

Gender Just Climate Solutions

Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) Communications Tool

Overview

The purpose of this tool is to support allied networks (such as fellow Constituencies under the UNFCCC, GAGGA, GEDA or other such collaboratives) in communications around gender just climate solutions while uplifting and amplifying the collective work of the WGC's "Gender Just Climate Solutions" Program.

Towards gender justice

In 2015, in an attempt to move away from tokenized attempts at gender-mainstreaming in climate policy / finance spaces, the WGC updated its [position paper](#) to work towards defining the principles for gender just climate action, and launched its first cycle of the GJCS Awards Program. This included the development of a set of criteria of what would define climate solutions as "gender-just" beyond what was being showcased at the time- often actions that simply included women without any real understanding of gendered power relations, contributions of the actions to reducing unequal care burdens, or analysis on the impacts of the actions from a mitigation or adaptation perspective.

Recent Use: GAGGA promotes the concept of "gender-just climate finance," including through an annual [Call to Action](#). CARE generally refers to "[gender-just climate action](#)." The [blueprint](#) created by the Generation Equality Forum's Feminist Action on Climate Justice Action Coalition calls "to increase direct access to finance for gender just climate solutions". GJCS Scale Fund Awardee SafePlan Uganda provides an example for more local communications, a [blog post](#) entitled, "Are your climate solutions gender just?"

WEDO, in its 2021-2025 strategic plan defines gender-just climate solutions as solutions that *"Encompass a range of activities that aim to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage or overall resilience while also supporting the systemic redistribution of power and providing opportunities and access for people of all genders. In particular, ensuring that activities do not reinforce harmful gendered norms. For example, projects that engage women as beneficiaries in relation to agricultural management but do not address women's legal rights/access to and ownership of land."*

Purpose

The goal of this communications tool is to support work towards the overall advancement of gender justice in relation to climate action, while also working in a spirit of solidarity by recognizing and valuing the intentionality in utilizing the terminology of gender justice, and the collective labor of the WGC in creating the GJCS Program, while also preventing misrepresentation of the specific awards/ program.

The WGC did not create nor claim any ownership over the understanding of gender justice, and the objective of this communications tool is not to trademark the phrase “gender just climate solutions”.

Instead, the purpose of this document is two fold:

- In advocacy we know that language matters. It’s important that as movements we work to hold on to the frameworks we collectively develop and give meaning to. There is intention whenever we utilize the framing of **gender just** in relation to climate action - whether we say gender just climate finance, climate action, climate solutions, etc. We are explicitly talking about more than just adding the word women, or actions that include women. We are speaking beyond the binary, we are speaking about work that challenges power relations, we are speaking about action that responds and transforms. This is important as there are many groups focused on women and climate in a non-transformatory / non-feminist manner, particularly from the private sector, such as those who would claim a women-led private enterprise that is selling carbon credits in support of monocrop plantations is a gender-just climate solution. Holding a common understanding among allies and partners about why we use these words matters.
- Solidarity is necessary for movements to grow and thrive, and we benefit in finding ways to amplify each other's labor. The WGC created the GJCS program as a process to uplift specific actions that have gone through an application and review process—and by recognizing and connecting to this work we can both position advocacy within the intentionality of the language / principles that have been created in collective and further drive the work of those solutions that have been highlighted over the years.

Communications Guidance

Below we have identified a few simple communications tips towards clarity and solidarity.

- General, lowercase references are best to discuss the action or importance of working toward the ideals of gender just climate solutions, without suggesting that solutions have been assessed or endorsed for meeting criteria.
- Capitalized references to the WGC’s “Gender Just Climate Solutions” (GJCS) program can be integrated wherever possible, depending on the audience and word count of the communication. This could be a follow-up sentence, a footnote, a call-out box, etc., and should include a link to relevant GJCS information, [such as the directory](#).
- Share and amplify the annual [call for GJCS applications](#), the virtual and in-person event of the COP awards ceremony, and the [GJCS publication](#) and [directory](#) across your networks.

This guidance is mainly geared towards large networks or collaboratives and work generated at that level. There is no expectation of monitoring grassroots projects or programs that self-reference as gender just climate solutions.

Examples of Usage

- Many feminist organizations are working to implement climate solutions that are gender just.
- Gender just climate solutions exist in communities across the globe and deserve to be fully recognized, funded, replicated and scaled.
- The Women and Gender Constituency's Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards Program has identified examples of these solutions since 2015—see the directory [here](#).
- CAN is calling for climate finance to invest in gender just climate solutions!
- GEDA is developing new tools that support the advancement of gender just climate solutions, see the Women and Gender Constituency's GJCS Awards Program for more information.
- GAGGA highlights gender just climate solutions through [campaign stories](#) and [case studies](#) alongside Prospera Fund.
- GAGGA is proud to support the GJCS Scale Fund, working to scale and amplify the solutions of those recognized via the WGC GJCS Awards Program and GAGGA partners.
- Let's raise up solutions that strive to achieve gender and climate justice!

Key Information on the WGC GJCS Program

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) launched the [Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards](#) in 2015, with particular support and leadership from WECF. The GJCS Awards welcome applications from around the world every year. A jury of WGC members, guided by the GJCS criteria, identifies three locally-driven solutions to showcase at the global platform of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP). Each winning solution is awarded prize money and a trip to COP for one of their individual team members. The three awarded solutions and up to thirty annual honorees are described in a [publication](#) that is distributed (in English, French, and Spanish and/or Arabic) during COP, and all solutions are added to the online public [directory](#) of over 100 solutions.

The GJCS [program of work](#) also includes the GJCS Mentorship and Capacity-Building program for the awardees, the GJCS Scale Fund to provide additional funding to recognized solutions, and the GJCS Support Facility to offer resources to those interested as well as select pools.

Programmatic Terminology

Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards

Led by the WGC and coordinated by WECF

- **Awardees** (three projects/programs awarded each year, featured in the publication and directory, representatives present at COP, currently eligible for Scale Fund funding)
- **Honorees** (over a dozen recognized each year, featured in the publication and directory, currently eligible for Scale Fund funding)
- **Applicants** (over a hundred most years, eligible to receive notifications of funding opportunities—new listserv for these is launching)
- **WGC member solutions** (a handful of projects/programs features in the publication and directory each year)

Gender Just Climate Solutions Award programme, Mentorship and Capacity-Building

Led by the WGC and coordinated by WECF

- **Awardees** (representatives of the projects/programs awarded who participate in in-person and online workshops and meetings and receive technical support for programmatic visioning, development, and proposals)

Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund

Led by the Re-Grant Collective of WEDO, WEP, FEMNET, and WECF and coordinated by WEDO

- **Recipients** (individuals/organizations/groups that receive re-grants or capacity-strengthening through competitive rounds, does not have to be for the exact project or program previously recognized and is not exclusively for funding those previously recognized via the GJCS Awards program (i.e. the WORTH Initiative and GAGGA partners have also been invited to apply)
- **Applicants** (any individual/organization/group that applies to the announced Scale Fund rounds)

Gender Just Climate Solutions Support Facility

Led by the WGC and coordinated by WEDO

- **Community** (everyone who is eligible to participate in support facility activities, the broad community of people interested in implementing gender just climate solutions)
- **Participants** (anyone who does participate in the listserv or any activities)