

GLOBAL FEMINIST FRAMEWORKS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE TOWN HALL

Frameworks Reader
September 2020





WELCOME, FEMINISTS

There is no shortage of **transformative agendas and visions put forth by feminist frameworks for climate justice around the world**. These frameworks, from the idea of a feminist just transition, to a feminist decolonial global Green New Deal, to a feminist fossil fuel free future and feminist development justice, and more, are rooted in global justice and the demands of climate justice and just transition advocates in the global South, Black and Indigenous feminists and feminists of color, and grassroots feminists.

The content and context of these frameworks might look different in countries and regions, based on different structural analyses, community-led demands, and the already existing localized organizing from which this work can build from, but feminist frameworks also **share common goals**.

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This upcoming four-hour town hall is an effort to **create a platform for a global dialogue around these feminist frameworks for climate justice**: reflecting on core principles, exchanging ideas, sharing strategies, shaping goals, and learning from each others' analysis, challenges, and questions.

This **pre-reader** includes some foundational information for each of the frameworks that will be presented on the call.

We hope this town hall will be only the beginning of this conversation. After all, this is only a small sampling of the many frameworks, concepts, and premises that feminists are working towards climate just around the world with. We look forward to collectively determining next steps together.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Note 1

Framework 1: Women Defend Commons 3

Framework 2: Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future 4

Framework 3: A Just and Feminist Transition 5

Framework 4: UK Feminist Green New Deal 6

Framework 5: Ecofeminist Impact Assessment Framework 7

Framework 6: US Feminist Green New Deal 8

Framework 7: Global Feminist Decolonial Green New Deal 9

More Resources 10

Acknowledgements and Gratitude 11



WOMEN DEFEND COMMONS



A growing network of local women, femme and gender non-binary activists in Fiji and the Pacific are working together for gender, ecological, economic and climate justice, defence of the Commons, and Commoning: The Commons is defined for us as, those natural systems in the planetary ecosphere that are needed for ongoing life, health and wellbeing of all humans and other species, that must be especially healthy for life to thrive: ie, healthy oceans, air, waterways, soil, water, food, biodiversity, etc.

Women Defend Commons network is unique in that it includes radical feminists, with women's groups from the oldest and largest Indigenous women's network in Fiji, LGBTQI+ women and people's networks, women elders, young women, women with disabilities, faith based groups, environmental groups, gender activists, market vendor groups, organic farmers and herbalists, aquaponics and agroecology specialists, teachers, craftswomen, poets, academics, scientists, with more joining weekly.

The beginnings of the Women Defend Commons network in 2014 were from love and anger - anger at Pacific women being continually left out of formal gender and climate justice work over-reliant on text-based and first-world expertise, and an urgent need to build beloved community, feminist solidarity and mutual support for those already experiencing enormous loss and damage. Local climate activists are many times still sidelined so members mobilise, organise and push past obstacles through activism accompaniment, action and reflection cycles, experiential knowledge and skills, care-full communication, tactics and strategy, and strength in numbers. We bring combined knowledge and skills of over 3000 women, femme and gender non-binary climate activists from urban poor, rural and maritime Pacific climate frontline communities, and accomplices inside and outside States and development institutions.

Women Defend Commons activists mobilise and organise on all aspects of gender, climate and ecological justice. As well as national, regional and global advocacy, members daily support each other with mutual aid including strategic connections with government and others for urgent needs, disaster preparedness and response, psycho-social care, learning circles, SRHR supplies and services, menstrual health campaigns, women builders constructing and repairing houses, unconditional cash transfers, food aid, WASH, development of local technology, referrals to feminist crisis centres to address violence and discrimination, advocacy work on legislation and policies, and much more.

Why is this work important to Pacific women? Women in small island climate frontline communities have unique perspectives and diverse expertise and skills to clarify defence of the Commons and Commoning, act on anti-racism, de-colonisation and anti-imperialist struggles, on free, prior and informed consent, Indigenous and ethnic minority rights, human rights, sexual and showing how gender justice, and climate, economic and ecological justice are all linked, and must be tackled together. **As we say in gender and climate justice movements, we will never give up on ourselves, other species, and this beautiful planet. Onward.**



Read more about Women Defend Commons: <https://diva4equality.wordpress.com>

FEMINIST FOSSIL FUEL FREE FUTURE



APWLD calls for alternative development models to ensure new, gender-just, economic, political and social relationships in a world free from climate change.

Climate change poses the largest threat to human rights, and indeed to human existence, that humanity has faced. To address it, we need to profoundly and radically transform our neoliberal model of development that has framed the global economic and political order in the last three decades. Climate change will force change. We can choose to change in ways that are more equitable and just for women and communities or we can continue on a path of destruction and a dystopian future of gross violations, inequality and, ultimately, annihilation.

Some initial ideas to start the conversation...

1. A Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future requires a just and equitable transition of the economy and employment. ...
2. Transitioning from dirty to clean energies won't be enough for the future we want to take place. We need to challenge the very structures of power that gives big corporations control over our resources, energy systems and democracy. ...
3. Industrial agriculture is one of the main drivers of climate change. We need to reclaim the power from big agribusinesses to give it back to small food producers and encourage agroecological farming practices. ...
4. The fight against climate change cannot be impeded by commercial interests. All trade rules within and outside the WTO that prevent climate action must be dismantled. ...
5. The market is sexist. Investments in the commons have positive redistributive as well as climate impacts. Public transport, public green space, publicly funded seeds and shared equipment, public housing can all be designed to deliver both climate and gender impacts. ...
6. To allow governments to invest in the commons we need a Global Tax Body that can end tax competition and evasion. ...
7. The idea of a Social Wage could have large benefits for the climate and for gender equality. A social wage would allow paid employment to be better distributed and give people more time to contribute to the work of living sustainably and equitably. ...
8. Histories that make women more responsible for family and community care mean that when women are collectively involved in decision making, decisions tend to result in more community and environmentally positive decisions. Gender equitable participatory democracy is therefore core to a Feminist Fossil Free Future! ...

Read full APWLD framework here: <https://apwld.org/apwld-briefer-feminist-fossil-fuel-free-future-5fs-2/>

A JUST AND FEMINIST TRANSITION



As a grassroots environmental and social justice federation, Friends of the Earth International sees system change as crucial for the transformation of our societies. We recognise gender justice and the dismantling of patriarchy as key to achieving this transformative change. In other words, we believe that our vision for social and environmental justice will become a reality only when we challenge and dismantle the systems of oppression which work together to concentrate power in our societies, through the exploitation of our bodies, work, territories and nature. These are systems of oppression founded on patriarchy, class, capitalism, racism, neocolonialism and heteronormativity. We affirm grassroots, anti-capitalist feminism as an essential tool to achieving equality, gender justice and, ultimately, system change.

It is our understanding of the mutually reinforcing systems of oppression (explained above) that motivates us to build alliances between the environmental justice movement, trade unions and workers, women's organisations and the feminist movement, Indigenous Peoples and peasant farmers, the black movement and LGBTQ organisations. We believe that only together and through working in solidarity can we dismantle patriarchy, transform our societies and promote system change.



UK FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL

**TOWARDS A FEMINIST
GREEN NEW DEAL FOR
THE UK**

WHAT WOULD A FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL LOOK LIKE?

The Covid-19 outbreak has accelerated calls for a 'new deal' for the British economy. It has highlighted the neglect of public services, lack of resilience and deep-seated socio-economic inequalities, strengthening the case for a Green New Deal (GND). But GND frameworks don't in general take in to account inequalities of gender, race and class. This is why Wen and The Women's Budget Group have published a policy paper and briefing outlining what a Feminist Green New Deal could look like in the UK with recommendations.

What does it mean to pay attention to inequalities of gender, race and class when we think about transitioning to a green economy?

INVESTMENT IN (SOCIAL) INFRASTRUCTURE

There is lots of emphasis on how we can better grow the economy through investment in transport, housing and agriculture but often investment in people gets overlooked. Social infrastructure is about investing in the care economy and therefore in people. We will all at some point in our lives require care and a Feminist Green New Deal will help ensure that this is prioritised. Jobs and training for carers and educators is widely known to be economically, environmentally and equality sound, Women's Budget Group research finds that a 2% GDP investment in care (e.g. social care, childcare, parental leave and care level) creates double the number of jobs for women and almost as many for men than the same investment in construction.

INCREASING REPRESENTATION IN GREEN JOBS

A Feminist Green New Deal can help ensure that women and other marginalised groups are also represented in green jobs so that their lives and experiences can help shape a future that works for everyone. In order to do this it is vital that women from low income backgrounds and people of color can access training and development programmes through subsidies or other incentives (including paid education leave) that enrolls them in to green jobs. There also needs to be an effort made to encourage women and girls into male-dominated green sectors promoted by the Green New Deal, as well as encouraging boys and men into the already green caring sectors

CARE IS A GREEN JOB

There needs to be a shift in the narrative that is currently being presented around the Green New Deal which focuses heavily on how jobs in construction and technology can help make us greener. We need to start recognising that care is already a low carbon sector and investment in care is key in tackling gender inequality. Women's disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work sees them own less and earn less over a lifetime as they have less time for paid work. Investing in care creates jobs for women which increases their labour market participation and also enables other women to participate in the labour market and therefore increasing representation and overall achieving equality. Children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, also benefit from high quality childcare and education.

BETTER REPRESENTATION IN DEMOCRACY AND OWNERSHIP

Women, especially women of color and disabled women, are still underrepresented in all areas of political life and rectifying this is crucial to if we are to create a green economy that is inclusive. We need to increase participation on a local level so that we can promote economic, ecological and carbon education in schools as well as through the media, to best engage communities. Read the full policy paper and the briefing which sets out recommendations for a Green New Deal that puts intersectional gender equality front and centre.

ECOFEMINIST IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



What is the Ecofeminist Impact Assessment tool?

In 2019, the WoMin African Alliance led a process, in partnership with two other non-governmental organisations - Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD) in Senegal and Gender Action in the United States - to develop and implement a groundbreaking ecofeminist framework to explore and expose the impacts of the Sendou I coal plant in Bargny, Senegal on women. The organisations wanted to understand and analyse the extremely negative impacts this large-scale project has on women's lives, livelihoods, and on the environment and natural resources they and their communities rely upon for survival.

WoMin intends that the findings from the assessments can be used in women's advocacy to ultimately stop the financing of such projects and halt the construction of projects before the most serious impacts are felt.

The Problem the Ecofeminist Impact Assessment Framework responds to

WoMin has found that ecofeminist perspectives resonant powerfully with the experiences and perspectives of women in peasant and poor urban communities across the African continent. It is from this vantage point that WoMin has evolved its ecofeminist ideas and approach. We have brought this to bear in building this innovative ecofeminist impact assessment framework.

Impact assessment frameworks employed by women's rights and mainstream development organisations, as well as multilateral institutions and IFIs are generally constructed around a gender perspective which brings attention to differences in gender roles, rights and interests on the basis of the social construction of gender. Such a gender approach to impact assessment would therefore identify gendered interests, forecast gendered impacts, and work to mitigate or challenge negative differentiated impacts on men and women. In contrast, an ecofeminist framework addresses the limitations of gender impact assessments by bringing questions of ecology and climate, women's rights, and alternative viewpoints about development into the evaluation process.

This framework is currently comprised of FOUR indicators with associated standards to guide assessment. The four indicators are:

- 1. Consent rights for affected communities and women**
- 2. Women's rights and ecofeminist analysis in project planning, implementation and ongoing monitoring**
- 3. Compensation and redress**
- 4. Ecofeminist cost benefit analysis**

Read full impact assessment here:

US FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL



To truly address the root causes, as well as the scope and scale of the climate crisis, the Green New Deal must be cross-cutting in its approach, steadfast in feminist principles, and strive to combat historical oppressions. It must advance a transformative feminist agenda that centers the leadership of women, and acknowledges and addresses the generational impacts of colonization and anti-Black racism. It must end oppression against and be led and articulated by frontline, impacted communities – especially women of color, Black women, Indigenous women, people with disabilities, LGBTQIAP+ people, people from the Global South, migrant and refugee communities, and youth. The climate crisis has emerged from interlocking systems of capitalism, resource extraction, labor exploitation, the commodification of nature, settler colonialism, imperialism, and militarism. It has roots in the exploitation of enslaved people, whose labor created wealth in the Global North, and of the continuing systemic racism that deepens and institutionalizes global inequity.

As policymakers, advocates, and communities shape the Green New Deal, we must:

1. **Require intersectional gender analysis across all actions.**
2. **Recognize that there is no such thing as domestic climate policy.**
3. **Confront institutional patriarchy and racism.**
4. **Center Indigenous Peoples' rights and leadership.**
5. **Systemically confront exploitative and unsustainable production patterns.**
6. **Advance reproductive justice.**
7. **Ensure democratically controlled, community-led solutions.**
8. **Reject false and harmful responses to climate change that fail to address root causes.**
9. **Create regenerative economies that center systemic, feminist alternatives.**
10. **Respect the leadership of young people as they fight for future generations.**

Working together, according to these values, we have the capacity to create the change demanded of us now by generations to come.

Read full FemGND US Principles: <http://feministgreennewdeal.com/principles/>

GLOBAL FEMINIST DECOLONIAL GREEN NEW DEAL



The climate crisis is rooted in an exploitative process that further increases multi-layered inequalities, as its impacts hit hardest on the already-vulnerable populations – those who had done the least to contribute to the crisis. As feminists and climate justice activists, we recognize that as we take from the earth to produce and consume, we also take resources, lands and rights from others to enable this process.

A Decolonial Feminist Global Green New Deal is a strategy to promote not only the necessary interconnection between the main structural challenges of our times, but to also emphasize structural demands of justice to transform: a) a colonial financial extractivism based in a white supremacist North-South division of labor - with the corresponding depletion of wealth and resources as irreparable damage is done to ecosystems integrity -; as well as b) a sexual division of labor, in which women subsidize the entire economy, by means of unpaid domestic and care work and the precariousness in which they are placed both in informal and formal employment. In this sense we join the Civil Society Financing for Development call to mobilize around macro demands to challenge the existing economic, trade and financial dynamics. Under the umbrella of a call for a UN Economic Reconstruction and Systemic Reform Summit, we want to work towards a New Global Economic Architecture that works for the People and Planet[1].

As cross-cutting principles we highlight gender equality, human rights, and a just and equitable transition for people and the planet in which we aim to promote “a rebalancing of the global economy with more vibrant, inclusive and circular local/national economies; promote decent work and responsible business conduct; advance ecological resilience; reduce resource consumption; restore biodiversity; and move away from extractive, discriminatory, military, racist and androcentric economies that erode the ecological basis of our collective wellbeing. The Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development (FfD), an alliance of women’s organizations and networks advocating for women’s human right and gender equality in the FfD related UN processes, is currently promoting a Campaign of Campaigns towards Macro Solutions for Women, the People and the Planet, calling for enhancing solidarity between and across movements around these urgent global challenges.”

[1] See: <https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/un-economic-reconstruction-summit-2-pager-1.pdf>

MORE RESOURCES

WOMEN DEFEND COMMONS

- Blog Post introducing Women Defend the Commons - <https://diva4equality.wordpress.com/2017/08/14/women-defend-the-commons/>
- Demands of Pacific Women – Rise for Climate Justice, Every Day! - <https://diva4equality.wordpress.com/2018/09/16/demands-of-pacific-women-rise-for-climate-justice-every-day/>

FEMINIST FOSSIL FUEL FREE FUTURE

- Full Briefer: <https://apwld.org/apwld-briefer-feminist-fossil-fuel-free-future-5fs-2/>
- Co-Creating a FFFFF future: Feminist Participatory Research Action Briefs - <https://apwld.org/new-publication-climate-justice-feminist-participatory-action-research-fpar-country-briefs/>

A JUST AND FEMINIST TRANSITION

- FoE Why Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy Booklet - <https://www.foei.org/features/gender-justice-dismantling-patriarchy-booklet-stories>
- FoE People Power Now Manifesto - <https://www.foei.org/resources/publications/people-power-now-manifesto-pdf>

UK FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL

- UK Policy Paper - <https://www.wen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/FEM-GND-POLICY-PAPER-2.pdf>
- FemGND UK Briefing Paper - <https://www.wen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/FGND-briefing-FINAL-3.pdf>
- FemGND UK Policy Paper webinar launch - <https://youtu.be/dHyoz0J6FHA>
- Open Democracy blog piece: 'It's time to talk about a feminist green new deal' - <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/its-time-to-talk-about-a-feminist-green-new-deal/>

ECOFEMINIST IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- WOMIN's "Women Stand their Ground against BIG Coal" assessment report - <https://womin.org.za/resource-library/2019-10-30-12-41-43/women-stand-their-ground-against-big-coal.html> (english) and https://womin.org.za/images/Senegal_Coal_Report-French_final.pdf (french).
- WOMIN Feminist Just Transition - <https://womin.org.za/resource-library/women-building-power/feminist-just-transition.html>
- Women Building Power Towards Climate and Energy Justice Report - <https://womin.org.za/images/women-building-power/Women%20Building%20Power%20Paper%20Towards%20Climate%20and%20Energy%20Justice.pdf>

US FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL

- FemGND US website - <http://feministgreennewdeal.com/>
- Webinars on FemGND US Principles and a Just Recovery - <http://feministgreennewdeal.com/2020/05/02/recording-of-earth-week-dialogues/>
- Ms. Magazine article - <https://msmagazine.com/2019/10/16/feminists-for-a-green-new-deal/>

GLOBAL FEMINIST DECOLONIAL GREEN NEW DEAL

- Decolonial Feminist Green New Deal: Webinar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqUHZjpb4>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Article, "Towards a Decolonial and Feminist Green New Deal" - <https://www.rosalux.de/en/news/id/42847/towards-a-decolonial-and-feminist-global-green-new-deal?cHash=2273743732e7578e67f560ff6c2e8663>
- Article, "Wanted: A Feminist Lens on Climate Action" - https://genderatwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Wanted-A-Feminist-lens-on-climate-action-15-May-2020_KMS.pdf
- Just Associates Feminist Just Transition Framework - <https://justassociates.org/en/resources/just-global-feminist-transitions> and <https://justassociates.org/en/article/notes-just-transition-framework-jass-experience>
- Balkan Feminist Green New Deal Brief - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wZzzTtSDMcHw8SWfHPihghhE7Wr50Qs7D3gdaEORq1Q/edit>



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In community,

Feminist Green New Deal US organizations (WEDO, WECAN, GGJ, Sierra Club, MADRE), APWLD, FEMNET, Equidad de Genero: Ciudadania, Trabajo y Familia, Feminist Task Force, Friends of the Earth International and FoE chapters, UK Feminist Green New Deal organizations (WEN UK, independent academics)

The informal collective of organizations and networks convening the town hall includes, but is not limited to, those listed above.

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