



**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 (AFFPC)!

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 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).

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## FOCUS:

The AFFPC Issues Paper Series

Last month, the AFFPC launched the Issues Paper Series with the paper *“Indigenous Foreign Policy: a new way forward?”*, co-authored by coalition members James Blackwell (Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU) and Julie Ballangarry (School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University).

A primary objective of the Issues Paper Series is to sharpen analysis of what a FFP could look like in practice for Australia by examining the practical challenges and opportunities associated with taking a feminist foreign policy lens to different topics.

In the paper, the authors argue that foreign policy approaches need to be inclusive of, and reflect, First Nations worldviews and unique cosmologies. First Nations people have been deliberately excluded from both domestic and foreign policy development processes. Current efforts of the Australian State engaging with First Nations communities, in foreign policy are inadequate and existing initiatives continue to fail First Nations people by not giving them a fair seat at the table, or full and accurate representation.

The paper further articulates that feminist foreign policy cannot be fully realised without the integration of First Nations peoples and approaches, and that the transformative nature of feminist foreign policy provides a framework for achieving this. Structural changes are necessary to ensure the involvement of and input from First Nations peoples in foreign policy and to enable them to have a direct impact on how foreign policy is developed and enacted. Feminist Foreign Policy seeks to transform existing power structures that operate in foreign policy; drawing the connections between First Nations and feminist approaches to foreign policy can help to strengthen the agenda.

Today we are pleased to be launching the second paper in the series, “Feminist Perspectives on Climate Diplomacy” by Susan Harris Rimmer, Bridget Lewis, Rowena Maguire, Esther Onyango & Maria Tanyag of Griffith University. This paper makes practical recommendations for Australia to regain its leadership and credibility on climate change internationally, and provides a case study of feminist approaches to sexual and reproductive health in disaster contexts.

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## AFFPC UPDATES:

What we are up to





### **AFFPC Roundtable With Senator Penny Wong**

On March 7th, AFFPC Coalition members met with Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs in Melbourne. The meeting provided an opportunity to brief her on issues connected to Indigenous Foreign Policy, Feminist Climate Diplomacy and Gendering the Foreign Policy engagements of Australia in the Indo-Pacific.

**The AFFPC second Issues Paper on “Feminist Perspectives on Climate Diplomacy” is now available.**

**READ NOW**

### **Country And The Blue Pacific: A Necessary Readjustment Of Australian Foreign Policy**

In his blog for The Diplomat, coalition member Grant Wyeth writes that in the wake of the recently signed security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands, foreign policy has unexpectedly become a major election issue. How Australia approaches its relationships with other countries in the Pacific is now of public concern. Drawing from James and Julies’ issues paper, Grant argues that there is an opportunity for First Nations peoples to play a far greater role in shaping Australia’s foreign policy: First Nations foreign policy approaches can help build relationships with our Pacific neighbours and respond to the challenges posed by climate change.

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The Interpreter

## **Solomon Islands-China Security Pact: A Feminist Foreign Policy Answer**

### **Solomon Islands-China Security Pact: A Feminist Foreign Policy Answer**

AFFPC member, Joanna Pradela argues that for Australia to change the game in regional relations, it needs to grapple with new rules

The Interpreter

## **The Ukraine Crisis, Feminism And Australia's Foreign Policy**

### **The Ukraine Crisis, Feminism And Australia's Foreign Policy**

AFFPC member, Joanna Pradela argues that a feminist foreign policy approach provides a new framework to analyse the problem of state aggression and plan responsive actions. Using

about systems of power. Australia has work to do if it is to be the security partner of choice in the region and Jo argues that it is time for Australia to think seriously about a new foreign policy approach.

She claims that rather than being prescriptive, a feminist foreign policy approach is indicative and offers some guidance for how we can re-write the rules and re-establish Australia as a security partner of choice.

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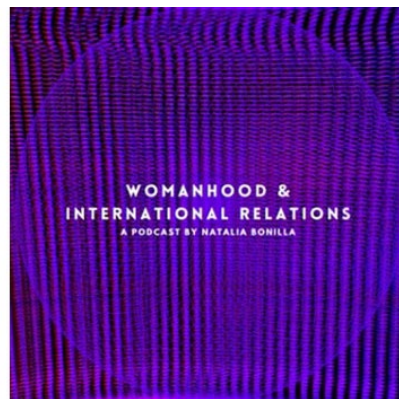
### **The Case For Feminist Foreign Policy**

In her blog for The Strategist, coalition member Melissa Conley Tyler argues that adopting a feminist foreign policy is the logical next step that would put Australia on a positive path. She discusses the benefits of a feminist foreign policy and confirms that whilst Australia has long been a leader in gender equality through its international development program, adopting a feminist foreign policy would elevate the goal of our foreign policy and increase the effectiveness of our foreign policy towards advancing gender equality for all.

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this framework can help to ensure that power is distributed in different ways to ensure that violence and its threat become untenable, and where human security is not seen as the collateral cost of preserving state security.

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### **Podcast Interview: Womanhood And International Relations**

Natalia Bonilla recently interviewed Coalition members, Alice Ridge and Liz Gill-Atkinson for 'Womanhood and International Relations': her bi-weekly podcast that explores the intersection of feminist theory from a personal to an international level. We discussed the '[Seeds to Roots](#)' [research report](#) and how the findings helped to shape the advocacy goals and strategy for the AFFPC. We provided an update on the work of the coalition and interrogated what a FFP response to key Australian foreign policy issues would look like.

[LISTEN](#)



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

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

### **W7 Summit Germany 2022**

The W7 summit is coming up on 24th and 25th May and will include a focus on Feminist Foreign Policy. The hybrid event will be streamed in English and translated into German. For more information and to register to attend, follow the link below.

[REGISTER](#)

### **How Latin America Won Abortion Rights**

In this article, Catherine Osbourne discusses how Latin American feminists have secured a string of abortion rights victories in Colombia, Argentina and Mexico and their concerns about the potential impacts of the recent overruling of Roe vs Wade in the United States to undo their hard won gains.

[READ](#)

### **Interview With German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock About Germany's Declaration To Develop A Feminist Foreign Policy**

In this article "There are Moments When I Am Also Unsure", Annalena Baerbock discusses how she had been hoping to pursue a feminist foreign policy. Now, she has become a proponent of weapons deliveries to Ukraine. In this interview, she explains how those two things are not mutually exclusive.

[READ](#)

### **International Development Election Forums**

Ahead of the 21 May Federal Election, the Development Policy Centre is co-hosting a series of International Development Election Forums with the Australian Council for International Development and the International Development Contractors' Community. The Forums aim to provide political parties with the opportunity to convey their platform and priorities for Australia's international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance programs and for stakeholders, the media and the general public to gain clarity on the parties' specific policies and commitments ahead of the election.

[WATCH](#)

## **Interrogating The 'Feminist' In Feminist Foreign Policy By Jennifer Thomson.**

As part of the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre (GPS) 2022 Seminar Series, Dr Jennifer Thomson discussed her new research project where she explores the different feminist foreign policies declared to date, and examines the similarities and difference between these policies and whether there are shared goals across these policy frameworks or competing agendas.

**WATCH**

## **Myanmar Campaign Election Forum**

This recording for a deep dive into the Foreign Affairs priorities of the major Australian political parties regarding Myanmar

**WATCH**

## **The Feminist Foreign Policy Summit**

On April 13th, in partnership with the governments of Canada, Sweden, and Mexico and leading civil society organisations, the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy hosted the first ever Feminist Foreign Policy Summit. The summit included presentations on a range of topics, including climate justice, demilitarisation and disarmament, understanding and countering transnational anti-gender campaigns and decolonising foreign policy and recordings are now available.

**WATCH**

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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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