



**AFFPC** AUSTRALIAN  
FEMINIST FOREIGN  
POLICY COALITION

# Advancing Feminist Foreign Policy in Australia

AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY COALITION

## Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition!

Thank you for joining this growing community advancing feminist foreign policy (FFP) in Australia.

In this bi-monthly newsletter, we will share updates from the Australian Feminist Foreign Policy Coalition (AFFPC) and the global FFP space. Expect information about upcoming events, links to new resources, critical analysis and deep dives into the work of our coalition members.

In this issue, we introduce the AFFPC as part of the global feminist foreign policy advocacy ecosystem: we are one of a growing cohort of civil society stakeholders organising to advance the declaration and implementation of FFPs.

Please direct all enquiries, feedback, and suggestions for content (for example, if you have a resource, event or issue you would like to see featured in an upcoming edition) to Liz Gill-Atkinson at [research@iwda.org.au](mailto:research@iwda.org.au).

### FOCUS:

How the AFFPC fits into the broader feminist foreign policy ecosystem

Following Sweden's declaration of the world first feminist foreign policy (FFP) in 2014, groups have been established across countries to advocate for new feminist foreign policies (FFPs) and to track progress and hold governments accountable to existing commitments.

Following the declaration of FFPs in countries such as Canada, France, Mexico and Sweden, groups were set up to monitor policy implementation and progress against government FFP commitments. In the [United States](#), [Germany](#) and the [United Kingdom](#), new groups have recently been established to advocate for the adoption of new feminist foreign policies in those countries.

A [Global Partner Network](#) of more than 30 state and civil society stakeholders who support FFP was launched last year to advocate for FFP at a global level and develop a shared framework to guide new FFP commitments.

Whilst advocacy towards FFP is a relatively new concept, it is embedded within and underpinned by decades of activism by the transnational women's rights movement that has created an enabling environment for progressive policy solutions to advance gender equality and the rights of women, girls, trans and non-binary people. This creates an environment where FFP is viewed as not only possible, but favourable.

It is within this feminist foreign policy ecosystem that the AFFPC is operating. We are one of many like-minded coalitions around the world who want to see increased uptake of FFPs, including by the Australian government, and strengthened implementation of existing FFPs.

Our goal is to advance the vision of what an FFP for Australia could look like, and help this become a reality.

## AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to

CSW66 Parallel Session

### Opportunities for a Feminist Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific

#### Opportunities for a Feminist Foreign Policy in the Indo Pacific

IWDA and the Kubernein Initiative (India) are co-hosting a panel event as part of the Commission on the Status of Women that will explore the relevance of feminist foreign policy approaches in the region, both in terms of the lessons Indo-Pacific countries can take from other parts of the world, and the opportunities and pitfalls for countries exploring feminist foreign policy approaches to their relationships in the Indo-Pacific.

Wednesday 16th March 5:30pm AEDT

REGISTER

Asia Institute

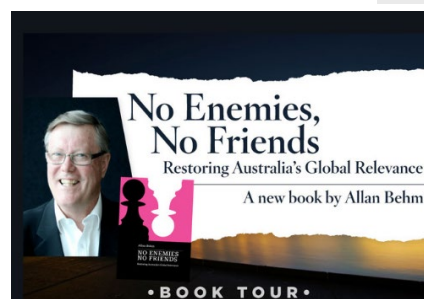
### The case for feminist foreign policy in Asia

#### The case for feminist foreign policy in Asia

The Asia Institute at Melbourne University will be hosting a webinar that makes a case for why Australia and India should join the growing group of countries who have declared and adopted feminist foreign policies. Speakers include Ambika Vishwanath (Kubernein Initiative) and AFFPC members Melissa Conley Tyler (AP4D), Grant Wyeth (Diplomat), and Alice Ridge (IWDA).

Friday 4th March 12:15pm AEDT

REGISTER



## UN Women Australia Sydney IWD Lunch 2022

AFFPC member Kavita Naidu, international human rights lawyer and activist from Fiji specialising in feminist climate justice for grassroots women in all their diversity in Asia and the Pacific, will be speaking at this IWD fundraiser for UNWomen. The theme of the lunch is “Changing climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. Other speakers include Dr Jane Goodall (Founder, Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger for Peace) and Linh Do (Director of the Wattle Fellowship, University of Melbourne).

Friday 4th March 12:15pm AEDT

REGISTER

## Allan Behm Book Tour: No Enemies, No Friends

During March, AFFPC member Allan Behm will be launching his new book, *No Enemies No Friends: Restoring Australia's Global Relevance*, a forensic analysis of the "pathologies" of Australia's strategic mindset. In his book, Alan considers how Australia should re-calibrate its national security settings to deal with global disruption and argues that the orthodoxy that increased defence spending will deliver increased national security confirms the status quo, but it does not help Australia to deal with shocks and surprises. Alan also identifies misogyny as a dominant impediment to Australia having an effective foreign and/or security policy approach.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

### The big idea: can foreign policy be feminist?

In this [article](#), Azadeh Moaveni, director of the Gender and Conflict Project at the International Crisis Group critically debates whether foreign policy can truly be feminist. She claims that tying gender to military intervention has often been disastrous for women and considers if there is another way.

READ

### Revenge of the Patriarchs: Why Autocrats Fear Women

Erica Chenoweth and Zoe Marks from the Harvard Kennedy School [examine the combined assault on women's rights and democracy by authoritarian leaders](#) around the world that threaten to roll back decades of progress on both fronts. Women's civil rights are a precondition for democracy and it is not a coincidence that women's equality is being rolled back at the same time as authoritarianism is on the rise. They discuss how women's frontline participation in mass movements has helped to achieve long-lasting social and structural change and call for “sustained cross-class, multiracial, or multiethnic coalitions” to overcome authoritarian repression.

READ

### Australia and Southeast Asia: Shaping a Shared Future

The Asia-Pacific Development, Defence & Diplomacy Dialogue (AP4D) have recently launched [a collection of papers](#) that outline a vision for what an integrated approach to foreign policy looks like in practice for Australia in Southeast Asia. The papers were developed collaboratively through 6 months of consultations across the development, defence and diplomacy sectors. A video recording of the launch event, the AP4D's Southeast Asia Symposium, can be watched [here](#).

[READ](#)

### Eve of a Foreign Policy Revolution

Marissa Conway, co-founder of the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP), [discusses the growth of feminist influence in foreign affairs](#), including how feminist foreign policies have come about, and outlines the challenges yet to be overcome to create a safer more just world.

[READ](#)

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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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