

So you're thinking about running a Feminist Futures workshop... here's everything you need to know!

Thanks for your interest in this project!

This summary sheet will help you think through how you could be involved in the project by hosting a workshop. It's supported by a pack including a facilitator's guide, background reading and cheat sheets for you and for the participants in your workshop. These materials should contain everything you will need. If you have any questions you can always contact us: Alice Ridge, Research Policy and Advocacy Advisory at IWDA (feministfutures@iwda.org.au)

Background to the project

Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19 is a project coordinated by IWDA with support from actors across the feminist movement. It aims to enable feminist organisations and networks to imagine COVID-19 as a catalyst of future opportunity providing tools to think through the ways in which the COVID-19 crisis is changing the future trajectories – both positive and negative – for feminist social change.

Step 1: Convene – as part of this project, IWDA commissioned a consortium of feminist futurists, led by [Changeist](#), to develop an adaptable workshop methodology based on futures thinking approaches. This methodology is now freely available to support diverse feminist activists, organisations and networks to convene and apply their own futures thinking and scenario building. We will continue to iteratively adapt the methodology with the view to publishing a designed version of guidance materials and case studies by the end of 2020.

Step 2: Share, reflect and organise! – First and foremost, we hope that these convenings can support participants' ongoing storytelling, advocacy and organising in their own organisations and networks. As a contribution to the broader project, we ask that those who use the methodology share their outcomes for publication on a dedicated webpage to support us to build a diverse, vibrant and multifaceted picture of possible feminist futures. Together with the project Steering Group, IWDA plans to bring our own analysis and visioning to these outcomes and create reports, videos, blogs, podcasts and other creative outputs to add to the rich discussions happening across feminist movements.

2030 will be the final year of the SDGs, 35 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, and coming up to the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Reflecting on this feminist herstory, as well as the extraordinary moment we find ourselves in, this project offers a space to lift our gaze and think collectively about the world we want to see in 2030.

Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19 is supported by a Steering Group which provides guidance to the project to ensure relevance to the broader feminist movement. IWDA is grateful to the input of members past and present, including: Anita Gurusurthy (IT for Change); Aruna Rao (Gender at Work); Channisitha Mark; Joanne Sandler (Gender at Work); Julie Thekkudan (Oxfam International); and Nalini Singh (Fiji Women's Rights Movement).

IWDA is also grateful to the feminist movement actors who have helped test and refine the concept and methodology to date.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to know anything about futures thinking methodologies to host a workshop?

No! The guidance materials for this project were developed by a feminist consortium through [Changeist](#), and incorporates their expertise in futures thinking. The facilitator's guide and other pre-reading materials are designed to support you with all the instructions and information you need to run this workshop.

What will the session involve?

The methodology is designed to run as a three hour online workshop on a video conferencing platform of your choice, supported by a pre-drawn template in [Miro](#), an online whiteboard software. Once you are comfortable with the methodology, we encourage you to make any adaptations you see fit to ensure it is targeted and relevant to your audience.

What software will I need?

As much of the world is now working and organising remotely, this methodology is designed to be run online. To do this you'll require two pieces of technology:

- A free Miro account linked to IWDA's team account – this will give you access to paid features of Miro as well as a template Miro board which is ready to go for your workshop! (You'll need to email us to set this up: [feministfutures@iwda.org.au])
- A video conferencing tool of some kind (such as zoom, Microsoft teams, Google Hangouts, etc) which has the capacity to do break out rooms. You will need to provide this yourself or through your organisation (if you are looking for a free service, consider an open source software like [Big Blue Button](#))

If you are in a place where it's safe and allowable to host a convening face to face, you can do so by printing the relevant materials and using post-it notes and flipchart paper to recreate the Miro board for a traditional workshop format. Please get in touch to let us know if you are doing this so we can talk about incorporating your workshop findings into the broader project!

Will participants have to pay to use Miro?

No! Your participants can access Miro with a free account, or they can join your board as an anonymous guest without setting up an account at all.

Who should I invite to my Feminist Futures convening?

This is entirely up to you. The methodology is designed to be used by any group of feminist activists, organisations or networks. We recommend having at least 5 and no more than 20 people per convening to get the most out of a session. We encourage you to think about the groups within your organisation or network who could benefit from a process that helps them think collectively about possible feminist futures.

What will happen with the outputs?

The methodology for Feminist Futures convenings has been designed to feed into an ongoing project coordinated by IWDA with support from others in the feminist movement. In the spirit of mutual exchange, we ask that in return for using the methodology that we have commissioned and developed, you provide us with the outputs of your convening (in the form of the completed Miro board) which may be used in the following ways:

- Published on the IWDA website (either attributed to your organisation/network or as an anonymous contribution)
- Synthesised and analysed to inform thinking about possible feminist futures, including analysis, reports, blogs, podcasts from IWDA, other members of the project Steering Group, or other organisations/networks participating in the project
- Used to inform the strategies and tactics of feminist movements

If you have questions or concerns about the way your outputs may be used, please contact us to discuss further.

Ready to go?

Download a free copy of the facilitator's guide and all the other necessary materials for hosting a workshop here:

www.iwda.org.au/feminist-futures