



# La Mujer Obrera

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## WOMEN WORKERS ON THE BORDER: HIDDEN CASUALTIES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

### WOMEN REFUSE TO ACCEPT IMPOSED POVERTY

### MERCADO MAYAPAN: WOMEN'S PLAN FOR JOBS, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### DEMAND EQUITABLE INVESTMENT: NADBank AND STIMULUS FUNDS NOW

Women workers on the border are the hidden casualties of the global economic crisis.

Existing federal policies and training programs have failed women workers. El Paso's unemployment is 9.5%, the highest of all Texas major cities.

That's why we launched Mercado Mayapan. It's not just a business to employ women. It's also a **school and training center** and a **catalyst for renovation of the Chamizal barrio**.

**It is the women's own plan for their future** because neither the government nor the educational institutions nor the training programs have created a pathway out of poverty for the women, their families or their neighborhood.

**Mercado Mayapan is vital to the women because they have few other options.** They are women who lost their jobs after working for decades, when factories closed as a result of free trade treaties, and they are younger women whose only option for their families has been public assistance or the underground economy.

Billions of dollars have gone to El Paso military contractors. UTEP has received millions for centers on homeland security and national defense. The US Treasury has spent billions to bailout banks and car companies.

The women workers are not asking for a handout, just a critically needed investment in their economic future.

The women have been negotiating for nearly 4 years for the federal funds to operate Mercado Mayapan. **NADBank, the Empowerment Zone and the Department of Labor need to act NOW** on proposals the women have submitted.

For this reason, we call on all people with a commitment to justice from across the country to join us in demanding that the federal government take immediate action to resolve this crisis. We ask that letters, emails and phone calls be made to President Obama and Treasury Secretary Geithner seeking a full and speedy investment in the women workers and Mercado Mayapan.

**Please make a phone call or send an email today**

President Barack Obama  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20050  
Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461

Secretary Timothy F. Geithner  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220  
General Information: (202) 622-2000  
Fax: (202) 622-6415

Mayor John Cook  
City Hall  
One Civic Center Plaza  
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***If it is possible to bail out car dealers and auto companies, then why can't the women on the border receive the investment they need to create a stable future?***

**Urgent action is needed immediately, or all that the women have created and all that they can create will be lost to them and the entire community. Thank you.**