

Protect! Resist! Transform!

# Coronavirus: solidarity update 27 March

Friday 27 March 2020, by [JOHNSON Mark](#) (Date first published: 27 March 2020).

## Mark Johnson's selection of news and analysis from around the world

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## Impact on poor and social movements

### Europe

**Italy** is the European country hardest hit so far. [Antonello Zecca](#), an organizer with the [Sinistra Anticapitalista](#) (Anticapitalist Left) provides an [overview of the crisis \(22 March\)](#), and [David Broder](#) reports on the [beginnings of a strike wave](#) demanding closing down of protection not essential for the population, and adequate protection for all those still working (12 March)

From **Spain** [Laia Facet](#) explains how the [Socialist Party and Podemos government is handling the crisis](#).

**Britain** The government seems to be abandoning its '[mitigation' strategy](#) of letting the old and sick die , but this has cost valuable time and will cause extra deaths, says [Phil Hearse](#). The National Health Service was already [weakened by years of austerity and the reduced EU migration](#) following Brexit, explains Siva Anandaciva. The crisis also requires [nationalisation of empty houses](#) and a new commitment to state housing.

### South Asia

**India's** Coalition for Environmental Justice is arguing for [limited and people-centred public health](#), rather than the authoritarian and anti-science fumbling of the Hindu fundamentalist government.

**Pakistan** The [Hagoog-E-Khalq](#) movement is [calling for a people-centred response](#).

## **South East Asia**

**Philippines:** The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) warns that [President Duterte is claiming excessive emergency powers](#).

## **East Asia**

From South Korea, the People's Health Movement explains the [success and limits of Covid-19 containment](#) and the challenges for labour and social movements on the peninsula. (19 March)

[China Labour Bulletin](#) explains how women in **China** bear [most of the burden](#) of pandemic response, in emergency services and on the home front.

## **Americas**

**Brazil's** President [Bolsonaro is a dangerous liability](#), warns activists of the [PSOL](#). In the **USA**, [transport workers in Detroit are striking](#) for better protection, writes [Jane Slaughter](#)

## **Middle East & North Africa**

In Algeria, the pandemic seems to be blocking the [weekly hirak protests](#) for justice and democracy.

## **How to resist**

There are increasing strikes for worker safety and closing down non-essential production. This includes international coordination among [call centre](#) workers and at [Amazon](#).

In Canada, Gary Kinsman takes inspiration from the strategy and tactics of [AIDS activism](#).

## **In the long term**

[Niel Faulkner](#) (UK) predicts the Tory strategy to [use the epidemic](#) to force through unpopular reforms (16 March)

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## **Understanding the science**

[Daniel Tanuro summarises](#) the origin and impact of the pandemic and its implications for social movements.

Dr [Jeyakumar Devaraj](#) of the [Socialist Party Malaysia](#) explains the [difference](#) between the ultraliberal 'mitigation strategy' of letting the old and sick die, as opposed to the costly eradication strategy followed by China, South Korea and some other countries.

We're also reading...

[Teivo Teivainen](#) and Pauli Huotari unpick the [prejudices and assumptions in 'western' thinking](#) about this global crisis.  
[Ammar Ali Jan](#) identifies the [authoritarian mechanisms](#) that the capitalist elite uses in times of crisis.

From our archives

Its worth re-reading these key articles on the [Ebola](#) pandemic