

Women and Work in a Pandemic

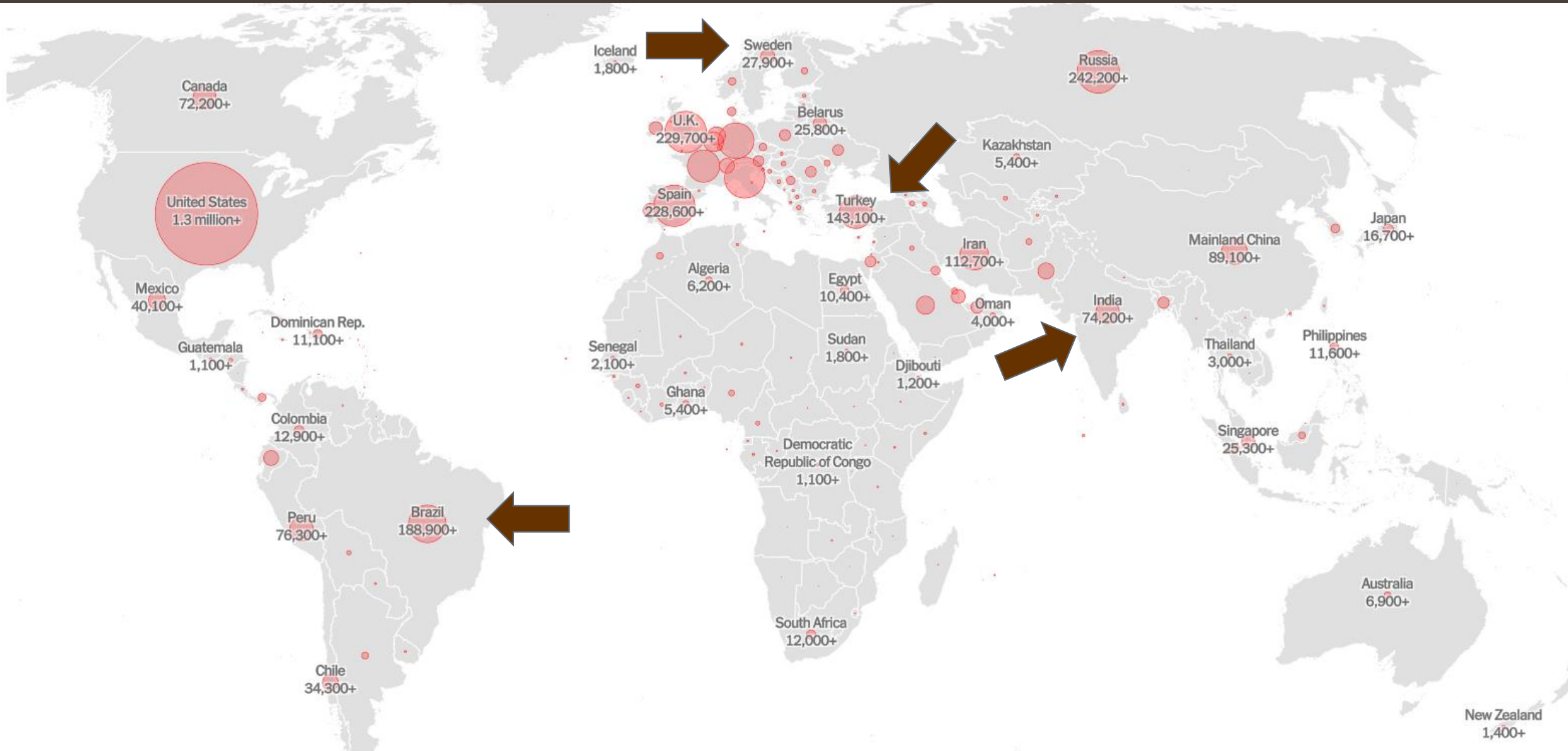
This Virus Knows No
Borders - Solidarity and
Sisterhood Around the
World



The Regina V. Polk Women's Labor Leadership Conference

Speakers

- **Judy Ancel, Moderator**
- **Susanne Bali is a trade union officer at the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union in Sweden.**
- **Pinar Özcan, International Relations staffperson for the Oz iPlik iS, a Turkish textile union.**
- **Dr. Elisa Fruhauf Garcia is a history professor at Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
- **Dr. Sirisha Naidu is professor of economics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is from and studies India**



The New York Times 5/13/20

The nations our panelists will discuss, their number of COVID-19 cases and death rates

World Rank	Country	# of Cases	# of deaths	% of deaths	Deaths per 100K pop.
23	Sweden	28,582	3,529	12.3%	33.98
9	Turkey	143,114	3,952	2.8%	4.8
6	Brazil	192,981	13,276	6.9%	6.32
12	India	78,810	2,564	3.3%	0.18
1	U.S.	1,391,238	84,144	6.0%	25.71
14	Canada	73,568	5,425	7.4%	14.64
11	China	84,025	4,637	5.5%	0.33
	Global	4,379,973	298,185	6.8%	
Source:	Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center Mortality Analysis				
	https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality				
	data as of May 13, 2020				

Globally, women are particularly vulnerable to harm from the pandemic

- Women globally make up over 70 per cent of workers in health, including those working in care institutions. That's almost 100 million workers. As a result of the pandemic they are facing a double burden: longer shifts at work and additional care work at home.
- 8.5 million women are migrant domestic workers. Many have been fired or sent home.
- More women than men work in the informal economy. They don't have regular jobs. They lose their livelihood when an economy shuts down.
- Women perform a daily average of 4 hours and 25 minutes of unpaid care work against 1 hour and 23 minutes for men. With schools shut down, those hours only increase.
- Pregnant women, who need prenatal care, but are unsure whether it is safe to go to the clinic.
- Women in abusive relationships trapped at home for the foreseeable future and fearing for their safety.

Coronavirus Capitalism

Naomi Klein

When governments and corporations take advantage of a crisis to push radical reshaping of society to favor elites

Examples

- No-strings-attached corporate bailouts
- Suspension of the payroll tax which would bankrupt Social Security
- Talking about repeal of financial regulations that were introduced after the last major financial meltdown
- Massive deregulation of the environment and economy.
- Weaken OSHA guidelines and corporate liability
- Privatization of the post office
- Introduction of electronic tracking devices without privacy protections
- Ending immigration
- Canceling the election

Naomi Klein

“In times of crisis, seemingly impossible ideas become possible. The Covid-19 crisis is already remaking our sense of the possible.”

The South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) reached an agreement with employers to guarantee six weeks full pay for 80,000 workers, nearly all women, as operations shut down



Thousands of garment workers protest by blocking a road in Dhaka, Bangladesh, while protesting against unpaid wages, Monday, April 13.



In Honduras locked down women engage in nightly caserolazos – banging pots to protest the lack of food and corruption under the total curfew.



Workers can seize the moment to push for progressive changes. Nothing is impossible and workers are pushing back around the world