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**After Conventions, CPS Students to Give Their Own Take on Politics
140 Chicago Youth to Speak Out at #PopUpSoapBox This Thursday**

What: Pop-Up Soapbox

Who: 140 Chicago Teens convened by Mikva Challenge

Time & Location: 12:00 pm @ Daley Plaza (50 W. Washington St.) on Thursday, August 4, 2016

Why: To insert youth voice into local and national public dialogues on the issues that affect the city

As our nation gears up for the upcoming Presidential Election in November, conversations have been sparked about equality, immigration reform, employment, violence prevention and more; however, the voices of youth have been largely left out. Over one hundred teens from across Chicago, convened by Mikva Challenge, want to change this. To increase youth voice in important conversations, youth will be giving 'pop-up' soapbox speeches in Daley Plaza. A soapbox speech is a 3 minute spontaneous speech, often about a political subject.

"We have our own experiences and it's important we share because no one else has our perspective," shares Uriel B., a 16-year-old CPS student and a member of Mikva's Student Advisory Council.

The youth will be presenting on-the-spot speeches about relevant topics that affect their current lives and futures — including police harassment, teen health, immigration, juvenile justice, education, gender equality, and LGBTQ+ issues. "We are are ready to take our future into our own hands," as voiced by 17-year-old Darcy P., "I don't want my future to be planned by someone else, I'd rather have it planned by myself and my peers."

For examples of past Soapbox speeches, see this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFxsmebJfeE&feature=youtu.be>

6,000 young people from 110 schools across Chicagoland participate in Mikva Challenge programs annually. Mikva Challenge is a non-partisan, nonprofit that develops youth to be informed, and active citizens and community leaders. We do this by engaging youth in action civics, an authentic and transformative learning process built on youth voice and youth expertise. <http://www.mikvachallenge.org/>

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