

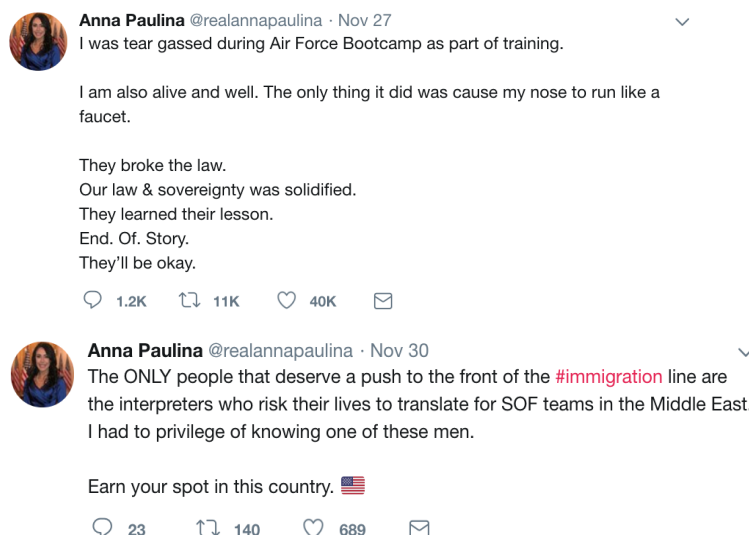
On Thursday, December 6th, Turning Point USA at UVA will be hosting Anna Paulina, the director of Hispanic engagement for the national Turning Point USA organization. The event description reads as “...discussing the unique perspective of the second amendment is essential to women’s rights and gender equality in America.”

A strong believer of gun rights, Paulina calls for women to carry firearms for their own protection to compensate for feminism’s failure in protecting women. However, while presenting as a white woman who can openly carry large guns without being shot on spot and perceived as a threat, what does her advocacy mean for women who are racialized as Black and brown? How can her advocacy encompass groups who do not have the privileges she does?

As a self-proclaimed, proud Mexican-American, Anna Paulina has demonstrated bigotry time and time again through her platform. As a spokesperson for Turning Point USA, Anna Paulina holds values that are antithetical to our community as she has made injurious statements in this contentious political climate filled with xenophobic rhetoric towards immigrants. From claiming immigrants are “storming the border” to defending the atrocity of throwing tear gas canisters at Central American asylum seekers, Paulina consistently and intentionally seeks to uphold and propagate the white supremacist ideologies plaguing this country.

In the video linked below, Paulina says she is not racist because she doesn’t “groupthink” and “can think on [her] own.” **While we’re glad Paulina can think “independently”** and understand she is entitled to what she may believe under her First Amendment rights, we do not abide by her statements and will give criticism where it is deserved as she fundamentally makes and endorses racist and xenophobic statements against “her people;” **thereby literally making her a racist and xenophobe.**

We iterate that Anna Paulina must not forget her privilege as a white presenting Latina when making abhorrent comments like the following:





Anna Paulina @realannapaulina · Nov 26

NBC also forgot to point out the individuals in the back taking photos on their camera phones.

These are not desperate migrant families.

They turned down asylum in Mexico and are trying to cut the #immigration line.



NBC News @NBCNews

A migrant family, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America en route to the United States, runs away from tear gas in front of the U.S.-Mexico border wall in Tijuana, Mexico....

Show this thread

84 384 985

A white presenting Latinx could not possibly represent the material realities of all Latinx people when her lived experience is a microcosm of the experiences and races that exist within “Latinidad.” Paulina can take pride in being Latina, but it does not designate her as the representative voice for our community at large.

It is critical to note Paulina’s attempt to deny her racism by citing large percentages of Hispanic/Latinx officers within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (this can be found in the video linked below). Regardless of the percentages, all officers of these agencies can also perpetuate white supremacy regardless of their race and ethnicity. Like them, Paulina is complicit in endorsing the violence and xenophobia wrought onto Central Americans, which she has hidden behind the guise of her faux advocacy against human and sex trafficking.

In the linked Tweet below, she claims that humanitarian issues should not be exploited for a political agenda. Yet, humanitarian issues, such as unilateral state-sanctioned violence, are at their very core political and defend the pervasive structure of white supremacy this country is rooted in. Paulina, **a self-proclaimed Latina conservative**, illustrates that identity politics blurs the fact that she and others like her can endorse ideologies that are **white supremacist, xenophobic, and fascist**.

This is not the first time Turning Point USA at UVA has brought or attempted to bring a figure who embodies a threat to members within and outside of the UVA and greater Charlottesville community. **Thus, Central Americans for Empowerment at UVA and the signatories below vehemently condemn Turning Point USA at UVA for hosting Anna Paulina as a Latinx spokesperson to engage with Latinx students at UVA without any form of consultation or notice that she will be here.** Central Americans for Empowerment at UVA and the signatories remain staunchly committed to combat those who give white supremacy a platform.

In solidarity,
Central Americans for Empowerment at UVA

Links:

Video referenced: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5sfw3s>

Tweet: <https://tinyurl.com/y9df69bs>

Signatories

DREAMers on Grounds
Latinx Student Alliance
Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society
UVA Students United
Living Wage Campaign at UVA
UVA Young Democratic Socialists
Minority Rights Coalition
Steven Radilla, CLAS '21
Arlena Lara-Quinteros CLAS '20
Jayla Hart CLAS '22
Johanna Moncada Sosa, CLAS '20
Marcela Mollo, CLAS '20
Mauro Quiroga Claros, CLAS '20
Sadie Randall, SEAS '22
Kayla Dunn, CLAS '20
Abel Chavez, CLAS '20
Sydney Suarez CLAS '21
Melissa Perez CLAS '21
Annelise Miranda CLAS '20
Ana Paulina Vazquez, CLAS '20
Sophie Wagner, CLAS '22
Juan Zazueta, CLAS '22
Paul Kay, CLAS '22
Joe Malasas, CLAS '19
Andrea Ybarra, CLAS '21
Krystal Paulino CLAS '21
Kiran Gill CLAS '19
Isabel Yoder CLAS '19
Austin Hammond CLAS '22
Lyndsay Baker CLAS '22
Lauren Louw SEAS '22
Stephney Tucker CLAS '22
Hannah Melissa Borja '19
Kay Alexander, CLAS '20
Diana Albarracin SEAS '22
Ian Ware CLAS '19
Eileen Ying CLAS '20
Maliha Jahangiri CLAS '19
Victoria Giron CLAS '19
Carolina Campos CLAS '22
Emily Drake, CLAS '19
Karen Sanchez Godinez CLAS '22
Jessica Meyers, CLAS '21
Hannah Russell-Hunter CLAS '20
Abasenia Joie Asuquo, CLAS '20

Janie Cai CLAS '22
Tsering Say CLAS '19
Samatha Santana Rodriguez CLAS '22
Valeska Silva CLAS '19
Jennifer Espinoza CLAS '22
Alice Opiyo CLAS '22
Diana Tinta CLAS '20
Viviana Rosas CLAS '21
Dominique DeBose CLAS '19
Lauren Prince CLAS '22
Natalia Chavez CLAS '19
Uche Chima, CLAS '22
Ashley Grullon, CLAS '21
Sarah Pape, CLAS '20
Monica Norton, CLAS '20
Nyasia Harris, SON '22
Rawda Fawaz, CLAS '19
Saidi Moseley, CLAS '20
Courtney Baugh CLAS '20
J Street U at UVA
Raquel Talbott CLAS '18
Paola Covarrubias CLAS '21