

March 2020

GOT FOOD?

THANK A FARM WORKER!

NFWM News & Actions

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From the Executive Director

While in New York City recently, I was surrounded by masks, hand sanitizer and travel and event cancellations, all of which brought the nature of the corona virus home to me. And I was reminded to continue to think about the most vulnerable among us, farm workers and their families and the many others who often remain hidden in our society. Watching the news reports, I am overwhelmed by the privileged approach to the pandemic, and, at the same time, relishing the glimmers of hope around people who are articulating the needs of the most vulnerable and seeking to meet them in the most creative ways possible.

Keep looking for the hope, friends.

Information is coming out daily that expands the implications of the current pandemic to all sorts of demographics. Our focus remains on farm workers.

Their exposure to the coronavirus is of tremendous concern right now among both farm worker organizing groups, migrant health clinics and labor camp ministries around the country. We will be working with other allies to seek protection for farm workers and their families. Most of this can be done from wherever you are, so please help us raise awareness and create impact.

NFWM joins our state and country in practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In light of that, all the staff are working remotely from home except to check mail and make deposits. If you need anything, please contact us by email or call 919-302-9581. We are here. We are working. And we need you to stay in touch.

These are times for faith, faith that things can change. And they will.

Until then, grace and peace to you,

Julie

NFWM supports the "Statement on COVID-19 and the Risks to Farmworkers"

A major step that the National Farm Worker Ministry has already taken is to join Justice for Migrant Women and several of our farm worker partners/allies in signing the statement of concern found [here](#).

How does this tie into the work of NFWM? In the national media we are seeing a spotlight shining on the justice issues we and our partners have been fighting for for years: fair wages, immigration reform, decent housing, the end to sexual violence and harassment, and freedom from exploitation. See our resources on farm worker issues here: <http://nfwm.org/farm-workers/farm-worker-issues/>

Policy priorities will be issued to guide legislation in a time of emergency and fear that will address farm worker challenges. Organizational sign on

can continue through this week at

<https://forms.gle/PXbQFVyztD1eodFFA>

Farm Worker Partner updates:

- The Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Florida cancelled their recent mobilization in New York. They released a statement on March 19: [“Yon Sel Ko”: Timely wisdom from the Haitian peasant movement at the root of the CIW](#)
- The UFW has sent an open letter to growers and agriculture business. To see the letter, go to: <https://ufw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-2020-Open-Letter-from-UFW-FINAL.pdf> Most of the farm workers who are part of the UFW have health coverage and earn sick days, unusual for the majority of farm workers in the US.
- NPR recently included FLOC Vice President, Justin Flores, in their coverage of the coronavirus and it's impact on farm workers in NC. Go to <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/18/816644358/covid-19-threatens-food-supply-chain-as-farms-worry-about-workers-falling-ill>
- The Farmworker Association of Florida's director, Antonio Tovar, was quoted in The Counter about health implications for Florida's farm workers, go to <https://thecounter.org/farmworkers-uninsured-covid-19-coronavirus/>
- CATA – The Farmworker Support Committee has offered the following: Contact your representatives to be sure immigrants are included in the stimulus package being worked on by Congress. Go to <https://p2a.co/VjUQpoe>.
- CATA also shared a partnership with the Food Chain Workers Alliance that addresses the broader scope of all workers who are on the frontline of our food process, including farm workers specifically. Here is the link for sending a message to your Congressional representative, https://actionnetwork.org/letters/food-workers-on-the-front-line-need-urgent-protections-now?clear_id=true&link_id=0&can_id=c623bcb4198b838cb5c38c662bc1262f&source=email-what-food-workers-on-the-front-lines-need-right-now&email_referrer=email_756918&emaih



NATIONAL FARMWORKER AWARENESS WEEK

National Farmworker Awareness Week Starts TODAY!

National Farmworker Awareness Week (NFAW) is a week of action for students and community members to raise awareness about farm worker issues on our campuses and in our communities. In 2020 we celebrate the 21st Annual National Farmworker Awareness Week to raise awareness about farm worker conditions and to honor their important contributions to us every day! www.farmworkerawareness.org

Follow National Farmworker Awareness Week on Instagram [@farmworkerawareness](https://www.instagram.com/farmworkerawareness) as partners each take a day of the week to highlight the work of their organization through our "Pasa la Papa" Instagram takeover. **NFWM will be posting about "Shade" this Friday, March 27th.**

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nationalfarmworkerawarenessweek/>

The Bandana Project

The Bandana Project is a public awareness campaign aimed at addressing the issue of workplace sexual violence against farm worker women in the United States. It is an art-activism and advocacy project that serves as a healing tool for women across the U.S., Mexico and other countries.

Community members,

community organizations, advocates, governmental representatives, lawyers, anti-sexual violence activists and many others decorate white bandanas with words of encouragement, motivating statements, inspirational pictures and art. These bandanas are then hung in a public place as a visible demonstration of our support for farm worker women and our commitment to ending this problem.

Thousands of bandanas have been decorated around the US and in different parts of the world.

For more information, visit: <https://justice4women.org/the-bandana-project>

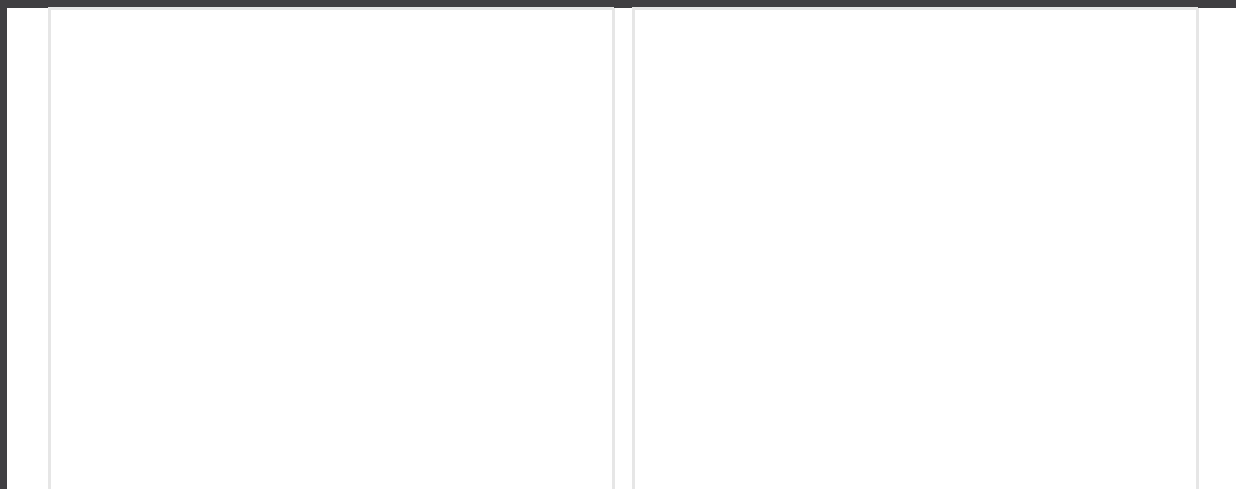


**Like our farm worker partners and allies,
your financial donations during this time are
CRITICAL to keep us going.**

**We'll keep it simple. The easiest and safest way to support the National
Farm Worker Ministry and our work is to give online:**

DONATE to NFWM TODAY!

NFWM Supports These Boycotts led by our Farm Worker Partners.
We hope you will, too!





National Farm Worker Ministry | 919.807.8707 | nfwm@nfwm.org | nfwm.org

STAY CONNECTED

