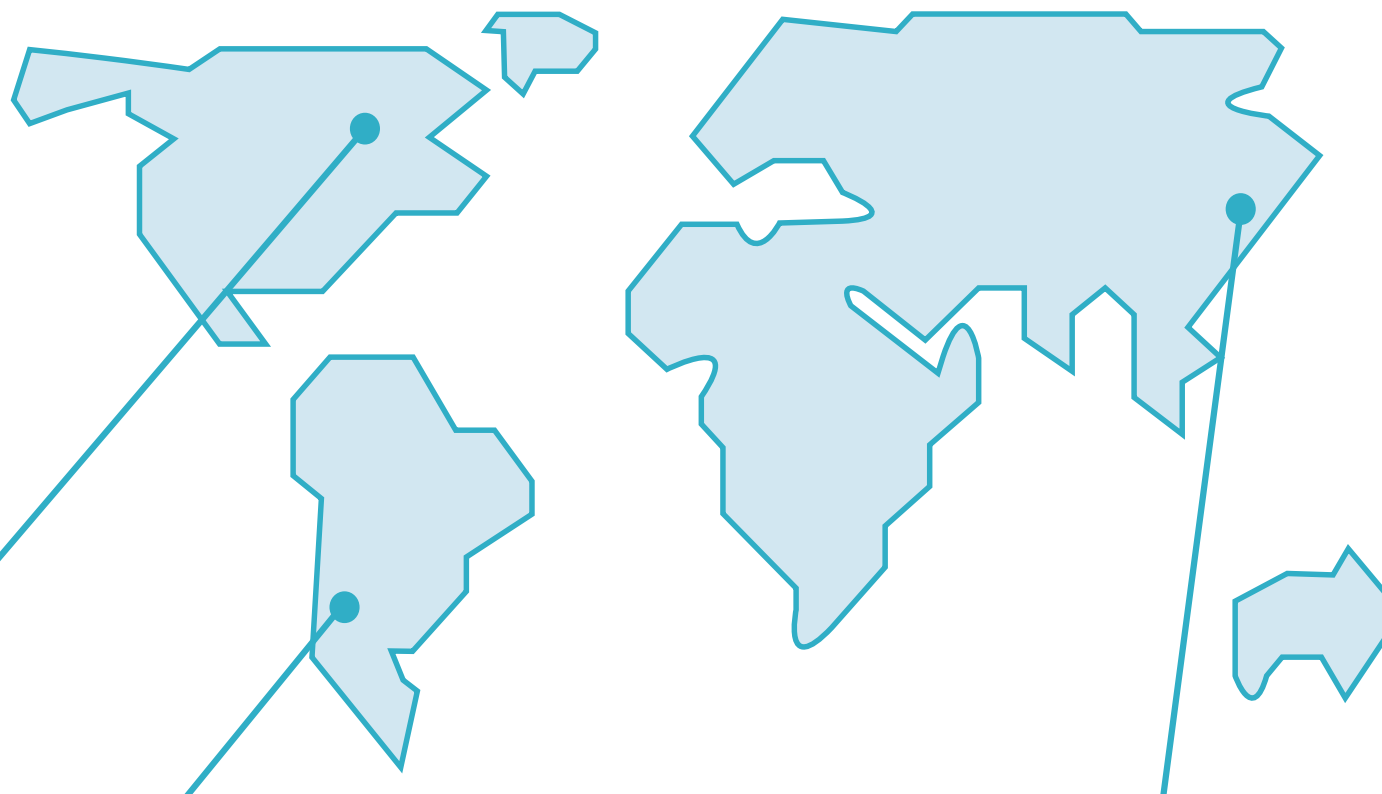




## current events told via ASL



### Peng Shuai accusations evoke global concern, conversation

**Sophia Bassi /**  
Media Team

**C**hinese tennis player Peng Shuai accused China's former Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault Nov. 2, according to The Independent.

Following her accusation, Shuai's post on social media site Weibo was deleted, and she stopped making public appearances until a video call Nov. 21 with International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach.

English Teacher Joy Xu, who emigrated from China as a child, said she is both worried for Shuai's safety and impressed by her bravery.

"There are so many layers of taboo," she said. "We don't talk about assault. We don't talk about assault by people of power. Then you add on the layer of the Chinese government as a government of censorship that really silences people. Breaking that silence is always important."

According to CBS, Shuai went missing for 18 days after her public accusations against Gaoli. As a result, the WTA suspended all tournaments in China Dec. 1.

Drama Director Todd Sessoms, who taught in Shanghai, said speaking up against someone in power is dangerous and takes courage.

"Any sexual assault has to be spoken about," he said. "It takes tremendous courage under any circumstance for a woman who has experienced sexual assault, particularly against someone who's in a position of power, to speak up."

In addition, Sessoms said Shuai's bravery highlights the frequent abuse that athletes face from people of authority.

"It brings further light to the rampant sexual abuse that particularly athletes and young women are experiencing," he said. "It is garnering international support, rightfully, in terms of speaking out against sexual aggression and sexual assault."

### Chilean election offers different paths for country's future

**Eva Marriot-Fabre /**  
Media Team

**T**he candidates for Chile's upcoming election are José Antonio Kast and Gabriel Boric. Per Al Jazeera, Chile requires a majority vote in order for the president to be decided, hence a run-off is required. According to The New York Times, The run-off between Kast and Boric will occur Dec. 19, deciding the country's next president.

Per The New York Times, Kast is a 55-year-old far-right lawyer and former congressman who supports security for the country, expansion of the prison system and is against same-sex marriage and abortion. On the other hand, 35-year-old leftist and former activist Boric stands with same-sex marriage, abortion, increasing taxes on rich citizens and decreasing work hours.

As of the first round of the election, Kast is currently in the lead, per The New York

Times.

EAL Teacher Patricia Elsea, who formerly lived in Chile, said she believes Chile is polarizing. She said this shift is represented through two very divisive candidates in this year's presidential election, unlike its history of having centrist parties "leading the political agenda."

"It's a very important election because it is reflective of how society in Chile is starting to polarize, which is reflective of what's happening kind of throughout the world," Elsea said.

Martin Gimenez (\*24) said he disagrees with Kast's stance on various issues, including women's rights. Hence, he said he hopes Boric secures the win.

"A group that's going to be really affected in the country is women, who recently in the past let's say century, have [progressed to gain] a more equal standing with men," he said. "And I think Kast is going to do a lot to decrease all that work that's been done."

### British Columbia flooding spurs action against climate crisis

**Gabrielle Meidar /**  
Lead News Editor

**A**mong the series of natural disasters in British Columbia, Canada this year, the flooding that began Nov. 13 was particularly catastrophic, forcing 17,000 people to evacuate their homes, per CBC News.

Sophie Galuga (\*23) is from Canada and said although her aunt lives in British Columbia, she has not been affected by the flooding. However, she said the surge in climate devastation, particularly in Canada, demonstrates the impacts of the pressing climate crisis.

"It's becoming a very serious problem," she said. "The people who are still saying that it doesn't exist, there is hard evidence now that it does exist, so it's kind of just pushing us to take action."

According to The New York Times, University of British Columbia professor Rachel White said the ex-

treme weather patterns have been exacerbated as a result of climate change.

Middle School Science Teacher Belle Hayward, born in Toronto, Canada, said much of Canada has been able to deal with the effects of flooding without support from neighboring countries. However, she said disasters like these demand support from around the world and thus, highlight the severity of the climate crisis.

"We luckily have the training and resources to rescue," she said. "Canada has supported other countries because of their expertise, and I think that is sometimes the best way to help that reciprocal relationship but also to make that awareness of climate change."

In addition, Hayward said while the U.K. experiences similar weather patterns, the impacts of climate change in British Columbia have recently been more severe; "it's more challenging because of the flooding."

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It's always important to hear the stories of assault survivors.

- Joy Xu, English Teacher

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I hope that Chileans will go out and exercise their democratic right in the election.

- Patricia Elsea, EAL Teacher

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What really strikes me is when different countries support others. That type of action says a lot.

- Belle Hayward, MS Science Teacher

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