why did you agree to be on this panel? [Redacted], can you hear us?

Panelist: Can you hear me? I wanted to be on the panel because I wanted to share my experience about how I was bullied in the past and I want to tell my story to everyone that I experienced being bullied.

Moderator: Wonderful, thank you so much! And [redacted]?

Panelist: The panel is meaningful for me because I have been through a lot, and I don't want everyone to go through that alone. I want people to know they're not alone in whatever struggles they have, and they have people to support them.

Moderator: Absolutely! That is wonderful. Okay, what does the word bully or bullying mean to you? [Redacted], let's start with you.

Panelist: Yes, ma'am, what is the question?

Moderator: The question is, what does the word bully or bullying mean to you?

Panelist: It means to me that person wants to bully you and they don't want to see that you're responsible and stuff.

Moderator: Okay, good! [Redacted], what do you think? What does bully and bullying mean to you?

Panelist: Some people are just bullies because they want attention and some others, they don't think they have.

Moderator: Wonderful. Thank you. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: Bullying means when someone in a position of power uses that power to deliberately harm someone in a weaker position.

Moderator: Excellent! Powerful. [Redacted]?

Panelist: I would say bully means to cause someone physical or mental harm by like, exclusion or like, whether it's physically or whatever means you have to make somebody feel bad basically.

Moderator: Wow, exactly! [Redacted], what do you think bully and bullying means?

Panelist: I believe bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that is intentional. It's like an imbalance of power and strength. It can be physical or verbal.

Moderator: Yes, it sure can. The next question, what do you think? Do you think bullying impacts peer relationships and how? So [redacted], why don't you take that first?

Panelist: It does. People who target- they face emotions like social challenges, emotional challenges. I think they tend to isolate themselves and you know, like you disassociate yourself from people and shut down from your friends.

Moderator: Yes, exactly. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: What's the question?

Moderator: Sure. Do you think bullying impacts peer relationships? If so, how?

Panelist: I think it does because if your friend is being bullied and you're not doing anything about it, it's considered fake and like, you are allowing your friend to get bullied so if they go and kill themselves, it's on you.

Moderator: Wow! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I think bullying impacts peer relationships because of the dramas, rules, secrets, and gossip. They exclude people and make people feel inferior and less than and less worthy, and a lot of times, these people haven't done anything wrong, and it's incredibly damaging.

Moderator: You are absolutely right. Thank you so much!

Panelist: I would say it affects peer relationships in the shallow sense, that people don't want to be friends with someone who is bullied. And then if you're like, an unpopular, like, low on the social ladder kind of person, you don't want to be friends with the person who is bullied because they could start with you too. Then this is not a risk you're willing to take. So yes, it definitely makes it hard to make friends.

Moderator: [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I would say yes, because it does impact the people's relationship. I have experienced it this year and I say it comes to the point I don't want to talk to anyone anymore. They feel insecure and it makes me depressed, and it makes me cry a lot.

Moderator: Thank you for that. Thank you so much! Okay. The next question is what bullying prevention or intervention programs are available in your school or city? Do you know of any, [redacted]?

Panelist: Well at my school, there's an anonymous bullying report app and behavioral interventionists who make sure people who are engaging in these sorts of harmful acts get talked to and issued appropriate consequences.

Moderator: Oh, wow! And you feel that is working? Do you think it's a working program for you?

Panelist: Yes, I had a girl that took a picture of me without my permission, and she didn't want me to know. She did it in a way she thought I wouldn't find out and I did, and I talked to the behavioral interventionist who took it seriously and made her take the pictures off of her phone and she has not interacted with me since because she knows there's consequences.

Moderator: Wonderful, excellent! Thank you. [Redacted], what do you think? Do you have any bullying prevention or intervention programs available in your school?

Panelist: Not that I know of. I know for sure that my summer camp crew has talked about bullying and it's not okay to bully others and we do more talking about that what to do, like, tell someone and if you're being bullied, tell an adult just in case. Don't try to interact with it.

Moderator: Oh, wonderful! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: So, like, sometimes we can go to our school social workers at our school and talk to them. Other than that, they really don't care.

Moderator: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't hear some of that.

Panelist: Yes, we can talk about it with our social workers sometimes or just like the random security guard that we know.

Moderator: Okay, excellent. [Redacted], did you see any of those programming or prevention or intervention plans or programs in your city? Or were they in your school?

Panelist: Yes, ma'am. One, we actually talked about like two months ago on another panel like, [redacted] said, the app. They can report it. I don't know where they are in this process but also, in 2017, there was an incident, so they started to put security guards at different bus stops and sometimes put security guards on the bus to prevent different things like that.

Moderator: Oh, wow! So, they took a very hardy approach to try to stop incidents from occurring. Good! Share with us one idea to help prevent or stop bullying.

Panelist: You didn't get to me on the last one.

Moderator: Huh? I'm sorry.

Panelist: You passed over me.

Moderator: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, [redacted]. I am sorry, I apologize.

Panelist: What was the question again?

Moderator: Yes, the question was, share with us one idea to help prevent or stop bullying. Oh, I'm sorry. What bullying prevention or intervention programs are available in your school or city? I'm sorry!

Panelist: That's perfectly fine. So, my school is pretty basic. It has like, you can talk to the counselors. They will tell the bullies that, you know, don't bully people and those things, but I went to an after-school program called Neighborhood House and they would always look out for you if you said someone was bullying, they would say the kid, they would tell your parents and you know, it was very positive. I was just, just when I started, like, I was bullied at that time, so it very much helped me.

Moderator: Oh, that's excellent! So, since you're on, share with us one idea to help prevent or stop bullying. What do you think will help prevent or stop bullying?

Panelist: Me?

Moderator: Yes, you!

Panelist: Okay. One thing I think will help stop bullying is discipline for bullies. They kind of let bullies get off pretty soft and yes, oftentimes, it comes from an issue that the bully has within themselves, but it doesn't give them the excuse to bully, and if they stop the bully more often, they might ask and get to the root of the bully's problem, helping the victim and the perpetrator. So, more thoughtfulness on the bullies.

Moderator: Yes, more focus on the bullies and providing them with resources and help. [Redacted], what do you think is one idea to help prevent or stop bullying? Oh, it's your turn, [redacted], I can still see you.

Panelist: I'm sorry. What I was saying is I think this kind of just makes them more aware. If we're able to get students, teachers, and parents involved. I know at the end of the year, they do a bullying month, but if they have the parents involved so the parents can understand their child is a bully, they can tell them and discipline them. And if their child is being bullied, they can take the proper steps to get it resolved.

Moderator: So, getting the parents involved is the crucial step. [Redacted], what do you think? What is an idea to help prevent or stop bullying?

Panelist: I feel like if you can help stand up for that person, more people will stand up for them and stop and think. And to prevent that person being bullied over and over again by spreading the word and stuff.

Moderator: Yes, you're right! Spreading the word that bullying is out there and we need to help and provide resources to stop it. All right, [redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: Kind of like, stopping before you speak because you never know how that person's day is going. They could have a good day and you say something, and it ruins their day. Or they have a bad day and they're already on a thought of suicide and you say something.

Moderator: Yea, you're right! You're right! And [redacted]?

Panelist: To help prevent or stop bullying, is to have professionals educate teachers and school staff about the realities of bullying and the effects of bullying and how damaging it can be. Also, not just stopping there. Tell them how to stop it in its tracks.

Moderator: Yes, instruct them. Sometimes they don't know how to stop it. Great, fantastic! Okay, what is the biggest challenge a young person will face if bullied?

Panelist: Depression and suicidal thoughts.

Moderator: So, they need someone to talk to when they start having those thoughts, huh? [Redacted], what are your thoughts?

Panelist: When young people are bullied, they feel they don't belong and are unwanted and less than they should be, and this could have a devastating effect because young people who are bullied often find they're so hurt and use substances to cope.

Moderator: Yes, you're right. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I would say depression and suicide because there's been a lot of stuff that has been happening, like on the news. A lot of kids have been doing a lot of suicide and stuff because of the bullying and the people that won't stop bullying, so it causes those to be on the news and for them - for that family to visit their grave and stuff because of the suicide and I prefer the bullying to stop.

Moderator: You're right, you're right. There's a lot of mental health things in there. [Redacted], what do you think? What is the biggest challenge a young person will face if bullied?

Panelist: Probably isolation. I feel like if you're bullied, you have no friends, it's going to amplify it more. I was bullied and sometimes I had friends and sometimes I didn't but when I did, it felt a lot better when I was bullied and everyone didn't like me and it was just like, not the best. So, I feel like I have a life of loneliness and isolation.

Moderator: Yes, you're right. Thank you! [Redacted], what do you think? What is the biggest challenge a young person would face if bullied?

Panelist: I think one of the biggest challenges is a person's mental health. I think bullying can lead to a feeling of loneliness, depression, and anxiety. It can be long-lasting and mess with their self-esteem and self-worth. In school, it can affect their academics and concentration. In school, they might be failing grades and suicidal thoughts, and anything like that.

Moderator: Yes, one of the things that everybody has mentioned is about the mental health of the person who is being bullied and how they're having suicidal thoughts and don't know how to get out of it, so education and resources is a big issue. So, let me ask you all: how can parents, guardians, and adults in general support a youth that is being bullied? How can we help? [Redacted], what do you think? What do they think?

Panelist: Oh, is this the magic wand question?

Moderator: No, no, this is the, how can parents, guardians or adults in general support the youth that is being bullied?

Panelist: Believe them. Please believe them. So many people are like, it's not that bad or maybe it's the child's fault and something they need to change and maybe things like that but really, it's the bully. There's no justification for bullying someone. There are no good reasons why it could be okay. It doesn't matter what they're going through. They need to find coping skills. There are plenty of safe coping skills and they need to know the actions have effects on other people and have consequences, and the parents really need to believe the child because if they don't, the child feels so alone and unwanted and that's a horrible way to feel, and it can escalate to many other things.

Moderator: That is amazing. Thank you [redacted]. [Redacted], what do you think people can do to support the youth who are being bullied? What do you think?

Panelist: By giving them consequences to let them know about the bully and the parents are not doing anything. Like, for instance, I have a friend who is being bullied, and then the parent did something to the principal, and the principal made the superintendent do something. They stopped after being suspended. They stopped bullying.

Moderator: Oh, so somebody believed them and then they got in an intervention that stopped the bullying?

Panelist: Yes, ma'am!

Moderator: Wow, great! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I really like what [redacted] said, but sometimes, the children don't come and talk to them about it because they feel they can't talk to their parents, and they bottle it up and are depressed and have suicidal thoughts. If you don't have the relationship to come to your parents and say, I'm being bullied, and something is going on in my life, then you don't have a relationship with your parents at all.

Moderator: Yes, you should be able to talk to your parents and let them know what is going on. Thank you very much! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I think parents should believe in their child. My aunty went to the school, even every day, she would make sure she talked to the principal and talking to different counselors and stuff about the situation. She even took it to Fox News to address the situation. And that's why it was so important for them to push it. So, if you just put pressure on them and make them feel we have to do this, they'll get it done.

Moderator: And then it gets done, you're right! Adults have to step up. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: Can I hear the question?

Moderator: Yes. It is how can parents, guardians, or adults in general support the youth that are being bullied?

Panelist: Make sure - you know, try to get them to do something about the bullying, but make sure you're not making their home life just as bad as their school life because you can at least have some solace coming home if you're bullied. If both are equally bad, you have no place to rest and enjoy life, and that will lend itself to suicidal ideation, self-harm, and things like that.

Moderator: You're right. You're right. They have no rest once they get home if the parents aren't listening. Excellent! Okay, so our last question that we have. If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you do to impact bullying at your school or in your community? I'm going to give you a few seconds, and [redacted], you'll be first. What do you think, if you had a magic wand, what would you do to impact bullying in your school or community?

Panelist: I would wish for them to be in my shoes and see how it feels to be bullied.

Moderator: Wow, yes. That's amazing! Wow! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I would say like, is this nice or will it lift someone up? My mom would be like, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." That's what they need to think about.

Moderator: That is something to think about. Thank you! [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: If I had a magic wand, one thing I think I would do is to teach appropriate conflict resolution. This is so important yet very few people who I see, especially young people, know how to resolve conflict respectfully so instead they triangulate and involve others who shouldn't be involved and now it's a much bigger problem than what it should have been.

Moderator: Wow! That is fantastic. Thank you so much! Conflict resolution in the schools. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: I would probably just make people not want to bully anymore because like, you know, it would be nice to do something like remove all of the hurt from the victims but if the bullies are still bullying, they will get it back. It starts with the bullies. So, if the bullies are gone, people don't have to go through anything anymore.

Moderator: You're right! You are right. [Redacted], what do you think? If you had the magic wand, what would you do?

Panelist: I think I would implement a reflective discipline. I think this approach would ensure that whoever engages in the bullying will feel the same way. And then, the goal would foster empathy by promoting and having bullies just stop.

Moderator: Yea! You're right! You guys have given some great responses to these questions. We thank you so much. We have time for questions from our audience. Do we have any questions from the audience? Do you have any questions for our panel here?

Host: This is Kelly. I thought what would be most impactful if you read aloud some of the amazing comments that came in from the participants regarding our wonderful youth panel. I think we have some really good feedback to share with them.

Moderator: Would you like me to go ahead and do that?

Host: Yes, please. That would be fantastic. They need to hear how fantastic they were.

Moderator: Yes, I agree! So, youth panel, this is all about you. As Tiffany says, you are our future. Thank you for being here and offering your stories, experiences, and knowledge. Amber shared, "Thank you so much, young adults. You are all doing great". Michelle shared, "You were brave and insightful and very inspiring. Great answers from the youth panel, amazing!" Sarah shared, "Extraordinary young people with amazing courage and strength to open up and share their feelings and experiences. I'm so impressed with all of them." I echo this sentiment. "All of the youth are very articulate. Nice job, everyone!" A comment for [redacted], "Your comments are so insightful. These are impressive kids. Hearing all of the perspectives is so wonderful! I'm so incredibly grateful to hear your voice and hope you all feel proud for speaking today. Thank you!" Finally, someone shared, "This is my favorite part of the webinar, hearing from the youth firsthand is insightful." That's a handful of the feedback from our audience today, and thank you to everyone on the youth panel. Your honest feedback, and open communication, this is a great reflection of the job you did today.

Host: So, one last question for you, youth panel, if that's okay with you, Tina. After hearing all of the great comments, how do you feel about your participation today? Are you glad you said yes and joined us today on this symposium? I'll let you walk through the youth panelist to respond to the question. Okay, [redacted], what do you think? Are you glad you said yes?

Panelist: Yes, I'm very glad to express myself and what is going on in my life and stuff. What have I experienced and stuff.

Moderator: We appreciate that. What do you think? Are you glad you participated today? You know, you guys are providing great insights to all of these adults out here who are working in programs for youth development. [Redacted], what do you think? Are you happy?

Panelist: I'm grateful to be part of this opportunity and I'm lucky to have my voice heard. There's a lot of people whose voices are suppressed and oppressed and cannot be heard and it's so valuable and I'm really lucky and grateful I can speak my voice and have my story be heard.

Moderator: Absolutely. Absolutely! We need to hear it. We need to hear the youth voice. [Redacted], what do you think?

Panelist: Well, I am glad I came. I did have to miss something I wanted to do for school but I'm glad I missed it for something I enjoy doing.

Moderator: Well, we appreciate that! We're sorry you missed something but we're glad you chose us to be a part of this conversation. [Redacted], what do you think? Are you glad you agreed? I know it might have been last minute for you but I'm so glad you were able to come and provide us with your opinions and thoughts. What do you think? Are you glad?

Panelist: Yes, I'm glad to give insight to youth, adults and help them help their kids.

Moderator: Wonderful! I can see a question from Ms. Leonard and her question was, can one of the

youth discuss the internal feelings or signs they may have displayed that others have missed during their experience? So, when you're experiencing bullying, is there one of you who can talk about the internal feelings or signs that may have been missed that were displayed? Go ahead, [redacted].

Panelist: One sign is, I had a notion, if I get in trouble in school and I know it's my fault and I know I'm going to be in trouble at home, I want to get home slow. Even if you do get in trouble, you just want to get home and feel in a safe space, I think that's one sign that my parents missed.

Moderator: Wow! Anybody else want to talk about that? No? Okay. Well, I know we are ending early but--

Panelist: I have a speech I want to do that we had talked about.

Moderator: Oh, you're very right. As we're getting ready to close our panel, we are honored to have one of our youth panelists share a poem with us. So, [redacted]?

Panelist: I decided to do - not the poem, but the other thing, titled, "I Was the Child" I wrote a year ago. It's an inspirational speech I wrote.

"I was the child. I was the child who would walk across the quarters of the school trembling. I was the child who would be shouted at. I was the child that would hide from the names and shouting and the jokes. They aren't jokes. I was the child who would start reading a book and looking at the words move across the page and wait for someone to attack me for being me. I'm the child who would get the notes, "You're a terrible person" and the name-calling. It was not a joke. They might be a joke to them, but they are no joke to me. People lose their lives to this. I almost lost my life to this as well. I wanted to end myself. When I say "them," I talk about my bullies. But now I refuse to call them bullies because I know life is tough and hard, and the word bully is used as a label to describe someone who does it, but people change. People change, people grow, but I promise you that making fun of people just because of who they are doesn't make you look cool or whatever you think you are. It doesn't. People are hurting. Someone is broken. Hurting, breaking on the inside. You don't know what hurt or horrible things go on in their life, but people go out there and bully other kids. What most teachers call verbal abuse, people do it. And you know, words hurt. I promise they hurt. Like someone said, words can do a lot of hurt, but words can also heal. And just go out there and ask someone, are you okay or start a conversation. I promise it can change someone's life. It can disrupt someone's negative thoughts, and I don't say this just for the sake of posting it to be popular. I was bullied for six years, and it takes a lot of effort to write this. I live and breathe these things. I don't just talk about kindness and love and compassion for the sake of it. I don't write these long paragraphs for the sake of it. I do it because I want us to just be kind for once. This world can feel like an awful place, I know, but we can only make it better together."

Moderator: Oh my God, that is fantastic! My gosh! [Redacted], I think I can speak for everyone here that was such a very moving piece. I have seen in the chat how powerful people thought it was and how amazing that was, and they are asking for copies of your poem and they want to share it with the world.

Panelist: Thank you for your support.

Closing

Moderator: Oh my gosh, thank you so much. I appreciate everyone's input in this session. You know, these youth are exceptional. And they have brought the exclamation point to this symposium and we are so, so happy you guys were able to do this. So, as we move to close this two-day virtual event, let's carry forward some of the ideas and hopes of our youth panelists today. They shared their hope and wishes for a better future. Now I will turn it over to Stephanie to close us out. You know what? I have to give you guys a thank you so much! Thank you, thank you!

Host: You know what, it was amazing to hear you all speak. I want to say hi to the kids I met when I was in Arkansas. It's good to see your faces. And I am really moved. I'm moved by the poem or the writing that you just did. I am moved by the way that you shared yourselves for this and you guys should feel so good about yourselves because you by being on this panel, you are helping somebody else in the world that may not have felt they had someone to identify with or someone they could turn to. And hearing you talk and share your voices and what you think will help. Just knowing you have experienced something they may have experienced, you guys don't know how much you could be changing the world for just one person or more.

So, I really thank you for that. I agree we're all citizens of the world and that kindness really can carry us far. And I'm grateful to have heard your presentations today. Thank you for graciously sharing what you shared.

And on that note, on behalf of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, I want to thank everyone in the audience and panelists for participating. The fact you have been here shows that you care about this. I hope you have a great evening, and I hope we can help you with the topics that we have talked about and thank you again! I look forward to seeing you at our next event. We are going to be doing two webinars--one on November 30th and one on December 7th focusing on combatting racism. So, thank you all, and have a great night! Bye!