

Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19 Workshop

Project Steering Group

January 2021

10 minutes	Welcome, Introductions and Centering Exercise	Webinar platform
15 min	Housekeeping, Ice Breaker	Miro
30 min	Sense-making with Global Trends + Privileging Forces	Miro + Breakout Rooms
05 min	Futures Wheel Explainer with worked example	Miro
25 min	Futures Wheels Exercise	Miro + Breakout Rooms
10 min	Futures Wheel Discoveries	Miro + Breakout Rooms
10 min	Futures Wheel Report Back	Miro
05 min	Imagining Feminist Futures Scenario Writing	Miro + Breakout Rooms
05 min	Imagining Feminist Futures Report Back	Miro
05 min	Close	

This workshop is part of Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19, a project coordinated by IWDA with support from actors across the feminist movement. This methodology has been designed for feminist organisations, networks and activists who wish to explore ways that different futures could develop, given what we know now about present-day trends, power structures, and our collective desire for a better world. Please share any feedback on the workshop with your facilitator.

The materials in the workshop were designed for a global audience. We invite you to bring your knowledge and experience to this process by considering the trends, bringing up issues that may have been missed, and contextualising them within your experience. There is also a “parking lot” to the upper right of this section, for adding ideas that you wish to take forward in other ways.

After this workshop, the final Miro board will be captured as a PDF to be shared with all participants and published online alongside the outputs of other workshops to build a diverse, vibrant and multifaceted picture of possible feminist futures. **Participation in this workshop indicates your consent for the outcomes to be used in this way.** Please speak with your facilitator if you have any questions.

Finally, we invite you to come to the workshop with the principles of respect and assumed good intentions. Remember to create space for everyone to have a say, including participants who are not working in their first language, or have other access requirements.

Our hope is that this methodology can support you to explore new ways of thinking and consider new possibilities for multiple, possible feminist futures in our post-COVID world.

Yellow Team

Take about 20 minutes to discuss the trends allocated to your group:

1. How do you see these trends playing out in your context? (Capture any amendments or context info on a sticky note and attach it to the trend)
2. What would our post-COVID future of 2030 would look like if each trend persists? What if these trends rise or diminish in scope? What if they disappear?

After about 20 minutes, scroll further left to see the list of Privileging Forces and for the final 10 minutes discuss:

1. How are these forces influencing or impacting the group of trends?
2. Are there strategies in place now for pushing back against these forces? Could new forces emerge post-COVID?

TREND | SOCIAL

Resegregating Schools

Each country and region will find their own ways or reopening schools, but the need for social distancing may lead to systemic segregation as a way to differentiate and separate students, e.g. those considered to be of value versus those considered to be of less (or no) value. There will be multiple versions of this: public/private, boys/girls, school choice and voucher programs, but each will discriminate (intentionally or unintentionally) against some part of the population. The effects on educational rigor and non-discriminatory policy will be similar to the establishment of "white-flight" schools in the Southern US in the 1960s and 70s.

With existing low female labour force participation rate this is particularly worrying and doesn't seem to have a particular focus from the government

For Fiji, many women are working in the informal sector without social security and/or protections.

Yes, absolutely agree. This came out in the National Gender Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 and rapid assessment conducted by FWRM for young women and girls

In Fiji, we are experiencing food insecurity, drastic increase in NCDs. The Fiji government has not prioritised agriculture for food production and thus we have over-reliance of cheap processed foods

TREND | ECONOMIC

Economic Stress for Working Women

Despite some countries providing furlough payments and government salary support, many women have found that working from home is especially detrimental for their careers. Even those without school-age children are finding that the ability to focus on work/research/studies is diminished, and that in heterosexual couples, the household workload defaults primarily to women. Those deemed essential workers must go to work or they will be fired, despite the real fears of contracting the virus and bringing it into their homes. In repeating cycles of COVID lockdowns, this will cause long-lasting damage for women, both economically and personally.

many women are pushing to informal and precarious work conditions and laws related to industrialisation and investment are in the pipe for Cambodia

TREND | ENVIRONMENTAL

Rolling Systemic Disruption

Climate disruption and breakdown of supply chains, including food, energy, and clean water are making natural resources more costly to acquire globally. The pandemic has made this breakdown exponentially worse. Understanding and anticipating how to mitigate these rolling disruptions will be a top priority over the next ten years. This will have especially devastating impacts on those who are particularly vulnerable - the elderly, those with disabilities and those living in dense, built environments.

Being prepared for organising for these systemic disruptions in the context of

It will be interesting to see how this affects Australians' attitudes to climate change

TREND | SOCIAL

Marginalized Groups Gain Visibility and Attention

Many governments around the world continue to deny human and legal rights to marginalized groups such as LGBTQ+, minority or immigrant populations. Covid has pushed the general public to acknowledge the wide disparities of living and working conditions for immigrant workers and citizens in places like Singapore and UAE. In the US Black mortality rates are much higher than Latinx or whites in the USA. Exposing these differences forces the public to face these disparities and come to grips with how deeply these systemic prejudices run within their own communities, regions and nations.

With shrinking civic spaces this may be suppressed by authoritarian governments

LGBTQI communities in Fiji continue to face increasing violence and discrimination. Sex workers -affected by nation-wide curfew

this is an optimistic take on this trend!

TREND | POLITICAL

Immigrant Trafficking Becomes More Dangerous and Deadly

The pandemic has driven human trafficking further underground and created more dangerous situations for its victims. At all levels, those who are exploited find themselves more at risk of contracting the virus (or other diseases) due to lack of access to healthcare, nutrition and clean water. Those who work in sweat shops or forced labor may find themselves abandoned as black market economies shut down. Infection and death rates for victims will be high, and rarely documented. If and when a vaccine is created, those without access will die at much higher rates, increasing the demand for new workers, and potentially building demand for child workers who are believed to be less susceptible to the disease.

inter-state labour migration

Labour migration / Remittances severely affected. Fiji

TREND | STEEP CATEGORY:

[Add a trend]

increased access to, and reliance on technology in future and impact of this on these trends

For the Pacific, double tragedy- devastating tropical cyclones at the same time as we're dealing with COVID-19. CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

Yellow Team

Choose a trend from your section and move that sticky note to the middle of the Wheel.

Consider the possible post-COVID impacts of that trend from now to 2030.

What might happen next year?

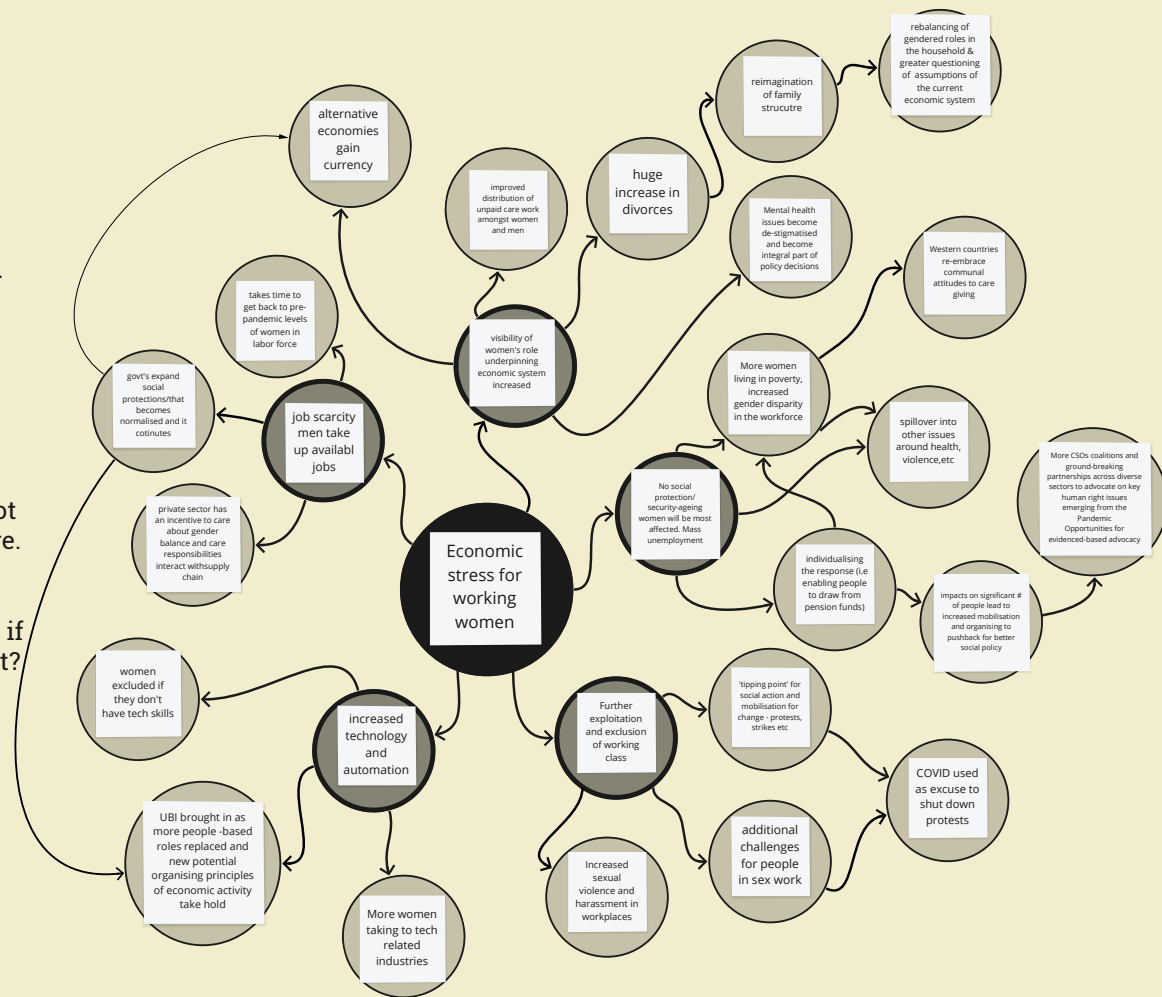
What happens after that, in 3-5 years?

What might it look like by 2030?

Remember, some impacts are positive, some negative. There can be multiple impacts from each level, and they do not have to exist in the same possible future.

Think about each thread of connected impacts as possibilities. What happens if the initial impact has an opposite effect? What if someone good comes out of something terrible, or the other way around?

Start with first level impacts and work your way out from the center. You can add more sticky notes if needed.



Did any threads on your Futures Wheel surface a path to a more feminist future?

In that thread, what was the main difference in 2030?

What change was necessary to lead to a more feminist future?

What feminist principles could help underpin a more equitable + just future?

Are there any new feminist principles that may emerge in this future? Any that may grow less important?

Relationship breakdowns due to COVID leading to changes in social norms



new ideas about family structures



- Enabling legal and economic environment for women
- Social norms change - don't need to get married in the first place!

Tipping point-for social action, mobilisation, solidarity actions



Further exploitation and exclusion of workers leading to positive action



increased access to secure and reliable technology to strengthen/enable widespread civil action

Investment in social protection, could link to UBI



De-coupling income from participation in capitalist systems



- reform (downfall?) of IMF and WB
- economists challenge orthodoxy of neoliberalism
- corporations pay tax - redistribution of wealth - tax havens / illicit flows abolished



- Inclusion of all groups
- Anti-neo-liberalism ie: social security not social insurance, need to avoid corporate capture



Move towards a development justice model - accountability, human rights, power / patriarchy, climate change, trade justice etc