

CALL TO ACTION

A CALL FOR SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE

Policy and Programmatic
Recommendations 66th Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women
(CSW66)



MenEngage Alliance

working with men and boys for gender equality

This document was developed by the MenEngage Alliance Global Climate Justice Working Group, together with the Action Nexus on Feminist Economic Justice for People and Planet (Generation Equality Forum) on the occasion of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), to present key policy recommendations to propel systemic transformation for climate and gender justice for all women, girls and gender non-conforming people.

The Global Climate Justice Working Group is made up of members from across the regions, and aims to strengthen the Alliance's engagement, position, and clarity on climate justice and to mobilize and work with members and partners, with the goals of deconstructing patriarchal masculinities and creating a climate- and gender-just world. Participant members include: YouthNet for Climate Justice and Fridays for Future (Bangladesh), MÄN (Sweden); RDI - Rural development initiative (Rwanda); COTFONE - Community Transformation Foundation Network (Uganda), Red Cross Togo (Togo), Center ANNA (Russia), The Gender Lab (India), MenEngage Belgium network, Grenada Conservation Fund (Grenada), IGDS/UWI (Trinidad and Tobago).

Action Nexus on Feminist Economic Justice for People and Planet is an initiative of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition in partnership with WEDO, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, as well as two allied organizations in the Economic Justice & Rights Action Coalition, FEMNET and the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, working together to launch an Action Nexus to propel transformative gender and climate justice.



Call to Action

A call for systemic transformation for people, planet and peace

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Climate change is one of the most urgent global challenges facing the world today, with immediate impacts already being felt around the globe, although unequally, with many contexts and communities, predominantly in the Global South and among indigenous peoples, who, as we speak, are experiencing devastating and deadly consequences of the climate crisis. We stand firmly together in challenging the dominant patriarchal - socio-economic and political systems perpetuating dangerous practices that result in unsustainable climate change. We stand for an urgent and just transition and systemic transformation towards green economies of care.

We know that the causes and the threats of climate change are gendered in the way they are exploitative practices conducted in a vacuum of sustainable comprehensive care policies and practices. Gender analysis over the past three decades has brought to light the disproportionate effects of climate change and environmental degradation on the lives of women and girls. Those who live at the intersections of multiple forms of exclusion, oppression and marginalization, particularly in the Global South, are even more impacted. Ecofeminist analysis has unpacked how climate change is rooted in histories of colonial resource extraction and capitalist industrial production. These practices are masculinist, patriarchal and eurocentric in the way they maintain structures of power and dominance that continue today to exclude women and people of all genders as well as exploit natural resources with disregard for people and planet, escalating inequalities around the world. We see the continued expansion of an economic model shaped by the whims of a tiny minority of mainly white men in the global North with corporate interests which are treated as priorities over the needs of the majority already marginalized, rendering people uncared for, unheard, and invisible in unprecedented levels of poverty. We must end the current patriarchal patterns of exploitation, extractive economic models and financial systems, and their many forms of control over bodies, land and livelihoods, entrenched within political systems of privileges.

Together, we can create change. We can jointly build a globally just world in which systemic change transforms our planet into a place of inclusiveness and natural richness. To achieve this, we must stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who are not voiceless, but as yet unheard. Overshadowed by patriarchal norms and values, many people—mostly women and girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) people—suffer the consequences of various destructive masculinities that urgently need to be held accountable and deconstructed. This calls not only for a deep ecological transformation but also for a clear position of solidarity, setting privileges aside unless they can be used as a responsible call to action.

There will not be any climate justice without gender justice, and vice versa. Developing a caring humanity is central to achieving goals in climate justice and in other domains, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence prevention. Without seeing these topics' interconnectedness, we cannot make progress.



Recommendations

The following recommendations can help us to collectively achieve a world that fosters both climate justice and gender justice.

Youth Movements Demands

We stand by- and urge all governments today to act in alignment with the principles and advocacy asks laid out by Friday's for Future for "No More Empty Promises" including for:

- A moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects.
- End all investments in the industry;
- Annual and binding carbon budgets;
- Economic, racial and gender justice in climate policy;
- Protect and safeguard democracy.
- Citizen participation in climate decision making; and
- Making ecocide an international crime.

Feminist Movements Demands

We stand by- and urge all governments today to act in alignment with the principles and advocacy asks of feminist climate justice advocates, who see that a systemic and structural transformation of our global economic systems and governance is required, to bring about a new paradigm grounded in a feminist and decolonial global green new deal. A feminist decolonial global green new deal would encompass the following policy demands:

- 1.Transform global and national economic systems to enable a just and equitable transition a to a feminist decolonial green new economy.
- 2.Restructure the global trade system to enable local and small producers to thrive.
- 3.Redistribute wealth and resources through a progressive and equitable global tax system, to enable governments to mobilize domestic resources and invest in public service provision and climate justice.
- 4.End the sovereign debt crisis and promote debt justice. Redirect public resources from servicing predatory, illegitimate, and colonial loans towards climate justice and gender-responsive public services to reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and survive the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.Democratize the global economic and financial architecture to promote global solidarity and collective ambition to address global crises.
- 6.End corporate capture and influence over global public goods and service provision.
- 7.Fulfill historical obligations to provide gender-just climate finance that is predictable, adequate, transparent, accountable, and in the form of grants rather than loans, and reject false "solutions" to the climate crisis.



Intersectional Feminist Approaches to Transform Patriarchal Masculinities and Work with Men and Boys

We urge all governments to invest in and center intersectional feminist and accountable analysis of climate change, which have the best interest of our planet and all people, including women, girls, and gender non-conforming individuals and marginalized groups. These include:

Feminisms: Listen to and learn from feminist, youth, and climate justice movements and act together as allies; deconstruct industrial and eco-modern¹ masculinities and construct an inclusive, caring humanity and world view.

Recommendations:

- Advocate for systems change as allies in diverse feminist movements and institutions, such as in relevant United Nations bodies.
- Mainstream education on feminist climate justice concepts, including the impact of industrial and eco-modern masculinities and patriarchal structures on climate problems; gender-transformative education with men and boys on gender equality and climate justice practices such as connecting rational, social and emotional journeys in solving the climate problems with greater inclusion, as well as learning to heal and deal with
- eco-anxiety.
- Encourage further empirical research, quantitative and qualitative, to develop
- relevant concepts and theory. Diverse theories must be allowed to grow and
- change, and a community of practice must be built to develop the topic of
- masculinities and climate justice.
- Challenge and deconstruct the idealization of hegemonic masculinities based
- on dominance. This includes, for example, being hunters or looking at hunting
- as a rite of passage.

¹ Around the globe, unfettered industrialisation has marched forth in unison with massive social inequities. Making matters worse, anthropogenic pressures on Earth's living systems are causing alarming rates of thermal expansion, sea-level rise, biodiversity losses in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and a sixth mass extinction. As various disciplines have shown, rich white men in the Global North are the main (although not the only) perpetrators of this slow violence. This book demonstrates that industrial/breadwinner masculinities have come at terrible costs to the living planet and eco-modern masculinities have failed us as well, men included. <https://www.routledge.com/Ecological-Masculinities-Theoretical-Foundations-and-Practical-Guidance/Hultman-Pule/p/book/9780367893699>

² Ibid.



Intersectionality: Center all humans and nonhumans and their livelihoods and environmental threats in our work, breaking the male-female gender binary and the human-nature binary; avoiding other binary systems of control and oppressive power (production, utility, logic, value rankings) typical of colonialism, racism, classism, and ageism.

Recommendations:

- Develop an intersectional understanding on all identities across genders, ethnicities, education, location, skin color, nationality, occupation by
- redefining relationships among and between peoples, with other species, and with other forms of life.
- Reject and replace ownership and notions of utility and control over with
- relationships and an ethics of mutuality and solidarity of care for all. It also means looking beyond the myopia of a Global North worldview and decolonizing work.
- Engage with, pass the microphone to and make room at the table to the people most affected by climate change, people and areas most neglected and excluded from policy decisions and promote ways to amplify their voices, especially women and girls and LGBTIQ people, and people of color.
- Develop climate responses that center human rights and gender equality.
- Refuse to partake in actions that are not in line with global justice movements.

Accountability: Contribute to sustainable justice (in relation to climate, gender, and human rights) by understanding and acting accordingly to the complexity of the climate crisis, its interconnected features and relationships that require accountability to those leading climate justice efforts and those whose livelihoods are most threatened by the climate crisis.

Recommendations:

- Be accountable to women, girls, LGBTIQ people, and people of color, as well as to feminist and youth climate movements. Whenever possible and welcome, men should use their privilege to assist climate justice movements, and they should be accountable for harm done in the past and present.
- Hold men in power, corporations, and governments accountable for their responsibilities to tackle climate change. If need be, prosecute men who are guilty of planetary destruction or ecocide through their activities. Make their harm visible while making the link with patriarchal norms and values clear.
- Hold those accountable who are harassing activist women, girls, and LGBTIQ people in person and online and help build safe spaces that allow for constructive dialogue.
- Ensure climate finance is analyzed from the lens of the historically most polluting
- countries being held accountable to the most affected countries, people, and areas—not as aid. It should be compensation for loss and damage due to the climate crisis.



'Power with': Prioritize collaborative work that allows most often marginalized people to speak up and make decisions about issues that directly impact them by staying connected to other justice and change movements and avoiding tokenistic responses.

Recommendations:

- Build democratic structures and shift power to those who are unheard,
- prioritizing safety, care, and solidarity.
- Refuse to participate when you are the only voice at venues or events representing the most affected people and areas being discussed/addressed.
- Insist in the active participation of
- affected people and those from the affected areas in the decision making process about those issues.
- Refuse to speak for
- others who are more directly affected by issues at stake and defer to them or follow their guidance if/whenever they want others to use their privilege to raise sensitive issues for them.

Transformation: Demand and work for systems change by conducting cross-movement-building for shared causes.

Recommendations:

- Demand feminist systems change and do not become sidetracked by
- solutions that delay or spread doubt or false solutions.
- Collaborate with feminist movements to recognize
- inadequate solutions to climate change that negatively impact advances in gender justice and insisting on meaningful actions with a just and equitable transition.
- Address the personal, political, and glocal (global connection and local action)
- concurrently striving for a balanced way of ensuring transformation that is led by those most impacted, owned by all humans affected, and inclusive.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of working on the glocal scale such as financing small-scale, community-led, sustainable projects focused on adaptation and resilience, as well as co-creating solutions.
- Demand policy change that addresses alarming global trends head-on with a
- sense of urgency. Such as, demanding democratic energy and resource sharing and social gender equality central. Tax havens and financial flow towards elite men should be dismantled, and societies should unite behind the technical and human sciences, listening to scientists and disseminating knowledge to the grassroots.
- Take steps to collaboratively build legal frameworks that end impunity for ecocide and secure land rights for those who work on the land, and particularly to those who are often excluded from land rights legislation such as women and Indigenous people.
- Take steps to replace climate crisis masculine or militaristic language (e.g., fight, battle, or tackle) with constructive, inclusive language (e.g., building, inviting, and connecting).
- Promote local and traditional knowledge in climate solutions

