



AFFPC AUSTRALIAN
FEMINIST FOREIGN
POLICY COALITION

Advancing Feminist Foreign Policy in Australia

AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION

Welcome to the March 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.

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

FOCUS:

Germany's Feminist Foreign Policy Guidelines

On the 1st of March Germany launched their [Feminist Foreign Policy Guidelines](#) to support the work of the Federal Foreign Office in implementing a feminist foreign policy. Germany will also create an Ambassador for Feminist Foreign Policy and has launched a [strategy for](#)

[feminist development assistance](#) (currently only available in German). Germany has adopted the three overarching objectives: rights, representation and resources (the “3Rs” originally adopted by Sweden), supported by ten guidelines for foreign policy activities (6) and the foreign service (4). You can [watch the launch on YouTube](#).

Germany has taken a more intentionally consultative approach to the development of their feminist foreign policy than similar processes in other countries. In September 2022, Germany hosted the ‘Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy’ Conference to consult with Federal Foreign Office staff, partners, experts and civil society representatives. The outcomes of the conference, along with other consultation processes, fed into the development of the recently released guidelines. This extensive consultation is in recognition that feminist foreign policy must be inclusive.

There is a lot Australia can learn from Germany’s approach to developing their feminist foreign policy, both to strengthen use of feminist approaches and to inform DFAT’s implementation of the First Nations Foreign Policy. We know that civil society plays an important role in supporting an [announcement of a feminist foreign policy](#) and then actively shaping policy development opportunities. With the [announcement of Justin Mohamed as DFAT’s First Nations Ambassador](#) earlier this month, the Australian Government has an important opportunity to take a similarly inclusive and consultative approach to developing the First Nations Foreign Policy to ensure it reflects a genuinely transformation and decolonial approach to foreign policy.

AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to

February AFFPC Issues Paper

Gender and Poverty as a Feminist Foreign Policy Priority

Jo Crawford, Strategic Advisor at Equality Insights, writes about feminist approaches to poverty measurement.

The paper highlights the potential for individual-level, gender-sensitive and multi-dimensional measurement of poverty to make visible the gendered and intersectional nuances of poverty. Jo argues that measuring poverty in this way should be a FFP priority as it will improve

December AFFPC Issues Paper

The Intersection of Human Rights and Feminist Foreign Policy

Leanne Smith, Chief Executive of the Australian Human Rights Commission discusses the alignment between a human rights-based approach and feminist foreign policy.

She identifies that these two approaches are essential to solving the world’s “wicked problems” demanding transformative approaches, and discusses how a new foreign policy model – one that focuses on

our understanding of the linkages between gender and poverty, and makes recommendations for countries with a declared or substantively aligned FFP or FIAP to strengthen the availability of individual-level, gender-sensitive data on multidimensional poverty.

[Download Paper](#)

local and indigenous knowledge; engages civil society; has a commitment to peace, to empathy over sovereignty; and is serious about justice, and inclusion - is viable. Leanne concludes that in view of the many challenges we face, this could – and should – be FFP’s moment.

[Download Paper](#)

From 2023, Issues Papers are published bi-monthly on the [AFFPC website](#).

AFFPC members Julie Ballangarry and Farkhondeh Akbari were named as two of the [Young Women to Watch in International Affairs 2023](#). Young Australians in International Affairs recognises the next generation of women making an impact in international affairs.

Julie was recognised for her work on Indigenous Foreign Policy, including the paper ‘Indigenous Foreign Policy: A new way forward?’ she co-authored with James Blackwell, published by the AFFPC.

Farkhondeh is recognised for her research and activism to advocate for women’s rights and inclusive peace in Afghanistan (the paper she co-authored for the AFFPC Issues Paper Series on the WPS agenda in Afghanistan is [here](#)). Congratulations Farkhondeh and Julie!

AFFPC allies Aditi Mukund and Ambika Vishwanath from the Kubernein Initiative published an article in the Australian Institute of International Affairs on [gender-inclusive trade agreements](#) between India and Australia.

In their article, Aditi and Ambika built on the arguments they made in the [Issue Paper](#) for the AFFPC and advocate for a gender-inclusive lens to be applied to the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) signed between Australia and India in December 2022.

Aditi and Ambika argue that this critical milestone for Australia and India presents an important opportunity to integrate a more diverse lens and inclusive thinking across India-Australia economic relations.

AFFPC member Joanna Pradela from IWDA and Equality Insights wrote an article for the [Development Policy Centre Blog](#) that builds on the AFFPC’s submission to the International Development Policy.

In her article “Feminism up in lights: the chance of a decade” Jo argues that the redevelopment of Australia’s international development assistance policy is a rare and important opportunity to embed feminist principles in the heart of Australia’s international development cooperation.

AFFPC members Madeline Flint and Bridi Rice from The Development Intelligence Lab have released their [Pulse Check](#) survey results. The Pulse Check survey asked over 100 development experts from Australia and across the Asia Pacific region about what they think the Australian development program is up against, including the trends that shape the region, the national interests the program should serve and what the Australian government should start and stop doing. Survey respondents noted that gender and diversity is perceived as one of the top

five strengths of Australia's development program, but that there is a lot to work on.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD:

Key Feminist Foreign Policy Updates



A new Feminist Foreign Policy! On 8th March, Slovenia's Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon announced that feminism will be a cross-sectoral concept in Slovenia's new foreign policy, which will put strong emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world. We look forward to hearing more about this important FFP development soon!



Penny Wong announced the development of a [new International Gender Equality Strategy](#) in a speech at DFAT's International Women's Day breakfast. It is likely to build on the existing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy and we are expecting substantial consultation nationally and across the region. There is an opportunity for AFFPC members to coordinate contributions.



Justin Mohamed is the inaugural Australian [Ambassador for First Nations People](#). He will lead the Office of First Nations Engagement in DFAT and "develop foreign policies that have First Nations People's knowledges, voice and connection to country front and centre." Justin Mohamed is the former CEO of Reconciliation Australia and brings significant experience in health and social justice.

WHAT WE'RE READING (AND WATCHING AND LISTENING):

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

Resources

Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy

Video

Coral Bell School Inaugural Annual

Lecture on Indigenous Diplomacy



Following on Germany's launch of their Feminist Development Policy Guidelines, the CFFFP have released a first [analysis](#) of the guidelines, and the "[Global South Civil Society Lens: Towards Germany's Feminist International Cooperation](#)" report, authored by Association for Women in Development (AWID). These reports provide useful insights into the potential and limitations of the guidelines released by the German government and includes recommendations for strengthening implementation.

[Read More](#)



Dr Mary Graham and Dr Morgan Brigg delivered the **Coral Bell School Inaugural Annual Lecture on Indigenous Diplomacy** at the ANU on the 7th of March 2023. The lectures explored Aboriginal political ordering and relationality in international politics. Both speakers drew important connections between First Nations ways of being, knowing and doing and our approach to diplomacy. If you missed the lecture you can [watch the recording](#).

[Watch Lecture](#)

Blog

Centering First Nations within Australian Foreign Policy



In his [blog](#) for the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), Darren Godwell (CEO at i2i Global), discusses the challenges

Article

New Inclusion and Equality Fund to support LGBTIQ+ rights internationally



In a [speech to the Sydney WorldPride Human Rights Conference](#) Foreign Minister Wong announced the [Inclusion and Equality](#)

facing the Albanese Government as it works to deliver its promise of an Australian First Nations Foreign Policy. Over the last six years, First Nations foreign policy approaches have shifted in prominence in Australian foreign policy, from being mentioned in passing to the core focus. As it works to center this focus on First Nations into foreign policy, DFAT must reconcile this deep Indigenous governance and cultural and legal practice with the Australian national interest.

[Read More](#)

Fund to support LGBTIQ+ rights [internationally](#). The \$3.5 million fund will support civil society organisations, human rights defenders, international partnerships and networks to address social stigma and legal discrimination. Minister Wong also announced that DFAT would develop a dedicated **LGBTQIA+ human rights engagement strategy**, and praised the work of leading regional organisations DIVA for Equality and APCOM for their work advancing LGBTIQ+ rights.

[Read More](#)

Dossier

Dossier of Feminist Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus



The Heinrich Boell Foundation has turned an online workshop with decision-makers, civil society organisations and academics into a [Dossier of Feminist Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus](#). A variety of authors discuss feminist foreign policy in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany and Türkiye.

[Read More](#)

Radio

The Importance of Advancing Gender Equality



Australia's new **Ambassador for Gender Equality, Stephanie Corpus Campbell**, has faced [significant backlash](#) to a video introducing her to the new role posted by DFAT. It has been shared widely by the 'anti-gender' movement. Despite the backlash, Corpus Campbell has used the [platform to discuss the importance of advancing gender equality](#).

[Listen](#)

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.

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