

Ana Pataki

What consequences will leave COVID - 19 pandemics on society?

Quali conseguenze sulla società avrà la pandemia COVID-19?

Abstract

This article is the result of analysis concerning both global situations and issues within the borders of every country, caused by the pandemic of virus COVID 19. The crisis, brought on by the pandemic caused by the virus at the beginning of 2020, further magnifies inequalities in society. Even “unpopular” politicians urged that the situation not be politicized, but that everyone must deal solely with the prevention of a new wave of casualties and a timely response to those in need.

Keywords: women, security, health

Abstract

Questo articolo è il risultato di un'analisi delle conseguenze causate dalla pandemia COVID19, sia a livello globale, che nelle singole nazioni. La crisi, causata dalla pandemia all'inizio del 2020, aumenta ulteriormente le disuguaglianze nella società. Anche i politici "impopolari" hanno esortato a non politicizzare la situazione, ma ad occuparsi esclusivamente della prevenzione di una nuova ondata di vittime e di dare una risposta tempestiva a coloro che ne hanno bisogno.

Parole chiave: donne, sicurezza, salute

Who are the victims of social and domestic violence in the state of emergency?

To see how the COVID 19 pandemic can be dealt with, an online panel discussion called “Social and Domestic Violence during the State of Emergency“ was organized, with the participation of university professors from several countries in Europe, and representatives of organizations who have contributed to the prevention of the adverse effects and the preparation of responses to outcomes that greatly affect the level of human rights attained, in the areas of work, movement, rights to adequate health care, prevention of domestic violence and in partner relationships.

Key speakers presented the experience of dealing with the crisis in their countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Albania, Italy...), pointing to the biggest challenges that have arisen there. On the other hand, panelists raised questions that would have prevented greater harm after the pandemic had passed and the state of emergency in the affected countries had been resolved so that the consequences could be mitigated. At the very end, an agreement was reached on the next meeting and the exchange of research results presented, since in the coming period they may be crucial for work in future scientific research.

Working from home doesn't seem so “scary” when you have a job at all. Quarantine in the house is stimulating for everything we didn't get in the daily madness of work and responsibilities. Public consumption is lower, there are no traffic jams on the streets, no pollution in nature, endangered by the human species. In addition, women`s independence will be the silent victim of the pandemic at the world level, according to an article by Helen Luis, published on March 19, for the [Atlantic](#).

The topic has shifted from public health to the global economic crisis, threatening small businesses, large systems, halting public transport, meeting places we are used to. Although a state of emergency is temporary, it can take several months and labor market losses are permanent. The **education** and childcare sector in Serbia is frozen, so that kindergartens, elementary and high schools are closed, university classes are interrupted or transferred to the online world.

Both parents' pay parity "we are working both, and the educational institution cares for our child/our children" switched to the choice of "who stays home with the children?". Care for the sick and the elderly go to the responsibility of **women**, since, apart from social norms, it

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is mostly attributed to a woman - *a nurse, a caregiver*. After all, women are less paid and more flexible when it comes to this area, right?

Although history remembers the entry of women into the labor market in the 20th century, there remains the question of a "second shift" about time spent on unpaid domestic work, mostly performed by women, whether they work. At the same time, if we are guided by the old Serbian saying "*a man is the head and the woman is the neck of the house*" - it is clear that a record is kept on the home budget by a woman. She does the procurement, knows the state of household chemistry, essentials of life, and largely decide the menu for other family members.

What are the social categories among particularly vulnerable to the effects of virus coronas?

Even worse are those who exercise parental parenting rights (single parents): since closing kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, they have been placed in a seemingly impossible choice - staying home with their children or going to work? I would like to inform you that one of the first measures of declaring a state of emergency is the ban on leaving over 65 years of age, which prevents the majority of (single) parents from babysitting their children by the grandparents.

In the [UK](#), almost a quarter of households are single-parent households, almost 90% of whom are single-parent **mothers**. Other experiences in the recent pandemic history show that college education has declined rapidly for girls, due to leaving school, that there has been difficult access to contraceptives, more teenage pregnancies, maternity and birth victims (as reported in [US](#) statistics), the funds are allocated to other "priority target groups".

Therefore, from the very first moments of declaring a state of emergency, as an initiative has been sent to the Government of the Republic of Serbia – to achieve a high level of understanding for all single parents who are unable to fulfill work responsibilities due to obligations to their own children. A deeper understanding of the relationship between employers, single mothers, the state, and relevant ministries is needed, as an initiative "[Mame su zakon](#)" (Mothers are the law) said.

Victims of domestic and partner violence are currently in the most difficult position. Calling for the avoidance of social contact, along with self-isolation / quarantine, can lead

to greater control of the victims, preventing at least the possibility of contacting organizations that can provide counseling or care services in safe women's homes.

Add to that stress, alcohol abuse, and financial hardship as triggers, but no excuse for domestic violence and partnerships. Initiatives of organizations for the protection of the rights of victims of domestic violence want to pay particular attention to the difficult situation of multiple vulnerable groups of women, such as Roma women, women in the country, with disabilities, displaced women, as well as those over 65 years of age. They are all exposed to efforts to implement hygiene and other protective measures for themselves and family members, which is not easy in the living conditions in which they otherwise live, and further contributes to their vulnerability. How victims of domestic violence can act has already been discussed on this page (["What and How: Victims of Domestic Violence and Emergency"](#))

Instead of a conclusion - questions that need to be answered?

All measures taken so far since the declaration of emergency have caught employers, employees, and retirees at some point. Since then, the [National Bank of Serbia](#) has proposed a moratorium on loans, i.e. a delay in repayment of debtors' obligations. With state measures, one-time assistance to pensioners will be paid, packages of foodstuffs will be delivered. But the economy has largely stalled, interrupting the payment of wages, taxes, and contributions, which threatens the functioning of the private and public sectors (salaries in health care, social care institutions, utilities, and education are paid from the budget).

On the other hand, it is already certain what the consequences for the private sector will be in a state of emergency, which is why measures are already being proposed that can alleviate and help overcome the current situation in order to minimize the damage. In addition to delaying the payment of property and profit taxes, tax reliefs are proposed, as well as conditions for lending to small and medium-sized enterprises, i.e. state guarantees for entrepreneurs at banks and the Development Fund.

Eventually, gender division of roles will do its thing. At the end of the trip, when deciding who goes to make money and who stays with their children at home, the result is quite predictable. Although all resources are prioritized to cope with the COVID 19 virus pandemic, the existence of awareness is a good sign that immediate measures are in place to

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protect vulnerable categories of the population and protect the rights of fellow citizens who have been harmed by these decisions.

Ana Pataki completed her master's studies after majoring in sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad.

Basis of work is on research through cooperation with non – governmental organization is social issues, like reconciling work and parenting, due to the negative natural growth, women entrepreneurship, issues of exercising the right of mothers to maternity benefits, parents of children suffering from malignant disease.

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La base del suo lavoro è la ricerca attraverso la cooperazione con le organizzazioni non governative su questioni sociali, come la conciliazione tra lavoro e genitorialità in contesti di trend demografici negativi, l'imprenditoria femminile, le questioni relative all'esercizio del diritto delle madri alle prestazioni di maternità, i genitori di bambini che soffrono di patologie maligne.