



**AFFPC** AUSTRALIAN  
FEMINIST FOREIGN  
POLICY COALITION

# Advancing Feminist Foreign Policy in Australia

AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION

## Welcome to the May 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](mailto:research@iwda.org.au).

## FOCUS:

2023-24 Federal Budget a decline in aid generosity,  
but promising signals of a more feminist approach

In the recently released federal budget, there was a small increase to international development spending of \$117 million, bringing it to a total of \$4.768 billion. However, our Official Development Assistance (ODA) has not kept pace with the growth of Australia's

Gross National Income (GNI), leading to a drop in real terms. The ratio of GNI to ODA has dropped to just 0.19 per cent – far below the globally agreed target of 0.7 per cent.

Australia has historically underperformed in terms of spending on gender-focused ODA relative to its peers. The latest data released by the OECD shows that in 2020-21, Australia ranked 20th of out 29 DAC countries on the [percentage of ODA focused on gender equality](#). This underscores the importance of the commitment announced in the October 2022 budget update that programs over \$3m will be required to have a gender equality objective. [If implemented robustly this commitment can transform](#) the way Australia's development program advances gender equality.

New language around systems of power, used for the first time in DFAT documents, is also a positive signal that the Government is open to a more feminist approach to international development. The Development Budget Summary states that “unequal power systems and structures hold us all back, compounding global development challenges”. This is ambitious language that acknowledges the way systems of power drive marginalisation of women and other groups. IWDA and the AFFPC will work to ensure this ambition is realised through upcoming policy development processes, including development of DFAT strategies on gender equality, LGBTIQ+ rights and disability inclusion.

You can read our full analysis of the 2023-24 Budget as part of the National Foundation for Australian Women's Gender Lens on the Budget by clicking the button below.

[IWDA Budget Analysis](#)

## AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to

### [March AFFPC Issues Paper](#)

## Gender and Poverty as a Feminist Foreign Policy Priority

In this paper, Dr Frederica Caso from La Trobe University and independent researcher Patricia Sango Pollard examine the added value of a Feminist Foreign Policy approach to peacebuilding in the Pacific by looking at the case of Australia and Solomon Islands.

The authors argue that in the strategic competition over allies, a feminist foreign policy would promote a value-based approach that can attract and secure key partners and bolster the idea of the Pacific Family.

[Download Paper](#)



AFFPC Member James Blackwell (ANU), co-author of the inaugural [AFFPC Issue Paper on Indigenous Foreign Policy](#) (with Julie Ballangarry) was on Q+A on ABC TV on Monday 29 May.

James's work is currently focused on conceptualising First Nations foreign policy approaches in the twenty-first century, and how First Nations peoples and knowledges can be better used in international relations theory and foreign policy practice.

You can watch the Q+A episode recording on ABC iview now.

[Watch Q+A](#)

### **ACFID Connect - First Nations Foreign**

**Policy:** In this session, AFFPC member Julie Ballangarry (Griffith University) discussed how first nations ontological and epistemological worldviews are inclusive of governance, polity and diplomatic practices and how these should be at the centre of an Australian First Nations Foreign Policy. You can [watch the recording of her presentation on YouTube](#).

### **Germany, USA and UK international gender strategies:**

Alice Ridge and Lotte Wolff (IWDA) have written a two-part blog about what Australia can learn from the German, USA and UK international gender strategies. Both blogs are published on the *DevPolicy Blog*.

Part one: [Are all gender strategies created equal? Examining the new German, US and UK approaches](#)

Part Two: [Are all gender strategies created equal? What Australia can learn from Germany, the UK and US](#)

---

### **AP4D Symposium | Women, Peace and Security in the Pacific:**

On Wednesday 31 May, AFFPC member the Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D) will launch a new paper: 'What does it look like for Australia to be a Strategic Partner on Women, Peace and Security with the Pacific'. The paper is the result of three months of consultations with almost 40 experts from Australia and the region and outlines a vision and pathways for how Australia can work with the Pacific to progress the WPS agenda. You can [register to attend via the online form](#).

### **Diversity at the Frontier – Gender Equality**

**In Space:** AFFPC member Dr. Elise Stephenson (Australian National University) facilitated this panel discussion about progressing gender equality in the space sector. Whilst we know that women's inclusion in international affairs results in better decision-making and higher levels of collaboration and consensus and the 'business case' for diversity can be made on moral and strategic grounds, currently, inclusion, diversity, equality and access (IDEA) in space is not guaranteed. You can watch the recording of the [session on Youtube](#).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD:

## Key Feminist Foreign Policy Updates



**Legislators introduced a resolution pushing for the United States to declare a Feminist Foreign Policy:** It comes just after USAID releases its [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy](#) to mixed reception from civil society and Congress. In her article for Devex, the FFP Collaborative's Lyric Thompson makes a case for [why the U.S. should pass](#) its feminist foreign policy resolution and how doing so will ensure that the U.S. keeps up with other progressive foreign policy approaches.



**Andrew Mitchell, UK Minister of State spoke about Britains international development future:** Michell spoke at Chatham House on his vision for UK development to reduce poverty. He confirmed his intention to put girls and women at the forefront of development and the need to defend hard-won rights. The focus was on family planning, protection from sexual violence and education. The speech came just after the launch of the UK's [International women and girls strategy 2023-30](#) which [received critique](#) due to [insufficient funding](#). You can [read](#) or [watch](#) the speech.



**Shaping Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy:** Since declaring their intention to adopt a FFP late last year, the Government of the Netherlands have conducted an extensive public consultation process to shape their commitment. Dutch news and media platform Vice Versa released an [English version](#) of their special quarterly journal that focused on the development of the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy. Count Me In!, a collective of women's rights organisations and feminist funders, have [published their input](#) to the Dutch governments public consultation process, which calls for greater policy coherence across domestic and foreign policy, and the importance of a decolonial and intersectional feminist foreign policy approach.

**Evaluating Mexican Feminist Foreign Policy:** Internacional Feminista have launched their Brief Evaluation of Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy. Their report highlights the importance of developing a transparent and accessible FFP roadmap to allow civil society to monitor and evaluate results and of building awareness and capability of gender equality and FFP within the foreign office. You can [read the evaluation](#) or watch the [recording of the launch of the evaluation report](#)



[on YouTube.](#)

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

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

Video

### The Promises and Pitfalls of Feminist Foreign Policy



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.

Podcast

### Guardians of this land: A First Nations perspective on Security



In this podcast episode by the [National Security Podcast](#), Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Hall and Dr Danielle Ireland-Piper discuss what security means from a First Nations perspective, and how cultural knowledge and safety can directly impact domestic and regional security.

They ask, "What can we learn from First Nations Australians about our obligation to country?"

Watch Webinar

Lecture

## Who comes first? 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 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.

Watch Lecture

Index

## The Feminist Foreign Policy Index

Listen to Podcast

Briefing

## Beyond Women Peace and Security: Developing a Feminist Vision for Foreign Policy

**gaps** [ ]  
gender action for peace and security

### Beyond Women Peace and Security: Developing a Feminist Vision of Foreign Policy

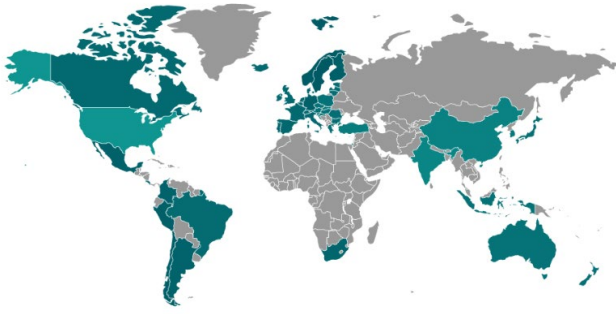
In this briefing – the first in a series that explores the linkages between FFP and Women Peace and Security (WPS) – GAPS discuss the context and history of FFP, as well as the relationship between FFP and WPS.

The briefing argues that disrupting systems and structures of power is the necessary starting point for FFP and that it is possible for FFP to provide a framework for holding governments accountable to aspirations for sustainable and inclusive peace and security.

Read More

Blog

## France, Australia and the First Nations foreign policy



The International Centre for Research on Women have launched the FFP Index, a quantitative framework that provides policy makers with a quick snapshot of regional and national FFP commitments and areas of strength or improvement for countries working to develop or revise a FFP commitment.

[Read More](#)



In his blog for DevPolicy, Nic Maclellan discusses the implications of the Australian Government's First Nations Foreign Policy for the France-Australia partnership in the Indo Pacific. Nic questions whether Australia should – as part of this foreign policy approach – question France's ongoing colonial role in the Pacific and whether the governments focus on France as a geopolitical partner could override a public commitment to self-determination and decolonisation.

[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

[Unsubscribe](#)