



MEDIA RELEASE | 3 April 2020 | **For immediate release**

## **Migrant workers are stranded with no support as the Federal Government packages fail to protect everyone**

The Morrison Government's announcement this week about a "JobKeeper" package has provided temporary relief for those struggling to make ends after losing income due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But there are **1.1 million people in the country who will not be able to access any support** during these turbulent times.

National Co-Director, Neha Madhok says, "In Monday's press conference, the Prime Minister made it very clear that he would be leaving out over 1.1 million temporary migrant workers. Morrison said the JobKeeper payment was only for 'Australians'.

"As usual in Australia, some of those most at risk in a period of uncertainty, are also the ones to miss out on a life-saving wage subsidy.

"Migrant workers pick the fruit and vegetables we eat everyday, they're in the hospitality industry, they're delivery drivers, carers, and they're the backbone of Australia's economy. All workers should be supported during this crisis, regardless of their visa status'.

"Temporary workers, migrant workers and people without visas are at serious risk of contracting COVID-19, and experiencing unemployment. With borders closed, these workers have nowhere else to go.

'They can't work from home and their precarious contracts and visas do not grant them access to our social safety net. This is a public health issue.

"With no income and no access to the social safety net, the Morrison Government's announcement leaves hundreds of thousands of migrant workers to starve.

A wage subsidy would be a lifeline, and it would ensure that people are able to effectively physically distance," said Ms Madhok.

Democracy in Colour is calling on the Government to consider the livelihoods and wellbeing of migrant workers by providing a wage subsidy for them in the coronavirus related financial support. <sup>1</sup>

**MEDIA CONTACT: ALIYA AHMAD 0428684307 or [aliya@democracyincolour.org](mailto:aliya@democracyincolour.org)**

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<sup>1</sup> [The petition is available here](#)