

# THE FULLER PROJECT

IMPACT REPORT  
JANUARY - JUNE 2020

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*Sophia Jones reporting in an  
IDP camp outside of Herat in  
western Afghanistan, 2019.  
(Solmaz Daryani)*

The Fuller Project is the global newsroom dedicated to groundbreaking reporting on women to raise awareness, expose injustice and spur accountability. We are sharing our mid-year impact letter with you to show the ways our journalism is making a difference and how our newsroom is growing.

We are thrilled to re-introduce to you The Fuller Newsroom, led by interim Editor in Chief Khushbu Shah along with Managing Editor Sophia Jones. Chief Communications Officer Kim Abbott and Chief Operations Officer Lilian Tan joined The Fuller Project leadership team this summer.

We are hiring for **three new staff positions** and we welcomed Jessica Washington and Erica Hellerstein as staff reporters.

More on our reporting in The Fuller Story video below,

Today, women face enduring setbacks as they navigate a devastating public health crisis, economic upheaval and underlying inequities.

Our investigative and feature reporting draws on our reporters' expertise in women's health and security, trafficking, race and identity, income insecurity and more. When COVID-19 set off an economic crisis, we released exclusive data to newsrooms that spurred national reporting on women's unemployment. In response to national discussions about civil rights following the police killing of George Floyd in the U.S., our team reported on systemic issues impacting Black women and women of color.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Thank you for reading.

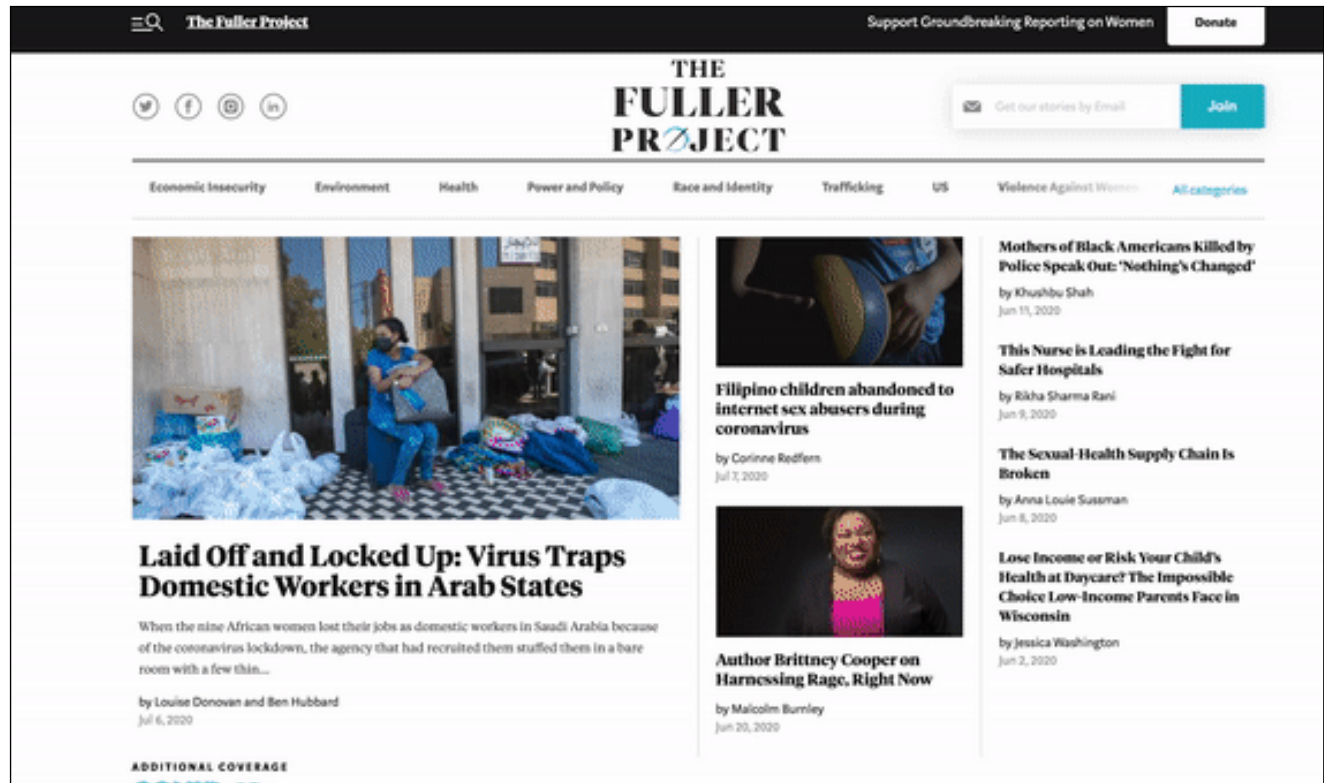
**Xanthe Scharff**  
CEO & Cofounder

**Kim Abbott**  
Chief Communications Officer



# Website Relaunch

Introducing the Fuller Newsroom, our newly redesigned website.



## Impact Highlights 2020

### EXPOSING ABUSE OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

The Fuller Project exposed life-threatening conditions faced by nine migrant domestic workers in Saudi Arabia after they lost their jobs or were kicked out of their employer's homes during COVID. They were locked in a room without access to regular food, medical care, or travel documents. Following this reporting, governments and organizations rallied to rescue

and repatriate the women. This investigation was co-reported with *The New York Times* and published on the front page of the international edition. Our follow-up reporting in Kenya's *Daily Nation* profiled the union helping vulnerable Kenyan workers. We reported on Kenyan migrant workers in 2019 in collaboration with the *Daily Nation* and *The Guardian*.



An “entertainer” works her way along a street in Angeles City, Philippines, as the pressure to find a client increases as the evening ends. “I don’t want to go home without any money for my children,” she said. (Francesco Brembati/Fuller Project)

## CEMENTING BETTER PROTECTIONS FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

The influential 2020 U.S. Government *Trafficking in Persons Report* formally acknowledged the link between child marriage and trafficking in Bangladesh, following our years of reporting for *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy* and *ELLE (UK)*, among other outlets. The *Dhaka Tribune* published our reporting on their front page and the editorial board followed with a full page letter to the government calling for better protections. After our reporting, a sex worker in one of the largest brothel villages in Bangladesh was allowed a formal Islamic funeral for the first time.

## QUANTIFYING COVID’S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WOMEN

In *TIME* we were among the first to draw attention to the economic impact of COVID on women. Over a dozen news outlets sourced our data reporting showing women are the majority of unemployment seekers including: *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, and *NBC*. Our reporting on struggling single mothers for NPR aired on 450 member stations. Following our data requests, two states began to release weekly unemployment statistics disaggregated by gender. Globally, we reported on systemic labor issues in call centers in Brazil in *Foreign Policy* and in Kenya in *Foreign Policy* and *Daily Nation*.

# Reporting And Collaboration 2020

45  
ARTICLES

We reported 45 articles in collaboration with 20 publishing outlets and we published 28 editorial newsletters.

We helped launch the Gender Desk at Kenya’s *Daily Nation* and collaborated on more than 20 ARTICLES

In Europe, we advise two newsrooms on gender reporting and we are developing additional resources for local and global newsrooms.

With *Foreign Policy*, we report The Full Story column on wide-ranging issues from the impact of U.S. guns on domestic violence in Mexico to how nurses in Iran are affected by U.S. sanctions.

Our global syndication network is growing, with dozens of global and local outlets drawing on our reporting on women to provide a fuller story to their readership.



(Andrey Popov/Shutterstock)

## UNCOVERING SYSTEMIC CRISES IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND CHILDCARE

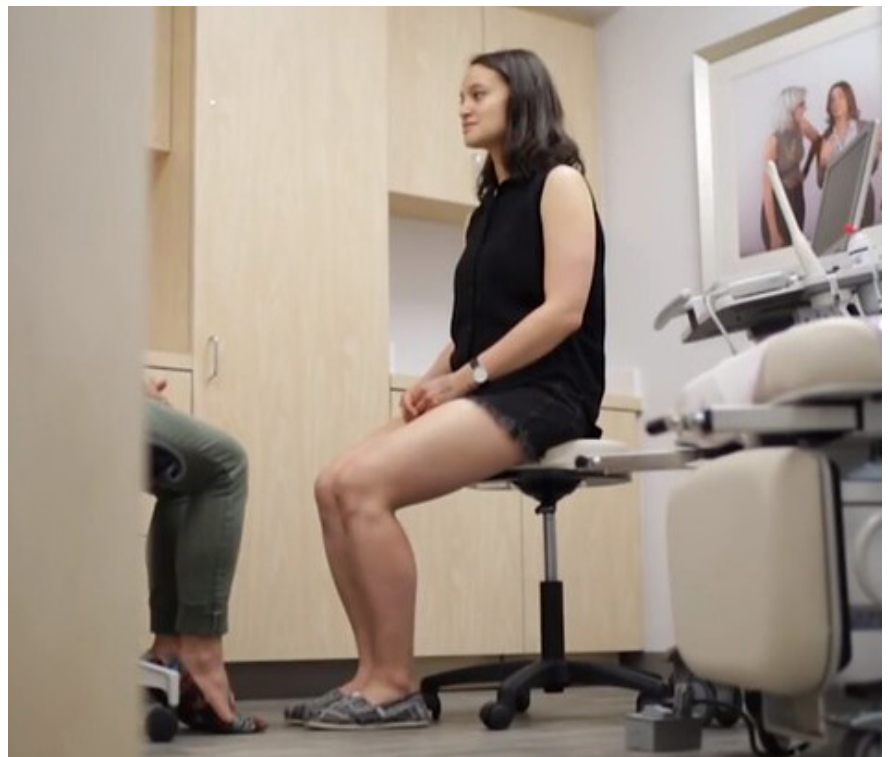
Our six-part series on limited reproductive health and childcare in Wisconsin and California and the impact on Black women and women of color exposed systemic crises in maternal mortality, reproductive care and child care access. This reporting won the Milwaukee Press Club Silver Award for Best Consumer Story and was published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today* and *Wisconsin Watch*.

***“How is any physician supposed to be able to predict when it’s too late and a woman is going to die?”***

***- Dr. Kathy Hartke***

## BANNING SHAM HYMEN EXAMS

Officials in Angeles City, Philippines reported to us that they stopped hymen exams in government clinics this year, following our investigation in *Marie Claire*. This reporting was also followed by lawmakers in NY and CA introducing new legislation to ban the abusive practice, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology released a first-ever statement confirming that the practice has no medical basis.



A patient speaks with a medical worker at an abortion clinic. As states place additional restrictions on abortion access in clinics, telemedicine companies are gearing up for increased demand. (New Voices/Flickr)

# Additional Impact 2020

Amid the national protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd, our reporting sparked national discussions about issues impacting Black women and women of color:



Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, shortly before the 'March With The Families' demonstration in New York on 10 June (credit: Monique Jaques)

## **THE GUARDIAN:**

Khushbu Shah featured mothers of Black men killed by police and their long-standing political activism with reporting from the front lines of the New York protests where the women met to demand police reform.

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

We reported on the challenges Black women face during COVID in maternity wards in CA where doulas are not allowed, and concerns resulting from newly introduced 39-week inductions. In response, Kaiser Permanente released a statement to explain to patients the medical basis for the inductions, and linked to our reporting.

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

"Imagine Online Schooling in a Language You Don't Understand," drew attention to the unaddressed struggles of immigrant parents. The article was republished in *The Chicago Tribune*, featured in *Washington Monthly's* 'Best of the Week' education newsletter, and distributed via *The New York Times* Learning Network.

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

Our Q&A with Dr. Brittney Cooper, author of *Eloquent Rage*, stated the need for more outrage when police kill Black women and was widely discussed on Twitter.



Sol Cotti for The New York Times

## At a time of global crisis, we reported on solutions and the stories of women leaders on the frontlines:

### **DAILY NATION:**

Ruth Khakame is the head of the National Domestic Workers Council of Kudheisha, a trade union that advocates for some of the most vulnerable Kenyan workers. This reporting followed on the story we broke with *The New York Times* about the exploitation of global migrants.

### **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

Our profile of Bonnie Castillo, the first woman of color to lead National Nurses United, was featured on *The New York Times* homepage as Castillo appeared before Congress to demand better PPE.

### **THE PHILADELPHIA CITIZEN:**

In this solutions story, we reported on a financial coaching program in Philadelphia that is rallying to help women during the economic crisis.

### **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

This profile of a founding member of Women in Trucking prompted readers and companies to send masks and hand sanitizer to truckers across the U.S.

### **THE ATLANTIC:**

This reporting featured U.S. frontline nurses fighting COVID, the risk they face without PPE and the systemic issues in the nursing field.

### **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

Our feature on an Iraqi doctor who fought to work as a pathologist in U.S. nursing homes during COVID was widely circulated by refugee assistance organizations.

**Donate today to support groundbreaking reporting on women.**

See last page for how

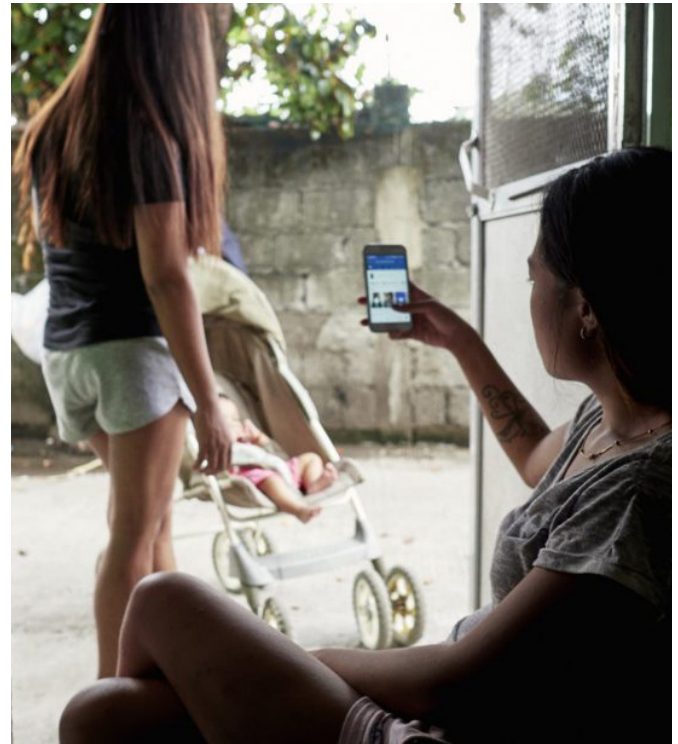
## Spurring accountability for human rights abuses during COVID:

### **FOREIGN POLICY:**

Our reporting on the crisis in humanitarian aid during COVID, due to the majority of programs being frozen, was named a Top 10 story on South Asia by *Foreign Policy* and was circulated as “key material” to policymakers by The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

### **SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, THE TELEGRAPH, THE FULLER PROJECT:**

We closely covered the rise of online sexual abuse during COVID, breaking the news of a 200 percent surge in links to abusive posts online. Detailed reporting showed the breakdown in monitoring, removal, prosecution and shelter availability and was featured on PBS NewsHour.



*A 15-year-old girl in the Philippines scrolls through Facebook (credit: Francesco Brembati)*

## Exposing limited access to sexual and reproductive care during COVID and reporting on changing trends:



*Two Honduran women, part of a migrant caravan, wait with their children at the turnstiles on the Mexico side of the US’s southern border days before they are able to ask for asylum. (credit: Khushbu Shah)*

### **MIT TECHNOLOGY REVIEW:**

We reported on the industry associations that decide if fertility treatments are medically necessary.

### **THE ATLANTIC:**

This reporting laid bare the problems in the broken global supply chain for contraception from Asia to Africa and how lives are at risk as a result.

### **ELLE:**

Our reporting examined the use of telemedicine abortion during state shutdowns, as clinics expand access by providing virtual visits and mailing pills.

### **THE ATLANTIC:**

Sophia Jones’ essay on being pregnant during the pandemic inspired nearly a hundred women to write and share their stories.



## Domestic Violence, Shelter and Safety



(Daria Shevtsova/Pexels)

### **THE FULLER PROJECT:**

We reported a largely uncovered asylum rule that would make it nearly impossible for women and girls to win asylum cases when fleeing domestic violence.

### **TIME:**

This investigation into Nigerian trafficking survivors showed how COVID border closures has left them stranded. Cross-published in Nigeria's *Premium Times*, with forthcoming republication in *Daily Nation* and *El País*. Reporting was syndicated to an additional eight international news outlets.

### **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**

On the heels of state shutdowns, we reported on the challenges frontline domestic violence responders faced when trying to help victims of abuse that could not flee from attacks.

### **CNN INTERNATIONAL:**

We reported on a transportation ban in Uganda that endangered victims and responders, even as their President stated that domestic violence is not life-threatening.

### **MARIE CLAIRE:**

We featured a homeless mother struggling to find shelter in Los Angeles during COVID and the movement to take over abandoned government-owned properties.

### **TIME:**

Following our award-winning coverage in Afghanistan, we reported on the attack on a maternity ward in Kabul, with a focus on the fragile gains in maternal health.



## MEET OUR TEAM



Newsletter

The Fuller Project is an independent nonprofit journalism organization (501c3). We are funded through the philanthropic support of foundations and individuals. Your support brings us closer to a world where women's voices are fully represented in the news.

Donate now to support our mission: securely through our website [www.fullerproject.org](http://www.fullerproject.org) or send a check made out to Fuller Project for International Reporting to 1875 Connecticut Ave, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20009.