

Marlo Sausville interviewed by Kai Pena-Chavez
October 22, 2020
Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

KP: Okay, so my name is Kai Pena-Chavez and I'm interviewing Marlo Sausville, each of us in our own home---because quarantine---on October 22nd.

MS: We like that.

KP: Yeah. Do you give me permission to record and distribute this oral history?

MS: Of course, you do.

KP: Okay, so like I said her name is Marlo Sausville. Could you tell me how old you are?

MS: I'm twenty-one years old.

KP: And occupation?

MS: I am currently a part-time employee as a dog daycare handler, but I also have a degree in audio engineering.

KP: Racial identity?

MS: White, though I could also say French-American.

KP: Gender identity?

MS: I'm a cisgender woman.

KP: Sexual orientation?

MS: Bi-sexual.

KP: And where are you from?

MS: I'm from Brooklyn. I spent my infant years in different states, but as long as I can remember I've lived in Brooklyn.

KP: And how did you or your family end up in New York City?

MS: So my father's side of the family is originally from the Midwest and my mom and her family are all from France. My mom came to the United States as an au pair where she met my dad in Colorado. And then throughout his career in different tech companies, he was able to transfer to a job in New York.

KP: Okay, great. So now we're going to focus on questions about the pandemic. How has the Coronavirus changed your life?

MS: Pretty drastically, but in the same sense, not that much. When the pandemic first hit, it was very scary because my job as a dog daycare handler relies on people not being at home. Our primary business is to watch people's dogs while they are either at work or out of town on trips or whatever. And obviously that came to a halt in March. And very quickly I watched my job slip out of my hands and I was unfortunately temporarily laid off. And then at the same time, I had a job at a recording studio in Manhattan. And with all the safety concerns, as well as an over hour-long commute on public transit, I just decided it was best not to continue working throughout the pandemic. So, for a while, I was totally unemployed. Completely relying on state and federal unemployment. And it was a very rattling experience, especially with all the uncertainty. And it still is. I've started going back to work at the daycare little by little, but I'm still not back to work full time. There are still weeks where I'm not working at all and I'm totally on unemployment. Which is hard because now that the federal benefits have ceased, I don't even get enough from unemployment to cover my rent. Which is rough. But, you know, I'm doing what I can. I was able to save some money over the past few years as well as during the pandemic from the extra federal benefits. So I'm doing okay for now. But, unless, you know, something gets sorted soon, then yeah. It's all kind of up in the air.

KP: What has been helping you through this process? What has been supporting you?

MS: At first, with the initial shutdown, my main support system was my partner, my boyfriend, who I live with. If I didn't have him then I would've been very easily descended into a pretty steep depression, anti-motivational period of time. So I'm very grateful to have him to keep me centered and keep me grounded. But, as the months went on and the protests started in June, that was actually a driving force in keeping me rooted in what was important. To keep myself, my mind, working as I was not only learning new things from what I was seeing online—but I had people pointing me toward resources, new books I should read, podcasts, TV shows. Just all these sorts of things where I can learn a lot. I was meeting new people through these actions, which is really helping me, you know, deal with a very long period of social isolation. And then recently something a little less, I don't have the word for it, something a little more casual that I've recently gotten into that has helped me throughout this is actually roller skating as a form of exercise and getting outside and getting myself moving, as well as again meeting new people and trying to combat the social isolation in a way that's still safe at outdoor events where we can be distanced. So that has helped me. Especially with the resurgence of the pandemic—we're facing that now. I'm sure that that will be helping me get through it in the second wave.

KP: Yeah, that's good to hear. Has it impacted you socially?

MS: In a way. I've always kind of been a very introverted, antisocial person. So the adjustment to the socially isolated life wasn't that hard. I already was very busy, so I wasn't seeing my friends as often already pre-pandemic. My family all live very far away from me, which is something I'm kind of used to. So it wasn't too hard socially, and if anything I feel like my social skills have improved over the pandemic. I've met new people from these different charities and organizations that I've been a part of, so I would say that socially if anything it's been better for me than not. Which is a weird thing to say right now but it's just kind of the way things are right now. As a very like already introverted person I could kind of only go up from there, so I think it's doing all right in that sense.

KP: Okay. And you mentioned your family. How has this pandemic been affecting your family?

MS: It's been a bit interesting because my family is all kind of spread out, so I'm here in a perspectives from different sides. So I can provide a New York perspective. My parents currently live in San Francisco and they've been filling me in on what it's like over there, as well as when they were experiencing the fires in California, so that on top of the pandemic. And then on the other end of the spectrum, hearing from my family in France overseas, who are already back to in-school learning and it's somewhat safe. Even though numbers are kind of going up everywhere, they also do have better health care system in France as compared to the U.S. So even as my grandparents have been going back and forth seeing healthcare professionals for unrelated issues, it's still pretty safe so to speak. I've been very fortunate that no one has contracted the virus. We're very fortunate. We're all just doing our best to maneuver this new circumstance. My dad is fortunate enough to have a job that allows him to work from home. So even though it's actually been a lot crazier for him now that he's at home, as compared to when he was in the office and flying back and forth from Korea. They actually have him a lot of working a lot harder now than they did before, which is both good to know that there's job security, but at the same time it's a lot. And it makes it harder to spend time with my mom and to keep in touch with my brother who was in Florida. He's staying with them now because Florida is not faring well during this pandemic. So it's a little all over the place. We were definitely worried about my brother for a while in Florida, but he's also a recluse so it wasn't really too much of a concern. We weren't too worried about him socializing or going out which was good. So overall, so far so good. I'm very grateful.

KP: That's good to hear that no one in your family has contracted the virus.

MS: Yes.

KP: Have you learned anything about yourself and your family since the beginning of the pandemic?

MS: I think I learned because of the pandemic, as well as just other circumstances, I learned that my dream career in the New York Studio scene is not what I expected or wanted it to be. I think it really brought to light just how exploitative and unforgiving it is as an industry, especially as a woman. I was just expected to, even before the pandemic, I was expected to set aside my well-paying job for a job that I was being basically criminally underpaid for. I was expected to sacrifice everything for a job and employer who did not care about me. As I was sitting through the pandemic, thinking about the way that I was treated there, I was like I don't want to go back. And then it just kind of so happened that apparently they didn't really want me back either because I wasn't taking that. So we kind of ghosted each other, for lack of a better word. Neither of us reached back out to each other. It was just kind of an understood, unspoken thing that I wasn't coming back. So that was hard to reconcile like with myself and realize that this thing that I have been building up and dreaming in my head for years was what I expected but also worse. So that was a hard thing to realize, but I'm glad that I learned it because then it just motivated me that much more to get involved in fighting against these sorts of jobs and fighting against these sorts of pressures on people to work jobs that don't sustain them. I think it was both discouraging and motivating. Discouraging in the sense that my career, which is now taking a pause and I've put that on the back-burner so I can focus on things that I now deem more important. More so educating myself on social justice, on critical thinking, on revolutionary theory. Pushing myself to do more of that, as well as getting outside more, doing some more exercise. Really putting myself first. And that feels really good.

KP: That's great.

MS: Yeah.

KP: Would you say that or something else has been the hardest part of this pandemic?

MS: I think the hardest part about experiencing this pandemic has just been truly realizing how unprotected we as the American people are. Unprotected by our government, even the lack of people looking out for each other, how we are offering solutions. Some people are just too, "This is a system that works." Also

just reading all the horror stories of people who are—they're calling it an eviction tsunami that we're facing—learning about the hundreds of thousands of people who have died because of the pandemic. The violent repression out on the streets of people who are speaking out against this. And we're speaking out against police violence. And watching the billionaires getting richer as more and more people file for unemployment. It's very disheartening to see. And a great part has to do with the pandemic, the election is coming to a head. But the hardest part has just been watching all this dirt get drudge up—a lot of people aren't doing anything about it or have just accepted it without much resistance. It's upsetting and I hope that more people come to realize it's not a sustainable existence right now, and unless people start actually getting motivated to do more as the second wave hits, it's only going to get worse.

KP: What do you think the nation and the world should learn from this pandemic?

MS: That there are solutions. I think both international governments should learn, as well as just individuals, that there are solutions for this. I mean if you take a look at China, they are basically done with the virus. They are almost done with the vaccine. To the point where some of the health organizations are saying this is the safest vaccine out there. When they have an outbreak of a dozen people, they test the whole city because they know that this is the solution. Testing, self-isolation, and just working hard spreading valuable information. Wearing your masks. Things as simple as that. Providing health care for their citizens. There are solutions that exist out there, but many are choosing to ignore them. The U.S. government would rather funnel trillions into China, boost the stock market, and watch it fail miserably over and over again than to provide a valuable relief package for its people, than to provide adequate healthcare for the millions of people who are getting sick. It's upsetting because then you look at countries like Cuba, who have such a surplus of doctors that they're actually able to send them overseas to other countries to support them and battle coronavirus because they sorted it out basically themselves. Because they have a socialist system that is built on taking care of the people rather than corporations. So I really hope that people are able to see past the—not only just a mess of what's going on in the U.S., but the anti-socialist propaganda that a lot of corporate news media have been putting out against countries like China and Cuba, about how they're handling the

coronavirus pandemic. Many of them are misconstruing a lot of information, or writing eye-catching headlines that are misleading. And then you actually look into the details, and they try to make China sound authoritarian for enforcing so much testing. But at the same time they were able to have pool parties this summer because people were healthy enough to do so. So it's just like hope that more people are able to see through all the mess and realize, "Oh, no. There are solutions that actually work. There are countries who actually have systems in place that work and we can learn something from them."

KP: Thank you. And has there been anything positive to come out all of the pandemic for you?

MS: Out of the pandemic specifically, I guess I would say no. Obviously, I think everyone's having a really hard time, unless you're a corporate billionaire who profits off of price-gouging and people's need for material goods right now, then they're benefiting. But otherwise, my life has gotten better because of the pandemic. It has created circumstances in which I was then able to better myself, so to speak, but not good for anybody really. And the further goes on like the more that becomes apparent. So, no. I would still like to have my job back, I do want to go to the back to work. I love my job. I also want to be able to pay my bills, both which I'm not able to do much of right now. So it would be really nice to be able to do that. So, hopefully in the coming months, well see some improvement. But you can only do so much.

KP: Yeah, hopefully things will improve soon. So, moving on now to questions about the protests that have started this year, could you explain to me how these anti-racist protests have started? Kind of pretend I'm an alien, like I know nothing at all about it.

MS: These anti-racist protests have been going on for a really long time. Arguably you could say that it goes all the way back 200 years ago. The anti-racist struggle has never really ended, it's only come back and forth through the public eye in phases. But in this particular instance talking about the uprising in June 2020, it was because—you really have to attribute it to the murder of George Floyd as the catalyst. It was such a just a very clear-cut example of unnecessary police violence.

I mean I'm gonna argue that all police violence is unnecessary, but that's a separate topic. It was just a clear cut example of structural issues that exist within the policing system. I mean there was every video angle you could need, audio recording, eyewitness accounts. Everybody could see it was a very plain argument and struggling so hard through the pandemic and also just after watching these instances happen time and time again of innocent Black people or non-frightening Black people or other communities just being targeted by the police and being murdered and essentially lynched by the police in the streets people that had enough and with everything piling up on top of each other with a pandemic and the police violence and all of this bubbled over and it came to a point where enough was enough and somebody had to say something. It grew so, so much. It grew nationally, it grew internationally. There were people having protests in the name of George Floyd all over the world as well as other victims like Brianna Taylor and Elijah McClain. And more and more of these stories kept coming out. And then as people were protesting there was violent police repression. The police were exposing themselves more and more and now people have had enough. And they've just decided that this can go on no longer. It now will not be tolerated anymore. And even though it's been almost five months now since the initial uprising there are still actions happening. People have not let this movement die. And it's so important that we don't because every time it's suppressed, the uprising has to start all over again. So, there's momentum now and people are using that further try to push for abolition or police reform or whatever it may be but to push for a solution.

KP: Why do you think New York City became an epicenter for the protests?

MS: New York City has always been very outspoken. It has always been a hub for not only cultural awareness, for example people were rioting and protesting for acceptance and fair treatment of LGBTQ+ people. And has a very, very diverse population of race, ethnicity, and countries of origin. Just a very, very diverse population and a very large population. A lot of people genuinely care about this. It was the center for Occupy Wall Street. A big amount of people coming out. That their voices were up there and put their bodies out there and make sure that this doesn't go away. That people are paying attention to this and New York is a high concentration of people already. The population as well, as the amount of people

who genuinely care about this sort of thing, the close-knit community is able to organize. It was the height of the perfect storm in that regard. Not to mention that the NYPD has one of the most corrupt and oppressive police departments in the whole country. So there's a lot to speak out against locally. So, I think that was another factor.

KPC: And in what ways have the uprisings across the county shifted the way you think about your ethnic identity and police in U.S. society?

MS: Figuring out my place in society and figuring out how I contribute to it. I'm working on it for a little while. I have always been very interested and passionate in understanding things like the disparities of the white population and the black population, other people of color, the indigenous population. So it's something that I have been learning about for a while. When the initial Black Lives Matter protests started back in like 2015-16, I was only in a 15/16. So that was like my initial exposure to it and then now that it's been a few years, now that I'm older now that I've experienced some more things. And met people who know more about these sorts of things. It's given me a lot to consider in how I use my voice, in how I can use my voice to get through to the people around me, specifically the white people around me. How I understand my place in society and how I should be using my white privilege, which I recognize I have, to support those who have been leading the struggle for so long against white supremacy. Especially when I've gone to like actions and stuff, it's not about me. It's not really about what I say or what I want, because all I've done from the American system, for the most part, is benefit. I do recognize their places in my life that would be completely different had I not been white, and it's a very hard thing to reconcile with. Because white guilt is not productive when it comes to moving forward and actually uplifting the predominantly black organizers who have been leading the anti-racist movement for so long. It's just not about me and it's not about what I want. It's about understanding and listening to the people who will have actually experienced the downfalls of our society, the evils of our racist society. I'm there to listen and learn. I'm there to uplift and support and to do what I can when I am asked to. But it's not about me and it's not about what I think is best. Because I still have a bias, I still try to unlearn a lot of toxic things that impressed upon us when we were young. I was very fortunate to grow up in a very diverse community like New York City. There

are some things that I'm grateful for that I never had to unlearn since I never learned them in the first place. But there are still things there, and they're still stuff I'm working on. But I'm just doing my best to like playing a supporting role in all of this because there are white leadership roles for white people in the anti-racist struggle. It's not our place and it's something that we have to accept because it's not about us. So I think that's what I've taken away the most from this, especially in the past few months. That's the role I'm going to play in this.

KP: Thank you. And do you have any stories you would be willing to share about encounters with racism or the police?

MS: I'm very grateful to have never been a firsthand witness to police violence in the most commonly understood sense. Anytime I've gone to marches, vigils, rallies across the city and fortunately every single one that I happen to have been safe. We have not been attacked by the police, but there's definitely been repression in a sense. Not violent repression but you know the police tell us how you got to move over to the very inconvenient spot to hold your rally and they don't want to take anything seriously. They still view us as a threat. There a lot of police who make obnoxious jokes about protesters which I've seen. They just like to stand and kind of laugh at us which I find very strange. I don't understand what's going through their heads. There have been a couple threats to protests. I remember there was one day we went to prison in Lower Manhattan to protest against the treatment of inmates. There's not adequate precautions taken in the prisons to protect inmates from the pandemic. I mean there's already horrible conditions you know, basically there's slave labor there. So you know there's not adequate healthcare, there's not adequate food supplies available to inmates and now given that are there being forced to create products like hand sanitizer but they're also not allowed to use hand sanitizer. So we went to go protest outside the jail, and at one point this man on a motorcycle rolls up to- there's like two jail towers and a walkway, an elevated walkway between the two and then there's a little section underneath that's for parking and stuff for the cars to pass through. And that's where we were, in that little parking area, and this guy shows up with a motorcycle and start rubbing, like facing the crowd and immediately like half of my group there- and we weren't a big group, we were maybe 40 people, 30-40 people. Half the group immediately puts themselves in front, put their hands on the motorcycle, put themselves in front of the way to protect the rest of the protesters. Which was like truly just, it was both a frightening sight but also just like knowing that everybody looking out for each other was you know it was supposed to be like a hard sight to see that like

wow this man would really threatened to like running to a group of people who are just standing here and chanting a few things. Literally have no effect on his life and then watching so many great people just you know actively put themselves in harm's way to protect the rest was a very, you know eye opening, quite a profound moment to see. Again we've been in the most part, we've been very lucky to not be put in so many dangerous positions. I think that there's a lot of eyes on them and I was not in New York City when the initial uprising happened. So I wasn't able to go to some of the protests right at the beginning. A lot of the ones who are very violently suppressed, I probably would have been there, if I was in town. I was not around outside circumstances when the more intense things are happening when protesters were getting (Inaudible) and beaten in the streets. It was a very hard thing to watch on social media a hundred miles away, hearing about friends who had been targeted by the police beaten with batons. I do know some people who were violently attacked by the police and it's a very hard thing to hear about. I am grateful to not have to have been put in these sorts of traumatic situations but I do know people who have and it is very heartbreakingly heartbreaking to hear about, but if anything it just reminds us how important it is that we don't stand down and that we don't let that scare us into silence because it will only allow the police terrorism to continue. So yeah, I don't have much to share in regard to personal experiences but it is happening here in the city. Just because we're a more progressive city does not mean that we are excluded from police violence.

KP: Yeah, absolutely. I know you mentioned that you have heard some stories from friends that experienced police violence? Would you be willing to share some of those stories?

MS: I can't give too many details because I just don't know them, but I do know especially over in the Barclays Center area. I do know a couple of people who I used to work with, who I still like keep in touch with that were like targeted by the police. One of them I believe is a self-identified anarchist. He was beat by the police with batons and had to step away from the movement for a little while to recover. And then a young woman who I also used to work with and still keep in contact with, but I see her pretty regularly. She was with a group of her white friends, predominantly White friends. She was Algerian, part Algerian, I do not know what the other part is. But she's a brown woman like you know she's not White-passing and when she was with her group of friends she was deliberately targeted by the police and hit with a baton on her leg and in the head by police repression by the Barclays Center. Which is where some of the worst of it was happening. So, it's just a very hard thing to hear about, like these great people who really care about fighting for justice being deliberately targeted and beat in the

streets senselessly for using their right to protest. It's not like they were doing anything illegal. I've known lots of people who have been involved with the movement and none of them as far as I'm aware have participated in looting or any sort of arson or whatever. They're an organization that still remains within the laws to protect their members and they're still being targeted. A little side story, not totally related, but also I think very important because not many people know about it is a party for Socialism and Liberation, aka PSL. They are an organization that has chapters all over the country and each of those chapters have taken a lot of time and put in the effort into organizing their communities. The members out in Denver, Colorado had been doing a lot of organizing to uplift the name of Elijah McClain. To you know bring attention to that, to demand justice, to demand that his killers be you know held accountable, and that he and his family get justice. There are four of their members who are all completely peaceful again have not participated in looting or rioting or whatever they were ambushed by the police and arrested and held illegally in the county jail for a week without receiving bail. Simply for organizing and now they are facing felony charges for trying to hold the police accountable, to hold the DA accountable. I mean one member had a tank rolled up to his apartment. Literally a tank to arrest him for organizing protests. The level of which this has reached is truly horrifying. The communities that they live in are being attacked and threatened for essentially nothing. It's a very scary thought but again it will not deter most of them, ideally it won't deter them from continuing this work because it's just that important.

KP: And were you at all (inaudible) or in person activism prior to 2020?

MS: A little bit like I mentioned in the initial, when Black Lives Matter first came to you know before front back in 2015 I was involved in that type of participating a lot of school walkouts. I did do some research and understanding. Like anti-capitalist theory learning more about Socialist theory, Communist theory when I was like 16. And then, I had to finish High School, I started college I got it all wrapped up and everything else can step away from that for a while. But it has always been something that I cared a lot about. So when the uprising began in June it was it wasn't that hard for me to jump into it because it was something I was already familiar with. So I am fortunate enough to friends who are in the PSL and they were able to you know introduce me to the members of their chapter, the local members and as well as like getting involved online more. So they do remote book clubs over zoom as well as holding conferences and forums with their members. So, they do a lot of stuff online as well as organizing in person, doing like community gift boxes, doing protests and rallies and speak outs. Just reaching out to the communities in a local community, trying to get more people involved. So I

was grateful to be introduced into that this year and I feel like it's kind of what I've been looking for a long time. A lot of people whose ideas resonated with me, ideas that I've had for years and finally like find an organization of people who can like show me how apply feelings that I had and wants to improve conditions for people. Not only do they give an outlet, they're very like educational which is something that I really needed and I'm very grateful for that educational organization. They have so many resources and when I pursue the candidacy program that is a six-month course before you become an official member of the organization. So it wasn't hard to just like jump back into it and this time like go full-force with that, like really apply myself because this is what matters the most right now. So, I'm grateful to have that community to learn from.

KP: I know you mentioned that they were welcoming and that they were a lot of emphasis on education could you tell me more about what kind of people make up the PSL party?

MS: The PSL is absolute majority working class people. As far as I can tell it is mostly POC, many of the leaders are Black, Indigenous, Latinx. There are members from all over the spectrum. They are actually more wary of White people and inducting White people into the PSL due to circumstances. Like I'm going to have to go through a more rigorous introduction process and interviews, which is totally fair. Like I don't place any blame on them at all. They are a Socialist organization, they believe in dismantling the current capitalist system of the United States and introducing socialist programs that are going to improve the lives of the working class. There are at least like, from the New York Chapter, there are teachers and you know all sorts of workers most people you know are living with roommates and they are many of them are struggling to make ends meet. They have family but this is just something that's so important to them that they have to apply times that are out of their lives and put in extra effort to not only push the interests of the party but also just grow class consciousness and to build connections in their communities. You know, provide opportunities for learning about this stuff but to join them as well as just providing material needs for the community. Providing food, providing clothes, you know a lot of (inaudible) resources to protect themselves to organize themselves as tenants against landlords and the upcoming evictions. Like it's just a lot of community work and community education. You know just from one working-class person to another and it's just about like you know unity and solidarity, and camaraderie. They do have a presidential candidate for the 2020 election, her name is Gloria Larriva and she is running on behalf of the PSL as a Socialist candidate. I'm excited to vote for her, come November. While they don't believe in electoral politics, like they don't

believe that even if Gloria were to be elected like that wouldn't solve everything. You know they do what they can to appeal to the biggest amount of the population they can. You know people pay attention to the election stuff, so they have to draw attention to that. When she does receives votes, it is tangible proof of how many people actually believe in support for these sorts of efforts. Especially, given the current uprising they are onboard, more people joining all the time. You know, people like myself who have like realize you know how much this has come to a head and how much they want to get involved in the next find an organization, like the PSL. They want to join to contribute in the efforts and so, they are actually processing a lot of new people and right now because of everything that's happening this year. Which is such an incredible thing to see that so many people truly care about making sure everyone is provided for. It's growing and it's just great people who care so much about other people and it's something amazing and truly something necessary right now.

KP: Can you tell me a bit more about the interview process? How long does that typically last, and what's involved in it?

MS: Right now it's a bit slow given the fact that they're processing so many new people. As well as just like the people responsible for new incoming members are also very busy organizing the members that are already there. So, it's been a little bit slow. I personally am also not pushing it too hard just because the local outreach member, I know she has a lot on her plate and I don't want to add to that when I know that she's already doing so much and the work she does is so amazing. The last thing I want to do is get in the way of it. Typically it starts as you know, you're just a friend of the member you stumble across the party and you just start showing up to join their web conferences, join they're book groups, go to their actions, speak to the members, get to know them. Offer your services without expecting anything in return and just you know start showing you're interested, actually put yourself out there. So, that's kind of the stage that I'm in, it's really come to the point where I do see that this is something I'm serious about. I've been involved for a few months now and so they know that next time I'm interested, when I get the opportunity and when the local outreach gets the opportunity, we're going to have our second sit down. Our first sit down was a conversation we had a few months ago. They were trying to get to know me, started to get to know what I know, what I care about, what I like. You know am I just have a white person that's going to be a problem for the party. That sort of stuff and just getting to know each other on a more personal basis because everyone's really close and then yeah we'll have another conversation. This time it'll definitely be a lot more focused on starting a candidacy program, which is that a six-month educational program. So

once I join the candidacy program, I'll be doing an educational course every other week for 6 months. Then once I reach the end of that I will be inducted as a member officially. So it's quite a long process but I think that's one of the things that I actually like about it is that like they take this very seriously. You can't just like sign up online and be like "Ok I'm a member now.", and like, "I represent the party." That's not how it works. They're very serious about knowing who's the member and knowing who this person is and what they care about and how they're going to represent the party as a whole. So it's a long application process but for good reason, this makes the party more stronger when you don't have to deal with like problematic people because you've already weeded all of those out before they could even join. It's long but for good reason and I'm looking forward to continuing that process.

KP: Hopefully it goes well for you, and you'll be able to join officially.

MS: I don't think it'll be a problem. I think everyone does their just like oh yeah it's you again like when are you starting the candidacy program like everyone knows about a matter of time. So it'll happen when it's meant to.

KP: How have the protests in the context of coronavirus shifted the way you think about race in America? If at all?

MS: The protest in context of the virus? I think it's been, especially in the context of the virus, I was genuinely, especially at first I was very impressed and surprised the amount of community, and solidarity. Especially here in New York City how much people are working together on you know, such a vast effort in trying to organize so many people. There are millions of people in New York City. In context of the pandemic when I first started going out you know they're always concerns about like the spread of the virus. That's where to stop social distancing and all that but every time I went, there was always a station as well as multiple individuals like throughout the group who are providing hand sanitizer. Like just likes for free, like giving out masks, giving out hand sanitizer, giving out gloves, giving out food and water. Like anything you could need, someone in the community was there to provide it and it was like such a clear display of community solidarity that I haven't seen before at another protest. It was never to the extent of like there were specific mutual aid organizations who are coming out to every protest. They were out on the streets every day, providing water all the time. So I think it was like the context of the pandemic it's been if anything it's just pushed the movement that much more and it's giving people more to rally around.

Not only are we all upset about the racial Justice is about the systemic oppression about like the police terrorism. We were already all in agreement against that but then we are also an agreement on the fact that like no one cared for during the pandemic and so we all have to come together to take care of each other. Which I think has made the movement that much more powerful and has given it that much more momentum, which it desperately needs to keep it going and to really make an impact. We are starting to see concessions but even still Breonna Taylor doesn't have justice, Elijah McClain doesn't have justice. You know so many victims don't have justice, there are still more people being shot by police. Now more than ever we have to have to keep going despite all the hardships, despite the setbacks. the pandemic. I'm just very glad to see that people are not letting the pandemic deter them and if anything it just makes us stronger together.

KP: And do you think the way the mishandling of the pandemic has affected how you see police and racism in the U.S. in terms of, did this confirm suspicions? Did it shed light on things that you didn't think was the case?

MS: I think I had always been aware of the systematic racism and systemic oppression. I think it's something that I've been aware of for a long time and like you know I never doubted it when people of color were saying that this was a problem. But like I think with the mishandling of the pandemic, like I think a lot more people have realized that's the case. When I see that the majority of people who are dying from the pandemic are Black, Indigenous and other POC. It's just become so crystal clear. So I don't think it's changed my perspective. I've always been very you know anti-racist, anti-capitalist especially anti-capitalist because that feeds everything else. But I think it's opening people's eyes to a lot more especially the failings of our capitalist system because those only go hand-in-hand with the racist oppression. So, I think it didn't tell me anything I didn't already know but it definitely motivated me to do more about and it really pushed me to like okay they're really not looking out for us. Like the unemployment is not giving me enough to pay rent. If this keeps is I'm screwed. I have to do something about it because the alternative is just like letting it happen. And I'm not the type of person to just go with that. So it's of course like no one wanted the pandemic to be handled this way and so (inaudible) could have been saved properly. But at the same time like if I had to find what the silver lining it would be that like it's open people's eyes a lot more to like the true failings of this country and the failings of our government that have left us stranded and it's been a motivating factor for a lot of people including myself.

KP: Thank you. Have you been learning more about the history of racism in the US since the Black Lives Matter movement kind of exploded this year?

MS: Absolutely, for my birthday this year all I asked for were books about revolutionary theory, anti-racist organizers. I'm about to start Assata Shakur's autobiography. During Black August we read, our PSL book group read Jackson's "Blood in my Eye". It taught me so much, because not only was it from the perspective of a Black panther, it was during the Civil Rights movement. So it is historical information about the anti-racist struggle history in the US, but it also is so vital to understanding the movement. Now everything he wrote in that book is still relevant than it was 50 years ago. We just finished reading (Inaudible). I have a whole stack of books I need to get through. Just like the things that come up on social media, information people have been sharing the information. I learned directly for my friends who are a lot more well-versed in this stuff than I am. And just learning from people from different backgrounds. I went to a protest and learned more about the Palestinian struggle, which I already have a basic grasp of, but you know. I'm learning more all the time, again about the struggle here in the United States. Just trying to cram as much as possible and it can get a little overwhelming, but it's so important to know. I'm so grateful to have not only people who are you know passionate and high enough to take their personal time to teach me. But also to point me in the direction and provide me with a lot of resources. So that I can teach myself about you know what has what has happened and what has to be done. So short answer yes I have learned a lot I'm still learning a lot and it's also invaluable information. And I think more people should be doing it.

KP: What have your peers been doing that inspires you?

MS: I've been watching both members of the party, as well as allies of the party work their asses off to distribute supplies to their communities. I unfortunately was not able to donate some stuff and then like you're looking back to the pictures of like these families receiving food and like winter coats for the upcoming winter and like watching them do all of that. Watching them organize, speak out after speak out across Brooklyn to reach out to the communities about things. Like the upcoming wave of evictions. We've done posturing around the city, with Know Your Rights information for tenants. Organized a vigil for a young woman named Imani who died as a result of medical neglect. They worked very closely with her family. Like her mother and her grandmother to organize official to uplift your name and to uplift the stories of people who have gone through similar situations. That one was very touching and they are constantly doing things that inspire me,

that motivate me, that keep me accountable to myself all the time. Like I could just go on and on because they just do so much amazing work. When the Denver members were unjustly arrested, everyone across the country, all the chapters were rallying behind them. These Denver organizers, they were organizing protests across the country as well as members from other states for driving up to Denver to go protest for them. There was a solidarity statements that has been signed by dozens of organizations all across the world and the outpouring of donations of solidarity of people sharing information of these people. Because of their support, they were able to get the members out within a week, which is already a week too much. They were being illegally held but because they were able to push so hard they were able to get them out on bail and now they are still pushing, still fighting to have these unjust charges dropped. But it was just the amount of support that came out for these people that nobody knew. Like I didn't know any of them personally, but like I was going to do my damnedest to make sure that everybody knew their story. The amount of work that these party members do is just, it's astounding. I admire it so much and I hope that one day I will be able to work just as hard. I've been supporting them in any way I can because they are so inspiring.

KP: What do you think about the cops response to protests that began in May of this year?

MS: I hate the cops. To put it simply, I don't think anything they do is valid. I don't recognize them as a form of authority. They're not necessary for our country, they're not necessary period. The way that they handled everything was atrocious, absolutely atrocious. But it wasn't anything we didn't expect. It's sad to say that I wasn't surprised when people were being held, I wasn't surprised when people were being beaten and arrested. I wasn't surprised when the Denver organizers were arrested or when they were slapped with felony charges that they don't deserve. I mean the DA charged these Denver organizers with kidnapping because they non-violently surrounded a precinct in Denver. Like no weapons like they were not holding the cops inside hostage but they surrounded the precinct in their protest. Since the cops were too scared to leave. They were feeling threatened and so now these great people being charged with kidnapping and facing dozens of years in prison. So the way that they responded was not in the least way surprising, but it is still all that much more infuriating. I think it showed people, especially people who may not have believed the anti-racist protestors about the police when they were like it's just a few bad ones or whatever. These are isolated incidents that these people are being shot in and then when people protest against these isolated incidents there are that many more incidents of police violence. So, there not that all isolated, I think it showed that to a lot of people. Or that stupid notion

that's like I you don't do anything wrong then they won't do anything to you and it's like we all know that's not true and they proved that. So again it made me so mad, it still makes me so mad but it wasn't in the least bit surprising which is really upsetting. You would think that with all eyes on them they would think to behave a bit better because everyone's watching, but no, that's not what they're there to do. They're doing there what they're to do, which is to protect private property and to protect corporate interest, and to keep down the working class into violently oppressed people. And that's what they're going to keep doing because that's what they were built to do. The police come from the slave-catchers. They're direct descendants, we can trace the lineage straight back, no problem. So, none of this is surprising and none of it is going to go away unless we demand it to. So, I think people are on the right track right now. I think the people who are asking for police reform can step it up a bit more. We don't want reform because we've tried reform and it doesn't work. We can see that it doesn't work, body cams don't work. They'll just turn that s*** off. My bad. They'll just turn them off. Just because we are now we are able to punish them for shooting people doesn't mean that they're going to stop shooting people. (Inaudible) Immunity is still a thing in most states. They're going to do what they're going to do until our demands are met and unfortunately that's going to take a long time. So, in the meantime while they're still doing the horrible, disgusting, terrifying things that they do, we have to keep standing against it, but none of it surprised me.

KP: So, how would you like to see the movement resolved?

MS: I mean the thing is like, at least in my experience I've seen so many movements wrapped up into one. You know there's a movement for Black liberation, there's a movement for Indigenous liberation, there's a movement for LGBTQ+ protection. Like I said, I went to in tandem with the Black Lives Matter protests, I went to Palestine protests. All the movements have come together. So, my ideal would be to see this, the American capitalist imperialist system be overthrown. To have a complete restructuring of the government to see universal health care provided for every single person. To see housing provided for every single person. That everybody has guaranteed food and clean water because there's still so many places in this country that aren't getting clean water and water is being privatized because of capitalism. Like, I'd just love to see capitalism come crumbling down. That would be the ideal, and it's going to take a lot of growth of class consciousness and a lot of organization. Both in our communities and nationally, just a united front against these evils. So, the problem is my ideal is a ways away. But already some of the steps that I would like to see are the end of qualified immunity, defunding the police drastically not this BS de Blasio said of

just shuffling money around to make it look like the police is defunded. When in reality they're getting more money and education is still getting cut. So I would like to see (inaudible), I want to see billions taken away from them. I want to see Rikers clothes. I want to see them give up those plans on building the five new jails around the city because that's still a thing. There's a lot I want to see change and there are small steps that can be taken in that direction but you know there's still so much to do. And there's a lot of work that people have to do for it because it's not going to get given to us. So, if anything, I don't even want to see the movement resolved, I want to see it keep going. I want to see more people joining, more people who continue to fight for this because it's not even close to over. There's just so much to be dealt with. So, if anything I don't want to see it resolved, I want to see it keep going. I want to see more people joining, and it's going to keep growing. We're watching it happen among the PSL members, there are more people joining all the time. We're just going to keep fighting, we're not going to stay out of the streets. We're not going to stay quiet. We're not giving up even as the Winter comes more and more people lose interest. There is still a group out there that is determined and I am excited and grateful to be a part of it. So, I want to see more.

KP: How have your political beliefs changed since the pandemic and protests began this year?

MS: When it comes to changing I would say it sort of changed, but not really changed much. I had already been exposed to socialist ideas and more radical left ideas when I was a teenager. So it was something that I had already been open to and then as high school finished and college happened I kind of reverted back to a more stereotypical liberal type. With the 2016 election it was about third parties a wasted vote for voting. You know I was one of those people and now I'm like the complete opposite and if anything just like further radicalized against the system, and now I'm voting a party and speaking out against people who are shaving third-party voters. I've come to realize that there's a lot more that needs to be done. It's not going to happen through electoral politics. It's going to happen slowly through the devoted work of people in our organization. So I don't think that like I've changed all that much. In 2016 I was pro-Bernie and even with his second campaign I was pro-Bernie. I was so excited that he had started again and was disappointed to see the Democrat suppression. But I think even that just further radicalized me more to the left because even the supposed left doesn't care about us, they don't. They care about corporate interest and imperialism. I just became more aware of just how bad it was. So I've been more like radicalized to the left I've aligned myself with socialists and communists, and that's just what I do now

and that's why I care about that one. That's what I'm learning about because of you know what I believe is going to be our best solution. It's not new to me but I'm definitely a lot more devoted to it and it's something that I actually want to apply myself to. So I haven't changed that much just like further intensified my positions.

KP: And do you think it's because of obviously the less than ideal response by the local and national government to covid-19 that kind of further pushed you towards radicalization?

MS: I think I was already just like on that trajectory anyway because of things that I've been through in college. Stuff I had seen when I was working at the studio, and just like the things that I've learned over the past few years have definitely pushed me more that way. The fact that my bills are being covered right now has definitely pushed me to be more motivated in that regard and further radicalized in that sense. And when you're put into that position and just blatantly shown that the government doesn't care about you. It doesn't make you like them all that much, and it makes you that much more willing to speak out against it. So, I do think it had something to do with pushing me further but I think this would have happened regardless. But it definitely accelerated that.

KP: How different or similar were your expectations compared to the actual experience of participating in the protest?

MS: Because of what was propped up by the corporate news of life when the initial protest restarting they were only showing off like the arson, looting and you know the violent protests. They weren't actually giving an accurate representation of what like the majority of the movement was like. And so when I finally started getting out on the streets it was just like oh this is an amazing example of community solidarity. It wasn't as intense as I expected it to be though I guess that was all due to my timing. Hold on, I'm trying to grapple my thoughts. I guess I would say it was better than I expected. I also expected to feel like a lot more out of place especially somebody who wasn't very well-versed in like all this critical theory. People didn't let it be so I have you know some good friends who became even better friends throughout all of this and they introduced me to the party and to the other members and they're all amazing people that I'm now so grateful to know and so grateful to consider myself to be aligned with. Remind me the question I'm losing myself.

KP: It's okay. I was asking how different or similar were your expectations compared to the actual experience of participating in the protest?

MS: So I would say it was better than I expected. It was my own anxiety and introversion projecting this idea that it would be more exclusive. If you don't know this, like what are you doing here type of thing but really was just more so people who were like oh you actually care about what we have to say and you want to learn from us. Like hell yes, like join us, learn from us, be a part of this. I mean some of them the actions (inaudible) were so much bigger than like I could even imagine. I know a lot of people sell pictures of the black trans lives matter march happens in June. I think it was more like everybody wore white and it was just I mean a massive amount of people all coming out to you know explicitly say black trans lives matter and it was amazing to see just the number of people who all care so much. And there are some bad eggs here and there in the movement and some organizations that are not as reputable as others. Overall it's just such an enlightening experience and I'm really grateful to know so many people now who are only a part of it. Who have made it this. So definitely exceeded my expectations by like so much.

KP: I know you talked about this just now but could you tell me a bit more about the kinds of people at the protest that you participated in?

MS: I mean it wasn't very surprising but like a lot of the ones, especially the ones that you like found from Instagram and stuff. Like a lot of White people showed out, which is like great to see that people who have like this extra privilege, that are in these positions to actually have an impact. The continuation of the movement there were a lot more White people then there have ever been. So many young people, a lot of people is youngest me even younger and you know it was interesting because in some ways it was good, in some ways it was bad. Because there would be like community-focused events and community focused actions that they like White people from like Williamsburg, Manhattan would come into and you know it wasn't really their space to be a part of which we noticed a lot at PSL speak outs. Which is actually why they stopped posting them on Instagram and that way it was like having them promoted by bigger pages because I wanted it to be a community effort instead of people who are from gentrified communities coming in. (Inaudible) They are like I did activism. (Inaudible) There were very large crowds and it's good to see all sorts of people come out in support of this and especially a lot of white people come out in support of this more than there's ever been before. It was also kind of a setback, there was the other issue of people who had put way too much emphasis on identity politics. So like whenever organizers

tried to divide the crowd, like oh can I get the Black people to the front and white people step back? There's a place for that but then there was also like talking to other organizers, talking to Black organizers. This actually does more to hurt the movement than it does to help it. Like we went to one vigil for specifically Black women who had been targeted by the police, who have died in the hands of medical neglect or in the president (Inaudible) complex. And they were very strict about only Black people in the front, the white people you got to step way back and also if you don't identify as a woman, like step way back. Like just really making the whole thing about identity politics, which did more to divide the crowd than to unify it. So it was kind of weird. There's been a huge increase of people involved, there's been a huge increase of White people involved, which is good to see. But then it is also expected (Inaudible) I was surprised to see it. But I think for the most part people have been working it out. Now that the movement has died down, just like down to the poor people who really care about it. You see less White people showing up now that it's now like the thing anymore. Like I've seen the numbers go down. Still a diverse crowd especially here in New York you know so many people from different walks of life coming together to you know say that enough is enough which has been for the most part good.

KP: What do you think would be the ideal or most effective way to organize people and avoiding those kind of well-intended but not very effective rallying cries, like you mentioned identity politics which is less effective (Inaudible) would want to?

MS: The big thing is education. Learn political theory, learn race theory, learn revolutionary theory, learn anti-capitalist (Inaudible). Like a big focus is on education right now and there are organizations out there who's focus is education. The PSL has setback a lot when it comes to organizing protests and rallies and have put more effort into educational groups and community givebacks. They're like okay we set our (Inaudible) like people know what we stand for. People know what we care about, but like now's the time to build a movement and to like organize, organize, organize. So teach people these things, teach people what we're fighting for and how we'll fight for it. And then also support our communities at the same time because they need assistance have more than ever. Mutual aid is unfortunately necessary right now because the people's needs are not being met. We have to do it ourselves. So as of right now the movement has taken the turn towards more just like educate, learn who's around you, learn who your community is. And like (Inaudible) yourself right now the main focus at this point it's just like a whole bunch of education so trying to cram all of that now and build the

movements to that when another wave of protests come, we will be more organized.

KP: How has your involvement in the protests affected your relationships with people you know?

MS: It's been interesting because I've been very outspoken about it. I think I turned a lot of people off from me. It's maybe a little intimidating because I come across a bit like aggressively about it, which probably has to do with who I am as a person. I have an interesting relationship with my parents, I have a good relationship with my parents but when it comes political stuff now they give me some liberal like nonsense that I've heard a thousand times before. Like I got to say something about it, like a few months ago my mom was praising Oprah for buying a bunch of billboards to raise awareness for Breonna Taylor's case and I was like that's dumb. She should be using her money to support the family or pay for lawyers than buying used Billboards. Because everybody already knows about Breonna Taylor's story. Like nobody I don't think many people arguing, like she was done so incredibly wrong and her family absolutely deserve justice. And I was just that's some silly liberal stuff to buy a bunch of billboards about something that everyone already knows and everyone already cares about. So then I got into a debate about it with my mom and they are so supportive of what I'm doing they like know that I am affiliated with the party and then I'm going to be joining. They support it. They don't get it at all. They try to but they don't really get it but they are supportive. I'm so grateful that my partner is so supportive. He's been coming with me to different events and you know tuning in on different fractions with me and learning from me as I learn you know all this stuff. He's been a good sound board when it comes to like working through my thoughts about things but he's been so supportive and I'm really grateful for that. But I think overall it's definitely subtly affected my relationship. I think nobody's really surprised to hear all this coming from me. They are definitely more wary to get on political topics around me because I will go off. I get frustrated about something and then just go on a rant. So people have been a little more trepidatious about that stuff around me but I'm fortunate to have a lot of supportive people in my life.

KP: What do you think about the violent protests that some are calling riots?

MS: I'm good on them. When I saw that precinct being burned down in Minneapolis I was like this is it. This is what I like this is what I want to see. Like nobody was killed in the process of that, but it's going to take direct action for things to change. There's some of the reasons why the concessions were being

made at all was because like people proved that they're not going to stand by this. Like they're not going to just like let it happen and they're going to fight back. If you are being violently oppressed then like some violence has to be taken back. Like you are allowed to defend yourself and these are people defending themselves against the police. And to see that precinct burn down in Minneapolis was just like inspiring. It was like wow the people have really you know this is what they want to say this is how I feel about it. And so as much as like I'm going to avoid partaking in those sorts of actions especially with like the affiliation to PSL. It'll hurt the organization to be involved with things like that. Which is why party members are like required not to. Like good on them, like I am I'm in full support entirely. People's voices are being heard and they are defending themselves, and who am I to try to take that away from them. So as much as I will not be participating I have like the utmost respect for the people who are "rioting". The looting too, they're looting from major corporations like I don't want to hear like people crying about the looting and stuff. So they like stole and burned it. They stole from and burned down a Target like I'm supposed to be sad for Target no, like that's not going to happen. I'm not going to be sad for Target because one of their stores burned down. Because even Target said like you know what we're fine, like this didn't affect us as a corporation. There's no need for you all to be defending Target because even Target knows that's no skin off their back. Again, I won't be participating but I'm all for it.

KP: So what kinds of civil disobedience are morally acceptable or may be more if it's more concise to say, what kinds of Civil Disobedience are not morally acceptable?

MS: I think because I'm a little more like radical my perception on like what's moral and what's not might be different from someone who's like a little more liberal or centrist. (Inaudible) baseline some other things like the civil disobedience like when the curfews were implemented, like protesting past curfew of course. The looting of major corporations like go for it. Just like the protest, I'm forgetting the word right. The property damage. Especially like major buildings, like watching the banks get their windows smashed and stuff like that, I'm not upset by that. So there's a lot of things people can do in the sense of civil disobedience that I am in full support of. I think like the biggest thing that they can do for themselves especially after that then get involved with the education and learn how to organize with other people. Because like guess what when we all get organized it's going to be a lot more effective if we keep like smashing s***. We could like protect ourselves, because when the people start smashing things and burning things they also put themselves at risk to be targeted by the police. I'm all for it but I think that

there needs to be organization among those people to protect themselves. Just so that they're not being targeted by the police and repressed violently. So I think there's like tons and tons of room for like civil disobedience that you know self-defense that regard but I think that instead of having those happen in like on (Inaudible) little incidents and actions and you know isolated incidents. Like if everybody were like to get together and do it all at once it would be that much more impactful. So right now it still has its place but if somebody were to start like looting and smashing windows right now it would be really bad for the movement. They've already gotten enough bad press and now more than ever we just need to build with each other more than tearing them down because the corporate interest the government, police: they're all very well organized. And we have a very tough battle ahead of us. So it has its place, but like not right now.

KP: And when is violence in the name of justice okay or if it's more concise you can say when it's not okay?

MS: This is something that I can grappling with myself recently. Just like trying to figure out where I stand in all of that. Some people are like going to argue that like burning down and precincts is violence ,go for it, like smashing windows or if they consider that violence like go for it. When it comes to other people obviously any sort of self-defense but someone (Inaudible) trying to employ against the police when they are being attacked liked by all means. In Breonna Taylor's case when the police stormed in with no warrants and her boyfriend armed himself and tried to shoot them. Like yes that is absolutely justified in every sense of the term. And I do think that at some point you know if and when the people are organized there may come and they're likely will come to a head where it will be you know a revolution. Unfortunately the main and only language the United States understands is violence. This country was founded on violence. We just have such a violent history with like slavery and genocide to establish the United States and then the wars that we had not only with other countries but with ourselves. It's truly like the only language America understands. I mean the U.S. although we don't have much like violence like international violence on our own soil. The United States is still... you know we're still at war in the Middle East. They've been you know perpetuating violence in the Middle East for decades. There are violent sanctions against countries like Cuba and Venezuela and the DPRK and all these countries that the US doesn't agree with. Therefore we are going to make them suffer. Like it's the only language it knows and it's the only language it'll respond to. So unfortunately I think it's going to come to a point where the people are going to have to arm themselves at the very least to defend themselves from whatever repressive violence is coming. Because I mean we seem very clearly that when the

people get together, even peacefully when the people get together they are so violently repressed by the police. So I think it'll be mostly within the context of self-defense. I'm still trying to figure out where I stand on the rest of it. But like this place really does have its place and I think that it is so unfortunate that like violence has the most understood like language of the people right now and that like this is what people understand and take the most seriously. Like we can't just demand things because it doesn't happen. It is the reality of our situation and that's hard to grapple with. I'm still trying to figure out totally where I stand on that but I think that when it comes to defending the people from the military we have here on our own soil with the police but as well as overseas. Like it's an effective method unfortunately.

KP: Do you think there are any actions that would disqualify one from contributing to civil disobedience or protests? Like are there any methods that do more harm than good?

MS: I mean first thing I think off my head, like what does more harm than good is like if you're doing it for attention. If you were like you know the type that have seen a few incidences both in reality and also being accused of like people who are participating in like the riots and stuff like for the attention and just to be destructive. If you're doing it not because you actually care about the movement, but because you want to destroy some stuff, than like you don't have a place in the movement. I think it's hard to judge like who should be allowed to like participate and who shouldn't. (Inaudible) It's hard for me to say especially. Somebody in the outreach organizers in the PSL would probably be able to answer the question because they know what to look for in a new member and like what to avoid. Like I if you just want to like use a revolution as a justification to be violent. Like you don't really care about the movement itself, then like there's no place for you here. Or like if you only believe in certain aspects but not like the liberation of all people or like if you also just like think that things are relatively fine as they are. You just wat to like mess with some stuff, like no. So I think as long as somebody has like good intentions and is openminded to learning from the organizers who had been leading this for so long then like there's not much that you can do to disqualify yourself. If you really are putting in like the effort on yourself to like learn and you know that you're being very introspective and like challenging yourself to be a better person. Then I don't see why you would be you know disqualified from like being a part of it, but it's really just like you don't have the right intentions... The anti-racist struggle isn't something you actually care. If you're a capitalist sympathizer, you have to go. For the most part if you have good intentions, if

you're there to learn if you're there to listen if you're there to be supportive like you have a place.

KP: What do protesters want to see changed?

MS: A lot, and it also like varies on like what kind of protestor. Like you know the kind of people I align myself with want to see a lot more change than like the liberal protesters. I feel like the majority of people that I've seen protest would fall under like that liberal category and want to see a lot of reforms. They want to seem like more police accountability, whatever that means. They want to see defunding the police of course I think we can all agree on that. I mean the PSL and I would argue would like take it a step further with abolition. But you know there a lot of people who haven't come around to it yet or don't fully understand it yet. I'm still like trying to understand what exactly that would look like because it's hard to imagine in the American society. The end of qualified immunity for a start, defunding the police you know and just in context of the pandemic better economic relief for people. Like a genuine stimulus package that's actually going to be beneficial for the people and not for the billionaires. Ideally, the end of senseless police violence, like I would love to not see a new story every week of somebody's who's shot by the police for simply the color of their skin, or the situation they were in. Or their mental illness, or disability. There's a lot of that as well. I want to see adequate health care for people. Medicine would be great. It's truly Necessary but It's so shocking that you have to push so hard for something that you would think would be a given. Here we are. So, there are a lot of concessions and there are a lot of demands to be met. A lot of demands to be met, but it's going to take a long time to get through all of them and everybody has a different goal in mind. So, like right now we're seeing a lot of the liberals say we just want to see Biden voted in and we want things to go back to normal so to speak. And people who are for the to the left are demanding to take it further than that, normal was still bad. Pre-Trump was still bad. So there's a lot that we want to see changed.

KP: Last question. How can others support the anti-racist cause?

MS: Join an organization. I think the easiest way is just to join an organization. Find something that works for you and just join. I see a lot of infographics go around Instagram like signing the petitions and call your local lawmaker, you know educate yourself. But like, without any real direction to how you can educate yourself. (inaudible) Political involvement doesn't end voting. That is not true at all, and I'm so sorry that you have been disillusioned to believe that at all. So like by far the most effective thing that you can do is join an organization. Like

truly apply yourself to this because there are a lot of organizations out there that will show you how to do it, they will teach you they will walk you through it. It is not about you as an individual. You don't have to do this alone. In fact, it will be ready ineffective if everybody tried to solve this problem individually. So my number one thing is to join an organization, it doesn't have to be PSL but that is my recommendation. Just make sure you're accountable to more than just yourself, that you work with anti-racist organizers who are not white, which is another thing that I think is very important. (inaudible) Align yourself with them and they will teach you so much. I'm so grateful to them. It not only makes me feel like a better person but like it's a step towards a genuine change. That's what I would say. If you want to call your local lawmaker, then do that. Please do sign petitions those are important. Please donate to those organizations if you can. Like, you know the money will never be turned down. These organizations desperately need funding to keep doing what they're doing and to keep supporting their communities. So even if you can't even join one, donate to one. Try to avoid major nonprofit organizations because they are just as bad as the corporate (inaudible). Grassroot organizations (inaudible) Find some go fund me, there is a lot of Instagram pages so you can donate directly to Black people in need. Trans people in need, to Indigenous people in need. There are just so many of those. Those were some good steps. Go be on the Instagram infographics that's all I'm saying. Not that those aren't helpful, they are a good starting point. That's all they are, a starting point.

KP: We're done Marlow. Thank you so much.

MS: Thank you!

KP: I know it took two hours. Thank you so much! You gave really great answers.

MS: Thank you. I'm happy too. You said you needed a picture too right?

KP: Yeah just like a profile, just your face.

MS: Okay, I will send that over soon. It was good to talk to you.

KP: You too. I miss you. We need to hang out soon.

MS: Yes, we will, definitely. Have a good night I'll talk to you soon.

KP: Okay, goodnight.

