

One World: COVID-19 and Global Solidarity
May 2020

This podcast was taped in May 2020 prior to the uprisings in the United States and around the world.

In this month's *Solidarity Is This*, host Deepa Iyer is in conversation with Phumeza Mlungwana ([Cape Town Together](#); [International Budget Partnership](#)) in South Africa and Nicola Browne ([Social Change Initiative - Belfast](#); [Act Now](#); formerly [Participation and the Practice of Rights](#)) in Northern Ireland.

On Twitter:

Phumeza: [@PhumezaMlungwa1](#)

Nicola: [@nicolajbrowne](#)

Deepa: [@dviyer](#) and [@solidarity_is](#)

Context:

Across the world, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed the depth and scope of systemic and structural inequities. Activists are demanding fundamental human rights for all, including the right to access health care and protections for workers, and an equitable redistribution of wealth and power that centers those who have historically been marginalized. Read more here: <https://www.covidglobalsolidarity.org/>

Suggested Readings:

- [COVID-19: Can we rebuild our society based on care?](#) By Nicola Browne
- [Activism and the Pandemic – 10 Global Perspectives](#) (Social Change Initiative)
- [Essential resources for at home activists](#) (Social Change Initiative)
- [Extraordinary Work of 'Ordinary' People – Beyond Pandemics and Lockdowns](#) (Vikalp Sangam)

Reflection Questions:

- Phumeza mentions the failure of the South African government to engage in a contextual basis with residents. Are there examples of that in your own country/communities? How should governments be acting?
- Nicola mentions the legacy of the 30-year conflict in Northern Ireland. How might communities affected by long-term war, conflict, and oppression be experiencing the pandemic?
- Both Nicola and Phumeza emphasize the importance of collective care. How does that relate to you? How are you practicing community care?
- At the end of the podcast, Deepa references Arundhati Roy's "[pandemic as a portal](#)" description. What should society look like beyond the portal? How will you rebuild and reimagine beyond the portal?