

Excerpt 1:

George Chidi



Pam Bondi, the attorney general, said she has sent “sanctuary city” letters to the mayors of 32 cities and a handful of county executives, warning that she intends to prosecute political leaders who are not in her view sufficiently supportive of immigration enforcement.

“You better be abiding by our federal policies and with our federal law enforcement, because if you’re not, we’re going to come after you,” she said, speaking to a Fox News reporter. “Our leaders have to support our law enforcement.”

Bondi’s letter asks the recipients to provide a response by 19 August that “confirms your commitment with complying with federal law and identifies the immediate initiatives you are taking to eliminate laws, policies and practices that impede federal immigration enforcement”.

Bondi cites an executive order issued by Donald Trump on 28 April which called for the attorney general to identify jurisdictions that “obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws” then to “notify each sanctuary jurisdiction regarding its defiance of Federal immigration law enforcement and any potential violations of Federal criminal law” as a precursor to prosecution or withholding grants.

Each of the recipients appears to have received a near-identical letter, none of which specify what local laws or practices fail to comply with Bondi’s assertions. Initial responses from state and local governments receiving the letters include a mix of incredulity and defiance.

Excerpt 2

If Tao's (1922) *Society and Education* is considered the pioneering work of the Chinese sociology of education, then the field may be split into four stages in the wake of the text's publication in the 1920s: “inception,” “disruption,” “reconstruction,” and “transformation” (Cheng, 2011). The development of the Chinese sociology of education has been profoundly shaped by the unique characteristics of each period, from the early stage of exploration to the challenging process of reconstruction and, finally, to the establishment of a comprehensive disciplinary system. In recent years, the sociology of education in China has presented an international research vision at the theoretical level, and has increasingly drawn on international experience

at the theoretical level and applied it to the Chinese context; considered the real situation and, relatedly, problems of local education in China; employed the humanistic research lens at the micro level; and explored how best to promote educational fairness, rural education revitalization, and the quality development of education.

Excerpt 3

Thursday, January 10, 2013

Women, Rights and Respect

Working in the developing world is challenging for the most part. One of the most difficult aspects for me has been adjusting to the attitudes towards women. This is something I largely took for granted whilst living in the UK and paid even less attention to it whilst in Canada. The recent events in India, however, is just one example that brings home just how different cultures in the developing world are and what little regard they seem to have for women.



Last month the horrific gang rape on a bus of 23 year old medical student from Singapore whilst in India caught the attention of the world. Needless to say the publicity provided a much-needed platform for women's rights activists both in India and abroad. According to women's groups there is one rape every hour in India, with females belonging to lower castes or from tribal origin experiencing the highest risks.

I believe the answer lies in a combination of education and mass action. For me, this is no different an issue to that of suffrage. Women need to fight for their rights. Otherwise they will continue to be given a meaningless lip service on the issues that matter to them and no real change will be effected. The irony of the situation is that in both India and many countries in Africa, women tend to be the more productive members of society – especially in the rural areas. They are hard-working and determined. Imagine if they all stuck together in unity for a common cause, the greater good. It would be exactly what is needed to shock the system into a major correction.

The momentum is there now in India to create a real change, but it needs to be sustained and elevated. The fast track courts proposal should be considered only as an interim solution and the law needs to be given real teeth. By real teeth I mean effectively enforced. Otherwise women will be gambling with their lives as they would on some online casino in India – they can take a stand but rest assured they will always lose in the end.

Excerpt 4

John F. Kennedy

35th President of the United States: 1961 - 1963

October 14, 1962

WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE, American Broadcasting Company: Mr. President, as your campaign travel plans develop it's becoming clear that you will be about the most traveled President, if not the most traveled President, in any off year, midterm election.

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, well that's right. I think that by November 6 we'll have traveled more than any President and almost as much as all of them in this century in an off year, but that's partly because of jet planes.

Mr. Lawrence: I was going to ask whether this was a calculated decision, or did the importunings of Democratic candidates just cause your schedule to grow like Topsy?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, it's mostly--it's because one of the big problems we always face in an off year is, first, the party in power traditionally loses seats. From the off year elections of 1930 until, through the off year election of 1958, the party in power lost an average of 39 House seats. Well, if we lost

39 House seats it would make it impossible for us to put through any of the programs which I believe to be vitally important to strengthen the economy of the United States.

So, I think, while I recognize the limitations of Presidential campaigning, traditionally it has not been very successful, at least I think it may arouse some interest in this campaign and encourage the turnout. One of the alarming statistics which I've seen, Bill, has been the distribution of votes between the Republicans and the Democratic Party. Generally, we do pretty well on that, but then when they ask which percentage are going to vote, then we don't do so well. So, if we can arouse some interest and cause a bigger turnout then I'll feel I've done the job, even though history's against us...