

I'm sitting in the city Free Employment Bureau. It's the women's section. We've been sitting here now for four hours. We sit here every day, waiting for a job.

There are no jobs. Most of us have had no breakfast. Some have had scant rations for over a year. Hunger makes a human being lapse into a state of lethargy, especially city hunger. Is there any place else in the world where a human being is supposed to go hungry amidst plenty without an outcry, without protest; where only the boldest steal or kill for bread and the timid crawl the streets, hunger like the beak of a terrible bird at the vitals?

We sit, looking at the floor. No one dares think of the coming winter. There are only a few more days of summer. Everyone is anxious to get work, to lay up something for that long siege of bitter cold. But there is no work. Sitting in the room, we all know it. That's why we don't talk much. We look at the floor, dreading to see that knowledge in each other's eyes. There's a kind of humiliation in it. We look away from each other. We look at the floor. It's too terrible to see this animal terror in each other's eyes.

-Meridel Le Sueur, *The Girl*, 1939

-During the Great Depression, unemployment rates held steady at 20% and absolute poverty reached deadly levels.

Nationally, unemployment rates remain high at around 11%, down from 14.7% seen in April. Though it doesn't feel like a victory, there is slight optimism to be found for general improvement.

However, urban centers and major economic hubs are seeing much higher unemployment and poverty rates than the nationwide average, mostly above 15%. North Texas has not recovered but is in better shape than many states and cities that depend only on tourism (Atlantic City, NJ or Orlando, FL) or have been impacted by mass layoffs (Bakersfield, CA).

-Texas' sales tax revenues have decreased sharply, creating a shortfall in the state budget. Because Texas is a budget neutral state, we can expect sharp cuts in state budget items to make up the difference. This State Legislative session will be brutal.

After the extra \$600 in federal unemployment benefits from the CARES act ended in July, some Texans were still able to receive an additional \$300 in weekly payments beginning in August. However, many were not eligible because they did not include that they had lost their job 'Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic' on their filing paperwork or they received less than \$100 a week in weekly jobless benefits, an unfortunate cut off.

(d) For purposes of this memorandum, the term "Eligible claimants" means claimants who:

(i) receive, for the week lost wages assistance is sought, at least \$100 per week of any of the following benefits:

1. Unemployment compensation, including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX), under section 8501 of title 5, United States Code.

-A new trend is emerging that looks at how women and children have been impacted by COVID-19. Numbers are arguing that the uncertainty around school, homeschooling, e-learning, and instability of family dynamics, has resulted in a breakdown of decades of women's workforce progress. That isn't to say that men have not been impacted. But, recent tough choices, the gender pay gap, and historical role bias are being researched by social epidemiologists. There will be much more to come in the next months on women leaving the workforce during the time of COVID-19.

Action: [Review this document](#) that addresses school meal and child nutrition amid COVID-19

Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions Summit: Food Justice

The second part of the four-part series takes place September 25th at 10:00-11:30AM and is presented by the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solution. e-Tickets are available [here](#).

This event discusses the Dallas Food Justice movement. Join to hear how our local leaders in this movement examine the access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food all while looking at the ownership and control of land, credit, knowledge, technology and other resources; the constituent labor of food production; what kind of food traditions are valued; how imbalances in our city have affected the food system's development and more.

As background reading, I recommend "*The Warmth of Other Suns*" & "*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*" by Isabel Wilkerson. The second book examines American History through the bold argument that the American way of life is set up and structured as a caste system. Those in power establish boundaries and rankings for those not a part of the dominant caste, inclusive but not entirely based on race.

Though this can easily be seen in colonial America, the more you examine our current structure and modern America, the more your eyes open to how those with means dictate and create for others who are without means.

In the context of hunger, we can see those who are food secure tend to set rules and boundaries for those who are food insecure: what, when, and how food can be obtained and under what conditions. Who is deserving of resources and to what extent? How do we examine 'those people' and why do we treat them as not our own?

If you have the chance to attend this session or read these books, please do. It is a journey into thinking about how power is held over certain groups, and how those groups must navigate and abide by the terms and conditions set for them. These are tough conversations, and tough concepts, but such is the time for now.

Action: [Sign up](#) for the event!

Want More Action?: [Sign up to volunteer with NTFB](#)

Questions or Comments?

[Draw me a modern analogy of the Apple Carts, winner gets coffee on me after the pandemic](#)

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