



AFFPC AUSTRALIAN
FEMINIST FOREIGN
POLICY COALITION

Advancing Feminist Foreign Policy in Australia

AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION

Welcome to the September 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.

We also want to hear from you. We are currently planning the 2023 AFFPC Issues Paper series and would love to know what you have liked, suggestions for what we could do differently, and the topics that you would like to see explored in-depth next year. Please share your thoughts [in this survey](#).

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

FOCUS:

Feminist Approaches to International Development Policy

Australia's international development strategy is due for an update.

Since June 2020, Australia's international assistance has been guided by the policy framework outlined in *Partnerships for Recovery*. This policy was developed in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the world was racing to make sense of, and respond to, an unprecedented, global emergency. Part of this sense-making process was a well-founded concern that decades of progress on gender equality and development would be wiped out by the economic and social consequences of the pandemic. This policy process was actually a pivot from a consultation which was already underway, through which IWDA and others had been arguing for Australia to adopt a feminist aid policy in recognition of the inextricable links between gender equality and peace.

Partnerships for Recovery recognises the gendered impacts of COVID-19, including the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence, the economic burden on women through loss of paid work and increase in unpaid care, and sexual and reproductive health as a critical element of health security. However, gender equality remains a secondary objective, and positioned as something which can be achieved within the dominant neoliberal economic system. This sits at odds with a feminist approach which connects gender equality, and its realisation, to transformation of systems of power that currently work to keep inequality in place.

In the latest AFFPC Issues Paper Dr Annabel Dulhunty writes about how Australia could learn from the experience of other countries with feminist international development approaches. She makes a compelling case for going beyond a neoliberal framing of women's empowerment, and outlines the evidence for investment in women's rights organisations, as part of a decolonising feminist approach to development and foreign policy. In Issues Paper 5, published in August, Dr Elise Stephenson, Jack Hayes, and Matcha Phorn-In set an agenda for action around LGBTIQ+ rights and inclusion in development and foreign policy.

These priorities present a strong starting point towards a new vision of Australia's international development program.

AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to

August AFFPC Issues Paper

Furthering LGBTIQ+ Inclusion and Rights through Feminist Foreign Policy

A FFP approach must be fundamentally intersectional to live up to its emancipatory aims – including centring LGBTIQ+ rights. Given an FFP approach should amplify marginalised voices and transform power structures that perpetuate inequalities, there is great alignment in amplifying LGBTIQ+ rights, inclusion, and needs in foreign policy. In their August paper, Dr Elise Stephenson, Jack Hayes, and Matcha Phorn-In set an agenda for how FFP can enable progress and prioritise action around LGBTIQ+ rights and inclusion.

[Download Paper](#)

September AFFPC Issues Paper

A feminist approach to Australian Overseas Development Assistance?

Australia is in a timely position to reframe its overseas development assistance program under a feminist foreign policy approach. As Dr Annabel Dulhunty argues, a policy update provides the opportunity to go beyond the neoliberal framings of empowerment that have informed Australia's approach to advancing gender equality in recent years.

[Download Paper](#)

ABC Radio Interview

Does Australia need a Feminist Foreign

Report

Australian funding for climate change

Policy?

In this radio interview, AFFPC member Dr Elise Stephenson (ANU) and Soumita Basu (South Asian University) discuss what a FFP means in practice, why it is important for Australia to adopt a FFP and the benefits of doing so.

[Listen](#)

AFFPC members Oxfam Australia and ActionAid Australia, with Edmund Rice Centre, Caritas Australia, Jubilee Australia and The Australia Institute have today released a new report that looks at the opportunity for Australia to deliver its fair and responsible share of international climate finance. Climate change funding and action is key to a FFP approach (as explored in [Issue Paper 3](#)).

[Read More](#)

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

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

Publication

Indian Foreign Policy

Friends of the AFFPC, the Kubernein Initiative, recently launched [A Compendium of Essays Applying a Feminist Lens to India's Foreign Policy](#). In this publication, leading thinkers and researchers explore India's security, trade, development and climate diplomacy through a feminist lens, expanding the discussion on FFP beyond the transatlantic space.

Article

FFP in Malaysia: Feminist foreign policy is about inclusiveness in decision-making

In 2020, the Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullaha announced that Malaysia would explore a feminist foreign policy to improve gender equality. In their article, Datuk Dr Fauziah Mohd Taib and Datuk Dr Shazelina Zainul Abidin discuss some of the challenges and opportunities for pursuing a Malaysian FFP. They argue that "beyond the

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buzz-word of feminism, there must be a clear, defined and structured policy and programme to enable inclusiveness to take place” to ensure wider acceptance of the policy and that the aims and objectives of the policy can be upheld.

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Article

Five years of Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP)



In their articles, [Sherlyn Assam](#) and [Beth Woroniuk](#) (Equality Fund, Canada) reflect on some of the impacts and challenges of the Canadian FIAP five years on. They discuss the need to strengthen the feminist principles that underpin the policy; accountability and reporting mechanisms and measures to make it easier to determine the overall impact of the FIAP; and for sustained investment in feminist movements to ensure the transformative potential of the FIAP can be realised.

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Article

FFP: The EU Is Not Yet Ready for It



Several European states – Sweden, Spain, France and Luxembourg have all adopted FFPs, and the idea of including a feminist perspective in the external action of the EU is gaining political traction. Despite this, Clara Panella Gomez argues that it is not a good time for the European Union to adopt an FFP; this window of opportunity closed when Russia invaded Ukraine. In this article she discusses how the EU can work towards advancing a common stance on strategies to advance gender equality with a view to furthering consensus towards adopting a FFP in future.

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Article

Decolonial FFP: Feminist Foreign Policy: Coloniality in new clothes?



In her article, María Paulina Rivera Chávez argues that the colonial underpinnings of feminist foreign policy means that they can only maintain, not challenge, global hierarchies of power. She argues that to be transformative, a decolonial approach to feminist foreign policy that centers the needs and worldviews of a wider variety of stakeholders, including those in the majority world and First Nations voices in minority world countries is necessary.

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Conference

Shaping FFP



Germany held the first Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference in Berlin on 12 September, bringing together government representatives from FFP countries with civil society experts to discuss opportunities and challenges for a feminist foreign policy approach as an indispensable foundation for securing peace, stability and prosperity. At the Conference, the Netherlands announced they would host the next event in 2023.

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What's coming up:

Opportunities and events in the feminist foreign policy space

YOUNG AUSTRALIANS in
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



The Promise of a First Nations Foreign Policy

Monday 26 September 2022 | 8pm AEST

Register via Eventbrite to secure Zoom details!



The Promise of a First Nations Foreign Policy

Hosted by Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA), in this online presentation AFFPC member Julie Ballangarry (Griffith University, co-author of the [first AFFPC Issue Paper](#)), Madeleine Pugin (Griffith University) and moderator Renee Cremer discuss what a First Nations Foreign Policy would look like and how Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing can strengthen foreign policy outcomes. Date and time: Monday 26th September 2022, 8pm to 9pm AEST.

[Register](#)

Public presentation: Feminist Foreign Policy

This public presentation, hosted by the London School of Economics IDEAS will explore critical issues related to the implementation of FFP across different contexts, challenges associated with its adoption, and its possible impact and value. Speakers include Dame Judith Macgregor (UK), Nina Bernarding (Co-Director of the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, Germany), Maryam Moncef, Former Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada and Sofia Calltrop Ambassador for Gender Equality & Co-ordinator of the Feminist Foreign Policy (Sweden).

[Register](#)

ACFID Conference 2022

Registrations for ACFID's annual conference are now open, on the theme Healthy Planet, Healthy Communities: Acting with evidence, equity and inclusion for a resilient future. The conference will include a keynote address from ecofeminist, activist and scholar [Dr Vanada](#)

Shiva. IWDA and the AFFPC will host a panel session with the authors of Issue Paper 2: Feminist Perspectives on Climate Diplomacy.

[Register](#)

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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