

## "Essential but disposable" workers, to THE US's rescue

CE Noticias Financieras English

May 21, 2020 Thursday

Copyright 2020 Content Engine, LLC.

All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2020 CE Noticias Financieras All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 733 words

### Body

---

David BrooksCorresponsal Newspaper The Day

Thursday, May 21, 2020, p. 23

New York. Millions of essential workers, many of whom come from the communities most affected by the pandemic and economic crisis, are risking their lives to rescue this country every day, despite the wave of racism and anti-migrant rhetoric coming from the White House.

The struggle for the political, economic and social future is being fought in every corner of the country as the health emergency continues. Most notably, beyond the heroism of health workers, is the revelation that the most invisible and marginalized are now recognized as essential.

Essential but disposable, several leaders of these communities repeat by pointing out that the vast majority of these workers; those who serve residents in nursing homes, warehouse workers, food processors, drivers, food deliveries, medicines and orders to supermarkets to homes, those who provide services in buildings; all remain among the highest paid, lack benefits and benefits and, with the pandemic, are not offered basic personal protective equipment.

Among the essential sectors, one of the hardest hit is domestic work, including nannies, elderly assistants – 5 million work in nursing homes or as home caregivers – and those who are cleaning houses.

Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Alliance of Domestic Workers (NDWA), a sector made up of migrant women (the largest concentration of undocumented workers) and U.S. minorities, notes that 82 percent of these ranks do not earn the minimum wage, lack health insurance, and do not have paid leave or other benefits. "Those workers so invisible for so long are now designated as 'essential'. and that's an opportunity at this juncture where suddenly that sector is recognized, which can unleash a movement," he said in a cyber forum at The Nation.

The NDWA, together with other progressive migrant advocacy organizations, women' organizations and politicians are pushing for a new universal care program such as an essential workers' rights law to provide for the first time fair income and guaranteed benefits to this and other unprotected sectors, thereby bringing to light those living in the shadows Said.

On the other hand, essential workers are denouncing the lack of personal protection in their jobs in the middle of the pandemic, and hundreds of stoppages and labor protests are sprouting in different parts of the country, from Amazon warehouses and Walmart stores, to traces and meat processors, among others. On Wednesday, McDonald's workers in 20 cities ran a stop in demand for healthier, safer conditions. This week, hundreds of apple packers in Washington state began a strike to demand greater health protection and extra pay for working in dangerous conditions.

The Rev. William Barber, leader of the Movement of the Poor, reiterated that "it is evidence of how immoral some of our politicians and businessmen are that they bring people into lethal situations without addressing the problem... that's no way to govern a country."

## "Essential but disposable" workers, to THE US's rescue

The pandemic increasingly reveals the grave fragility of some of the country's most vulnerable sectors. The Covid-19 mortality rate for African-Americans is 2.4 times higher than that of whites, according to new research.

In Arizona, the mortality rate for indigenous people is more than five times higher than allother groups, in New Mexico is seven times higher, according to this same research (<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>). The Navajo Nation, whose territory is in parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, recently outperformed New York State with the highest contagion rate in the United States, CNN reported.

Meanwhile, with the White House's constant anti-migrant attack along with official rhetoric declaring the Chinese virus to Covid-19 and proclaiming China as an enemy, there is a dramatic increase in hate crimes against immigrants in general, but especially against Asians.

Worse, doctors, nurses and other Asian health workers are reporting an increase in racist incidents, the Washington Post reports. A Chinese-American doctor commented that coming out of her shift in the intensive care unit of a hospital in Boston, a man accused her: you Chinese are killing us, leaving her with the irony that she spends her days and nights tending to the infected and saving their lives just to be assaulted in the street by her appearance.

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2020

---

End of Document