

Top 5 News Special Edition: A DECADE OF GOOD NEWS

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The 2010s marked a decade of legal triumph for LGBTQ rights, with landmark court decisions on various issues. The U.S. Supreme Court [affirmed marriage equality in 2015](#). Florida's Third District Court of Appeals [ended the state's ban on gay adoption](#) in 2010. The Colorado Civil Rights Division legally affirmed that Coy Mathis, a transgender first-grade girl, [has the right to use the girls' bathroom](#) at her elementary school in 2013.



2



Despite the numerous mass shootings in the 2010s, **the decade showed progress in addressing gun safety**. In response to the 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, the [March For Our Lives movement](#) gained momentum, marking a turning point in America's conversation on guns. [States passed safer gun laws](#) and Congress will [fund gun violence research](#) for the first time in two decades.

3



Efforts from individuals and groups to promote religious unity emerged. After the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in 2018, two Muslim organizations, [Celebrate Mercy](#) and [Power Change](#), collaborated to create a [crowdfunding page](#), which raised \$250,000 just days after its creation. In 2019, when a fire destroyed part of the Islamic Society of Mid-Manhattan's mosque, [the Central Synagogue](#) welcomed hundreds of Muslims to a location in the synagogue so they could safely use the space for prayer.

4

This past decade, [economic conditions improved](#) for many Americans. The number of homeless individuals declined from about 637,000 in 2010 to 553,000 in 2018. In October 2019, the unemployment rate fell to 3.5% — the lowest it has been since May 1969. Food insecurity levels fell from 14.9% in 2011 to 11.1% in 2018.

5

The 2010s marked a decade of improvement in children's conditions worldwide. According to Save the Children's [2019 Global Childhood Report](#), conditions for children have improved in 173 out of 176 countries since 2000. Today, there are 130 million more children in school, 94 million fewer child laborers, 4.4 million fewer child deaths per year, 3 million fewer teen births per year, and 12,000 fewer child homicides per year.

With relentless coverage on "bad news," it can seem that every aspect of the world is trending in the wrong direction. Nicholas Kristof, Opinion Columnist for the New York Times, writes that "deep pessimism about the state of the world can be paralyzing rather than empowering; excessive pessimism can leave people feeling not just hopeless but also helpless." Inspired by his article, this edition of the Top 5 News is meant to portray the good in the world and to enter the new decade on a positive note, not to undermine the world's current concerns.