



AFFPC AUSTRALIAN
FEMINIST FOREIGN
POLICY COALITION

Advancing Feminist Foreign Policy in Australia

AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION

Welcome to the December newsletter of the Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition!

Thank you for being involved in this growing community advancing feminist foreign policy in Australia.

In this bi-monthly newsletter, we share updates from the Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition (AFFPC) and the global feminist foreign policy (FFP) space.

This will be our final newsletter for 2022. We look forward to continuing to share updates about the work of the AFFPC and the world of feminist foreign policy in the New Year.

Please direct all enquiries, suggestions and feedback to Liz Gill-Atkinson at research@iwda.org.au.

FOCUS:

Feminist Approaches to International Development Policy

The Australian Government has commenced the process of developing a new international development policy. In our submission, the AFFPC made the case that **Australia should adopt a feminist approach to international development**, drawing on key lessons from the growing trend of countries embracing feminist foreign policy. Through a collaboratively developed submission, we outline a transformative vision for an Australia international development policy informed by intersectional feminist analysis and grounded in First Nations values and worldviews and includes practical recommendations on the **capabilities, partnerships, resources and accountability systems** needed to translate this vision into reality.

There are already some positive signals that the Government is serious about making progress on gender equality in aid. In the October budget update, [the Government announced a new commitment](#) that programs over \$3 million must have a gender equality objective. If implemented robustly, this could represent a structural shift and send a strong signal that gender equality should be a non-negotiable part of international development.

A [feminist approach to international development](#) would take this further, ensuring that we are working to transform the systems of power that underpin equality and marginalisation. It would also mean ensuring that a greater proportion of programs have gender equality as their principal objective and increasing funding to women's rights organisations.

To read our submission, please visit the [AFFPC website](#).

AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to

December AFFPC Issues Paper

The intersection of human rights and feminist foreign policy

In the final Issues Paper for the year, Leanne Smith, Chief Executive, Australian Human Rights Commission, examines the alignments and intersections between a human-rights based approach and feminist foreign policy. She discusses the challenges and opportunities that make human rights and feminist foreign policy the correct frameworks for confronting the consuming problems of

October AFFPC Issues Paper

The imperative for a feminist lens on infrastructure investment

To achieve economic and social transformation infrastructure investments must recognise that infrastructure is not gender neutral and that choices about these investments can either bridge or deepen divides. Feminist foreign policy, including a feminist interpretation of the economy, combined with human design principles, provides a framework to foreground the diversity of user patterns and needs and

our shared future. Leanne writes that a new foreign policy model – one that focuses on local and indigenous knowledge; engages civil society; has a commitment to peace, to empathy over sovereignty - is viable. She concludes that in view of the many challenges we face, this could – and should – be FFP’s moment.

[Download Paper](#)

support infrastructure that better serves society. In their paper, AFFPC allies Mia Urbano and Beth Olson make a case for how a FFP approach would consolidate Australia’s promotion of quality and inclusive infrastructure, boost resourcing for equality, and be a defining aspect of Australia’s sectoral investment.

[Download Paper](#)

Issues Papers are published approximately monthly on the [AFFPC website](#).

[The Interpreter Article](#)

Where does Australia's aid budget leave gender equality?

In the latest federal budget, the Government announced that all programs over \$3m must now include an objective related to gender equality. In her blog post for the interpreter, AFFPC member Annabel Dulhunty (ANU) welcomes this commitment, noting that this target is important to ensure that gender equality is measured and tracked and outlines additional actions that could ensure gender equality remains a top priority in the aid program and in the new aid policy.

[Read More](#)

[Roundtable Update](#)

W7 Roundtable: Feminist Foreign Policy and the G7 – Chances and Contradictions

On Friday 21st October, W7 gathered representatives from international civil society and politics to discuss feminist foreign and development policies within the G7. AFFPC member Alice Ridge (IWDA) attended this closed-door roundtable, which developed recommendations for G7 states around advancing FFP. An overview of the discussion items and the group’s recommendations is available online.

[Read More](#)

[The Diplomat Article](#)

Australia aims for an Ambassador for First Nations People

In their article for The Diplomat, AFFPC members Melissa Conly Tyler and Grant Wyeth, discuss the recent call for expressions

[Panel Session](#)

Opportunities for feminist foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific

A panel session at the [Australasian Aid Conference](#) discussed lessons learned from countries with existing feminist foreign policies,

of interest for Australia's first-ever ambassador for First Nations People to head a new Office for First Nations Engagement. This fulfills Labor's election commitment to pursue a First Nations Foreign Policy if elected to office, and as the authors argue, is a significant new diplomatic asset that can strengthen Australia's foreign policy and Pacific engagement.

[Read More](#)

and how these lessons can be incorporated into ongoing and periodic development cooperation policy, process, and architecture. Chaired by Nandita Baruah (The Asia Foundation, India), panelists included Ambassador Eduardo Peña (Embassy of Mexico), Ambika Vishwanath (Kubernein Initiative, India), 'Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki (Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga), Dr Andreas Radtke (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany) and Bettina Baldeschi (IWDA, AFFPC member).

[Watch Session](#)

What we're reading (and watching and listening):

A short list of books, articles, resources, videos and podcasts about feminist foreign policy

Blog

Gendering the Indo-Pacific Dialogue: Opportunities for India and Australia

Conference

Finnish Foreign Policy ...Watch this space!



In their blog for South Asian Voices, friends of the AFFPC, Priyanka Bhide and Aditi Mukund, from the Kubernein Initiative discuss how Australia and India are well placed to champion gender perspectives and mainstream inclusion through their bilateral and multilateral engagements. The authors conclude that a



On the 16 November, the Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto convened an international conference on advancing gender equality through feminist foreign policy. The conference brought together high-level policy makers and experts to discuss what a feminist foreign policy for Finland would look like, and to

feminist foreign policy approach would enable the two countries to act upon their renewed and reinvigorated security ties to help address gender inequality in the Indo-Pacific.

[Read More](#)

discuss the concept and added value of the approach. Whilst this is not a formal commitment to adopt a FFP, it is nonetheless a strong endorsement of the approach!

[Read More](#)

Article

Indigenous Foreign Policy

Article

Australian Senator Penny Wong



In their article, Nicole Cochran and Brian Harding discuss Indigenous Foreign Policy, and the implications of Australia and New Zealand's commitments to adopting this approach, for the Pacific Islands and the United States. They discuss the importance of ensuring that the aims and processes of Indigenous Foreign Policy reflect a nation's domestic treatment of Indigenous and First Nations peoples, and conclude that there would be benefits should the US also decide to pursue an Indigenous Foreign Policy approach.

[Read More](#)

On the 23rd September Senator Penny Wong delivered [Australia's National Statement to the UN General Assembly](#) in which she reiterated the Government's determination to see First Nations perspectives at the heart of Australian foreign policy. Much has been written about how Senator Penny Wong's approach to her role as Australia's foreign minister and in this article for *Foreign Policy*, Margaret Simons discusses whether Penny Wong's approach to foreign policy is enough to re-position Australia as a key player within our region.

[Read More](#)

The Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you, sign up to the mailing list at the bottom of this page.



AFFPC AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION