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**March 2, 2020**

The 2020 Women's History Month theme is “Valiant Women of the Vote.” The theme honors "the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others."

**March**

**Women’s History Month**

March 3 Super Tuesday be sure to vote

March 3 World Wild Life Day

March 8 International Women’s Day

March 8 Day light Saving Time begins

March 19 Feast of St. Joseph

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless
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| ***Back Ground checks Save Lives*** The Brady Bill was enacted 26 years ago on February 28, 1994. To date, background checks have blocked more than 3.5 million gun sales to prohibited buyers — including domestic abusers, convicted felons, and others.It’s been a year since the House passed H.R. 8 to expand background checks, yet the **Senate has failed to bring its companion bill to a debate or vote**. In that time, almost 40,000 people in America have been killed by guns. We know the solutions. It’s past time for the Senate to update background checks now!   |

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| [**SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR SENATOR**](https://bradycampaign.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ca1feb30521bf049050c9d5bd&id=ca19a7efa1&e=5e03217306)  |

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***Act Now to Protect the National Environmental Policy Act***

A new proposal from the Trump administration would fundamentally change how the federal government implements our nation's bedrock environmental law—the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, which is crucial to protecting public health and well-being. The proposal is a blatant effort to institutionalize climate denial into government decision-making. The Union for Concerned Scientists urges us to act now to protect the NEPA. Go to: [https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/5J0luZa4YkiUmcMR656c9g2](https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/5J0luZa4YkiUmcMR656c9g2?contactdata=zMr4S5wvBx1hmZrKhOHj0SxLcu3T4Dac8h5gslQiGx%2B8IKK1vl8YUv1VmEXIrTNgZWjKbceAbE1IAhZc%2FcP8ireQbsWYZGccFTPa5b5Ckdq%2FOgsdFJQ3JRJl0q61%2F%2BTP%2Bvb8qvLqZ6v2Zrq%2F%2BFb6MN5C201SGgE1VpgslZGV8TZsIUDMlVHXWeotse0fDe1SePOp0%2BbZLu7g1GDpwdmZrS46JGnCjNRvzG%2B5DvOnodA%3D&emci=fbf9f540-7444-ea11-a1cc-00155d03b1e8&emdi=bc919138-7944-ea11-a1cc-00155d03b1e8&ceid=996182)

***Labeling for Lent***

Labeling for Lent [petition](https://sistersagainsttrafficking.salsalabs.org/labelingforlent2020) and urge seafood producers, distributors, and retailers to make public, through product labeling or other means, their efforts to fight human trafficking in their product supply chains.

**This year the Labeling for Lent Campaign seeks to encourage the wholesale company Sysco to better inform its customers about efforts they are making to ensure their supply chains are free of forced labor.** Sysco is a global leader in selling, marketing, and distributing food products to restaurants, healthcare, and educational facilities. With over 650,000 customer locations, the company operates more than 320 distribution facilities globally. In the United States, many of the schools and hospitals who purchase from Sysco are Catholic.

Please sign our online petition [HERE](https://sistersagainsttrafficking.salsalabs.org/labelingforlent2020).

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| ***Take Action: Demand Sustainable Dietary Guidelines***When you sit down to eat, you probably don't think about federal food recommendations. But these dietary guidelines shape choices made by millions of Americans each day and affect more than $80 billion in annual federal spending. They're updated every five years — including right now, by the Trump administration.Although Trump is trying to prevent the advisory committee from addressing sustainability in the update, the committee can still emphasize the importance of diets lower in meat and dairy and higher in plant-based foods. That would bring better choices to school cafeterias and programs for prisoners, seniors, veterans and government employees.[Act now to urge the committee to include sustainability in its dietary recommendations.](https://click.everyaction.com/k/15493340/163544807/-499340090?sourceid=1006028&utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1025&utm_term=PopulationSus&contactdata=M8hP%2FHk%2F35chUJ1lb6AOJEyawJOUlXOYINGY3ygaHKqjNOSqh9a%2BXk2AjrXMo7T4J0MMPjXC6CVxjcHGrKJCwkWLVEI9GNwTMbU8Mf3HfDt4btgKHtQsVg4lC3QtlgFZKcyrhw81EeZrzG4gjptYQI8W8JAC6FK4NIbMf9UJVO7D39O70BSeRjqm%2F6EXjl%2BHUVcpC9l0F3ucN2WvY8g30oxn8WjwkjdF7bl36Sbb24o%3D&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9DQkQvQ0JELzEvNjE0MjkiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiZGI0MWUxODMtYWM1OS1lYTExLWE5NGMtMDAxNTVkMDM5ZTc0IiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=gqMd1Zbj25HFJUG1LRLB7-GKVX85rmXZjWcLYxLRbLw=&emci=6e8a6505-2758-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=db41e183-ac59-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=650609) |

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***Break Free from Plastic***

A comprehensive new bill to tackle the plastic-pollution crisis has just been introduced in Congress, and we need your help to see it through to passage.

The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act is as visionary as it is urgent: It would phase out throwaway plastics made from fossil fuels — things like single-use plastic bottles, bags and straws. And it would hold the plastic industry responsible for its waste and pause construction of all new plastic-making plants until the EPA can further review the facilities' huge impacts.

[**Send a letter asking your members in Congress to cosponsor the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act.**](https://url.emailprotection.link/?bwj3GXyft6fZKNwmFY7eBZgLM2VPSwbgpLcyNVtSXM9AfiFAv5J827noxxlsV7_wlhKxvctlAoei8h3wNb99yyXxP-GnxAOTYlM44WoR5gMlqMnZE3IY8RaxE4cfEwmUw74ESniV6atI-xBZQMffCUbMJDiuxp7j2Rfd0qP2cLqKrWgdEHFyuhVsgdgCGs5llnDXKeW8Z7dOTv0ShwkU0FQVfqL1gzZA5jnFuAbaIvx0k6lz_ObjGS23_jSekb4exmxJyQu0JFRA0e8LkZ52LBabRqmeLJdgszc_k8kIPrN-svUTisYzIT7yWjImJ6jgrRy60q5Y4JZ5yRrTeYAtInjZ0GLOzIKP_W3HoBnhCC06BwogtNVEd7IwiCyQmDdsTKNtSnLkVPiNVGnsXAaX0SCEFi6xPR4RVnESkQHzLNygSlx0bdo1_4zTjekXqwQ1N62xjxuil2s6-dMx4LI0JTbikHPmNSORl8Ap9sWdocQ8ThQHjOS2WALoRCAEpu6xUJTFUdDP3JuQuPVw3_xkLmuoWQq0YOvb2xmjsmzgbhc9jiBMQmolw6IqD9OODjknmOT2RGm25brMkm1wNJJol18ESBOERgwltLAenuebsQLVPD3yht8IL7DEsBDCxbPw_GTtXizfBW2vWpgXjUZa57Ds_aLREZUKMCpHA8ON-SdRJWVhuqIgmRasaS-OYN1NcHoFwIkXcVKTctPM216inGqg0eJxruSFCc8qLJCP5GiomOafFO_J52E70YsdZNi_jeP_AqLjb4oQqgW0NQlGl34xW2buXvMG0SratGVOnfXs~)

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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| ***Refugee Crisis***The world is currently in the midst of the largest refugee crisis on record. There are over **70 million** people displaced from their homes -- up from **68 million** in 2017 and **65 million** in 2016.      [U.N. Refugee Agency](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApWyq4841nhUfzRlORU_P5wnneY0_f9xgffx0fSOphM5vPD_MkZN8OLeNNxW-J6d4Gh_P5ZpiFTUD3VNd6OFymhA3jrmd1FjCQlbF-i7i4OajptOtl9cU05g==&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==) Over **50%** of refugees are under age **18**. [U.N. Refugee Agency](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApWyq4841nhUfzRlORU_P5wnneY0_f9xgffx0fSOphM5vPD_MkZN8OLeNNxW-J6d4Gh_P5ZpiFTUD3VNd6OFymhA3jrmd1FjCQlbF-i7i4OajptOtl9cU05g==&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)Refugees differ from immigrants in that they are unable or unwilling to return to their homes because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin. [U.N. Refugee Agency](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApU4akXpfPVj1FOSU_BwNeuRo84SSWobEoWVl1dIYdi49dnpKhmLRnFVK7dHJRh6LTT105EHI0Huw3CjxQIY9xizqhJqBZfeCXcPpRYfm_YQE5rrAjbnMdoWGUv3ggL6OOND-gs3EoSuX73o3gKwv7exDXWd0iTRZUGA_b-mGOS_3yWpt7dRjyOSNGTTZkTFEPMUIM9rplwdQ=&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)**40%** of refugees live in refugee camps. In protracted situations, some refugees can spend decades in a camp and it is common for children to be born and grow up there.  [UN Refugee Agency](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApQfJQ1ErqdWc7PJWH3stWl1TUoQe9aNheRgJxz5XXQ_bm-m8VRuKEnMkY71AnSa1A4fEZ_YnvOIvWIssHTZ1G9FLdwGESAE46fZqlG9r5vlCInGQCJC7ypg==&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)﻿In Central America current homicide rates are among the highest ever recorded in the region. **66%** of the migrants fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras had a family member murdered, kidnapped or "disappeared." [Doctors Without Borders](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-AptrjcayKazSyGoKi7F1kqvSrGeouSf1uJffMysflsfwiN7MzqwNufgLJsjyWGi0wNdi4ifvYCMY8TSFfuuHTCblFTOyMShcuSKeJOr8ajAb4=&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)The number of people fleeing for their lives from Central America has grown by **10** times in the past **5** years. [UN Refugee Agency](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-Apyvoiwgkhqb2_lZw_0W6xg7Fr6dHQ3VNDmAwXAeL_lrJDH49wSHoPXE_f8sEJyDmzgSG9WXKq4nolxzR9OdCzHhYQJUO6p27McuB8Ah7soZ3rtyLwrbPJyXyt7N5RzBd4&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)In 2018 alone, at least **4,843** refugees died in the journey. **2,934** drowned and **194** people died from dehydration. At least **1,871** people have died on the border between Mexico and the U.S. in the last **5** years. [Missing Migrants Project](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApMIvhNIqJLyqNRfMZKpX1rXu4glwv0zhoC-mWaDmQq2j9e3sh3WAW-thb4G3xqn-5BQTYxD-_Cpgcbk6AoW8mvlOq18oQRu9g&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)The U.S. used to lead the world in refugee resettlement. The U.S. enacted the first refugee legislation in 1948 to help **250,000** Europeans after the Second World War. Later laws helped people fleeing communist regimes. [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-AprnA4-T6ptC2qJy3O3yiWPF0iWm8J0VAKilq_AOFywb3oQIWff-sIFNmr6axfdjicgebHr7y1hP2x4O6M0QdFrpmXeGFD9NRqWjs-x0BoaDA=&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)The Refugee Act of 1980 provided permanent, systematic procedures for admitting refugees to the U.S. in both regular and emergency situations and authorized federal assistance for refugee resettlement. Since 1975, the U.S. has resettled **3,405, 564** refugees. As recently as 2016, the U.S. welcomed **84,995** refugees. [U.S. State Department](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-AprHSZi5IZS1DtV2OAKBSXMq6ii7PSEupjARMwScbWk7Qw1XWBFTbEcnefzOvxGu23FdI1GSAeOBC_aITvgYzPi7YStsxfyeBxsvvDS1OAhdH4UewxvfOpvZ5zzQDnkEtB2iFsINfmWucKsv7OYRXdFmLcBEgjzuVcwfV735UUlAqYslrkRn8oq7FUSUP249Oi554beEAIxhaHWwgAAePwe9oBymOzsBw5-nPbOGR1hLtr5B4J2aTXDJXCKs6H8MGW&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)In the last **3** years however the U.S. has reduced the number of refugees allowed into this country and is proposing just **22,000** for 2020. [Migration Policy Institute](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-Apzuy-hV9YYpnEVYIJBTZtsGwIzhyrB8LG64nB6uPCPEO7Ug5OOKhgGX4DqVFN5X1tZ95xcpgYU0pexQ4TjFyBHL73rvN_KjHUozAOGNSGeYqKjjAOoe5CWITPqMPdCz6FHYf5xf43SJSfxetWE4iePw==&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)The U.S. government has forced **57,000** asylum seekers and migrants, including at least **16,000** children and **500** infants to return to Mexico under the “Migrant Protection Protocols”—better known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy. [Human Rights First](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-Aphdwg-Tkq7rVmkKHDwthtgrDOdOlWdFxUgxT2boMCyu4VS89SkNjXMzp4TM70_NTf4cYVe_KSsKtxWAtR_EafWvT11mXbGXqz9cyuY0Hr0aYE-ZWr0Drn7cKR7iY0AqY6&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)As of January 21, 2020, there were at least **816** publicly reported cases of murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, and other violent assaults against asylum seekers and migrants forced to return to Mexico. Among these reported attacks were **201** cases of children returned to Mexico who were kidnapped or nearly kidnapped. [Human Rights First](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-Aphdwg-Tkq7rVmkKHDwthtgrDOdOlWdFxUgxT2boMCyu4VS89SkNjXMzp4TM70_NTf4cYVe_KSsKtxWAtR_EafWvT11mXbGXqz9cyuY0Hr0aYE-ZWr0Drn7cKR7iY0AqY6&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)**51%** of Americans say that the US has a responsibility to accept refugees, but the Refugee Protection Act, introduced in November, 2019 is stalled in Congress. [Pew Research Center](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxHxq3lfgSf-ApvDsSqA8UOrc9ebNUehtjtyyBwQSNa83zmjNIKsgVMOWnRCimkXfcaJw4Tr4R-xWMFely6p2RMIQQBBEBWgpBSUBnelw-lEMgQhfkc2uVvzrcMpLmd4B8KOk-R0toShhXLOFxPJbQoXvJT_QkuS4pWzMZK9C-jJ_DK8NQThYKCD7ODZO7AD2QqphAwcz6hHEcq24RChIKRia1Bqdgl7crOe60jYoPPAy2&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)For more on **Refugees**, [click here.﻿](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001S4qdJArYSCSyp71oe_G4FU0IE6xqapvYkiyRsRElERdVwR7JK0ZxH1I9nJs3bMWr4Q9QWn0bwCs-PkNWRrfsn3GrvT_p8jaIzBnzRuZOqJxvIn19PgaCcMee2jsaRkTJfGevKA6I6vz-8PLdFXjpFDFkygz4_rF13Mc_EpprR2Hp46YkrCwGX6qeeEGaKPuZ&c=t_f1PZKWCk1Lk7osdgTfvm-yHP3JNkgP6_oiE1NcR1uaHsiLOxlL_A==&ch=yraazcnufjsxDNKPnPr5rdOZpI5Qbzapft7Nu8ijRqn11XPzfwxQzQ==)  |

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***How Bumble Bees Inspired a Network of Tiny Museums***

Sometimes, small things make a huge impact. After studying how bees in urban environments can survive by navigating small land patches, ecologist Amanda Schochet was inspired to build MICRO, a network of portable science museums the size of vending machines. Learn how these tiny museums are being deployed in libraries, community centers, transit hubs and elsewhere to increase public access to science.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=9a4519ef4d&e=21df47c728) |

[***Former UNFCCC chief calls for climate revolution***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/mjsMCCjbkDDjBfyrCieTdfCicNKEjE?format=multipart)

A peaceful revolution in which the world rejects short-sighted fossil fuel policies is needed in the coming decade to avert the "dire emergency" that is climate change, warned Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as she promoted her new book on climate change. "There is no guarantee of success but not trying is a guarantee of failure," Figueres says.

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***Words to Ponder***

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"The issue is not, 'What must I do in order to secure my salvation?' but rather, 'What does God require of me in response to the needs of others?' It is not, 'How can I be virtuous?' but 'How can I participate in the struggle of the oppressed for a more just world?'"

—Walter Wink, Jesus and Nonviolence

"Is the system going to flatten you out and deny you your humanity, or are you going to be able to make use of the system to the attainment of human purposes?"

—Joseph Campbell

"I would like to beg you to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Live the question now. Perhaps then, someday in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answers."

—Rainer Maria Rilke, quoted in [Engage](https://default.salsalabs.org/T6c057e8f-c908-447e-ab8c-0f05ac77e964/9e4dca38-c7e4-4a43-9dba-f75e0c3b115a)