

## FEPTO.NEWS 20.1

## With sense of solidarity

## Different boats - same storm

*I heard that we are in the same boat.  
But it's not that.  
We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.  
Your ship can be shipwrecked and mine might not be.  
Or vice versa.  
For some, quarantine in optimal: a moment of reflection, or reconnection.  
Easy, in flip flops, with a whiskey or tea.  
For others, this is a desperate crisis.  
For others, it is facing loneliness.  
For some, peace, rest time, vacation.  
Yet for others, Torture: How am I going to pay my bills?  
Some were concerned about a brand of chocolate for Easter (this year there were no rich chocolates).  
Others were concerned about the bread for the weekend, or if the noodles would last for a few more days.  
Some were in their "home office".  
Others are looking through trash to survive.  
Some want to go back to work because they are running out of money.  
Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.  
Some need to break the quarantine to stand in line at the banks.  
Others to escape.  
Others criticize the government for the lines.  
Some have experienced the near-death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it, and some believe they are infallible and will be blown away if or when this hits someone they know.  
Some have faith in God and expect miracles during 2020. Others say the worse is yet to come.  
So, friends, we are not in the same boat.  
We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different. And each one will emerge, in his own way, from that storm.  
It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, more than looking, seeing.  
See beyond the political party, beyond biases, beyond the nose on your face. Do not judge the good life of the other, do not condemn the bad life of the other.  
Don't be a judge.  
Let us not judge the one who lacks, as well as the one who exceeds him. We are on different ships looking to survive.  
Let everyone navigate their route with respect, empathy and responsibility.*

Author [Damian Barr](#)



This stellar illustration made by [Barbara Kelley](#) accompanied a short poem shared on Twitter this spring and written by [Damian Barr](#) – young writer, columnist and broadcaster.

While governments tried to stop the virus from spreading by a call for staying home this tweet flew around the Globe at a speed faster than the virus itself. The words of this poem appeared to have resonated in a sensational way with netizens\* and it became a horn of hope and mental health awareness worldwide. The poem has been shared on various news and social media and it became a symbol invoking a sense of solidarity in this unprecedented situation.

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