

Twitter thread of January 29, 2021

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor responding to New York Times column “Children Need to Be Back In School Tomorrow” by David Brooks.

Cut and pasted from Twitter by Jim Bloyd.

Please contact jimbloyd@gmail.com if you become aware of typos or errors in the move of these tweets from twitter to this document.

Accessed February 8, 2021 at

<https://twitter.com/KeeangaYamahtta/status/1355315799129518088>

Thread

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David Brooks

[@nytdavidbrooks](https://twitter.com/nytdavidbrooks)

· Jan 28

Readers, many of us got involved in the Black Lives Matter marches last summer. Do Black lives matter to you only when they serve your political purpose? Shouldn't we be marching to get Black and brown children back safely into schools right now?

<https://nytimes.com/2021/01/28/opinion/coronavirus-schools-unions.html>

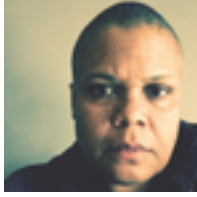


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A stunning screed where the concerns and fears of Black parents merit not a single mention. It is a pattern in these scorched earth hate screeds against teachers: they ignore that most Black parents don't want to return their children to antiquated schools in a



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Pandemic that has devastated Black communities across this country. Instead in this genre of newly discovered white liberal and right wing angst about the poor, wayward and directionless Black children being left behind, Black parents are derelict, ignorant or just uninterested



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In the well being of their children. The reality, of course, is that the conditions of Black children and their parents are ignored. Our society has failed poor and working class children in general and



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blaming teachers for fearing for their lives and not wanting to work in doors won't change that. It's a pathetic effort to shift the blame from the failures of this country to address racism, inequality and that which has made Black families vulnerable to COVID-19



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Onto the backs of teachers. There are predictions that 90k more people will die in four weeks. Teachers aren't selfish for resisting returning to work at THE PEAK OF THE PANDEMIC!!! Thousands of people are dying every week. It's not selfish to want to protect



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Yourself and your family from this disease. What is unconscionable is the bullying of teachers and the demands that they sacrifice and risk their lives when those with power and authority to rein this virus in have failed in every way imaginable. Instead of blaming



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Teachers, the US could be spending hundreds of billions to make remote learning better, to pay working class parents to stay home, to provide money for rent, food and healthcare.



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They could pay for teletherapy and stop the assault on working class lives that is turning their homes into pressure cookers. But that costs money and requires resources. It is cheaper to kick teachers in the teeth and say “mush!”



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The Chicago Teachers Union is fighting this degradation of the teaching profession and the bullying of educators. They should be supported as people who know best what the poor and working class children of Chicago need right now.



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They are also deserving of empathy as human beings who love children and want to help them during this horrible period but who are afraid for their lives and their family's lives. This has been roundly mocked with shouts of "BUT THE STUDIES!! ITS SAFE!!"



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It's not anti-science to know there will be cases in schools. "Cases" has been rendered into an abstraction but in reality it poses the possibility of death. And which teacher should be willing to die for her job? It's is utterly irresponsible and unreasonable and cruel.

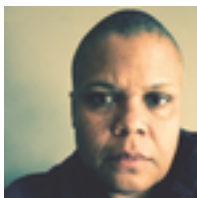


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It is a risk that almost none of the decision makers or pundits condemning these teachers are willing to take for themselves. Instead of vilifying teachers, elected officials should create a systematic approach to distributing the vaccine instead of the clusterfuck



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Disorganization that exists now. This would be the responsible approach. Stop harassing teachers and fix what is really ailing this country. They need help, not vitriol and blame.