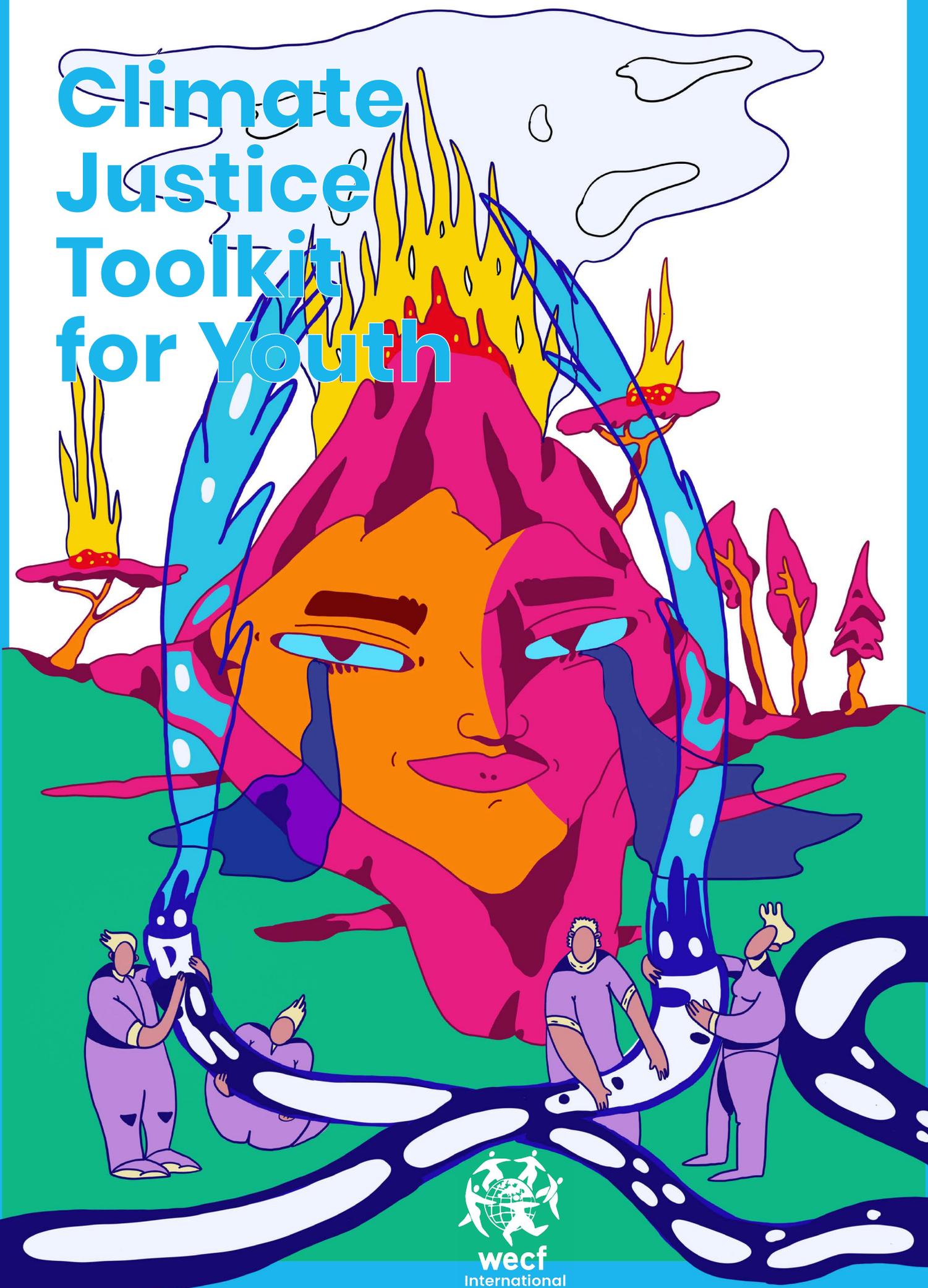


# Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth



wecf  
International

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## Introduction

Recent years have seen a wave of climate protests, such as [Fridays for Future](#) spearheaded by Greta Thunberg and Swedish youth, or the [Power Shift](#) movement led by young Ghanaians. This is part of a broader trend of increasing public discussion around combatting climate change. Additionally, conversations around social inequalities have blossomed, for example with the Black Lives Matter movement as well as diverse gender identities and sexual orientations coming to the forefront of political demands. Youth from all backgrounds are mobilising to change the world for the better, and are finding new ways to negotiate their identities in these times of uncertainty and change. If you are also worried about the future because of the climate crisis, or if you reflect on your identity and how you relate to the world around you – then this toolkit will teach you how to turn these feelings into positive action!

The problems of climate change and social inequality are linked, and can be explored through feminism. Engaging in this link between feminism and climate change can often be daunting or confusing. Discussion of these issues can put off a lot of people who may

feel they do not have the knowledge or experience to engage in activism, as well as the common misconception that feminism is 'just about women'. But in reality, everyone can (and should!) engage with this activism. Climate justice frames climate change as an ethical, political and social issue, not merely an environmental problem that requires technical solutions: it permeates every layer of society and is reflected in the inequalities present in our world today. No matter what your background, your unique experiences are valuable in the fight for a better world. Everyone should engage in whatever way they can – this toolkit will help explain how to do so with advocacy.



Advocacy is the process of an individual or group taking actions that aim to influence social, economic or political processes. Advocacy is for everyone, and you can advocate for issues that matter to you on whatever scale you want. Whether you take 10 minutes a week to post on social media, or you can spend a weekend engaging in protests or working with local organisations – all advocacy is important. If the idea of advocacy appeals to you but you have no idea where to start, or you are already engaged in advocacy at some level but want to take it further, then this toolkit is perfect for you! This toolkit will give important tools for mobilising around issues that are important to you, such as climate justice and feminism. This is with a focus on but not limited to, this year's international climate negotiations, Conference Of the Parties (COP).



## Definitions and Glossary of Terms

Below are some theories and key phrases you will come across in your activism. We invite you to do your own research on these topics, as there is no singular definition for any of them.

### Theories

**Feminism:** Feminism advocates for social, political, and economic equality between all genders. Feminism challenges the world's existing power structures which have violently excluded particular groups in society. A feminist analysis highlights how systems of oppression (e.g., patriarchy, colonialism) impact people's lives in different ways. Feminist



activism, with its various strands, raises awareness of different oppressions and aims to eradicate them

**Patriarchy:** Patriarchy is the mode of thinking that accepts 'man' as the default, and anything outside of this category (transgender men and women, cis women, nonbinary people) is viewed to be lesser to varying degrees.

### Invisible for many

Imagine a room that was built for somebody who is exactly 120cm tall. All the furniture, utensils, doors, windows etc in this room are built for people of that height. Now imagine trying to enter that room if you are 60 or 180cm tall. You may struggle to get in, or nothing would be the right size for you. But if you were 120cm, the room would seem perfect, and the difficulties others had whilst navigating the room would be invisible for you. In the same way, those who benefit from systems of oppression often cannot or do not recognise them, as the world is structured for them. Our world is largely built for the straight white man, due to colonialism and the patriarchy. Feminism recognises these systems of oppression and acknowledges that everyone must work in order to fight them. It is not to say that those who benefit from these systems are inherently 'bad'. Rather, as feminists we see a need to reflect on the oppressions we face as well as our privileges, in order to create an equal world for all (example taken from Perez 2019).

**Colonialism:** Colonialism is when a country violently takes over another country, and forces its way of life (cultural practices, economic development, language, religious beliefs etc.) on the local people. Colonialism is predicated on racism, with the aim of subordination of local groups, as well as resource extraction to benefit the colonial power. Colonialism began around the 16th century and continues in various forms today (see neocolonialism below). The primary colonisers were inter alia, the Belgian, British, Danish, Dutch, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese empires. These Western European countries colonised Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia to varying degrees. The ramifications and the power imbalance of colonialism are still reflected in the world today. Additionally, the resource extraction by the colonisers from the colonies contributed to the climate crisis, and has hindered the development of many countries so that they are now less able to handle the climate crisis themselves.

**Neocolonialism:** Neocolonialism is the modern form of colonialism, in which colonial powers still control previously colonised spaces through markets and resource access (Faleiro 2012). This is reflected in the fact that colonial powers still wield a lot of influence at the international level, which is often reflected in climate change decision making, as many countries whose development was stunted by colonists feel it is unfair that they are bearing the burden of a climate crisis they did not create.



**Ecofeminism:** Ecofeminism is a concept that emerged during the second-wave feminist movement of the 1970s. The concept highlights how the patriarchy and colonialism have created binaries in our modern day society e.g., man-woman, white- non-white, straight-queer. Ecofeminism unpacks these binaries to show the lived experiences of marginalised

groups under climate change; how they bear an unfair burden of this change as well as being powerful in their agency to overcome it. Ecofeminism has evolved a lot since its inception, largely due to the work of LGBTQIA+ and Black, Indigenous (and) People of Colour (BIPOC) activists who utilise an intersectional conception of ecofeminism.

**Intersectionality:** The concept can be accredited to Kimberlé Crenshaw (1991), a young black law professor who highlighted the invisibility of black women's experience in the law, as women could make discrimination claims on the basis of their gender or their race but not both. Intersectionality is the idea that people can face multiple forms of discrimination at the same time. Women of colour experience discrimination both because they are women and because they are women of colour. Since these

two modes of oppression (sexism and racism) do not happen independently of each other, they must be examined holistically. This concept can be used for a variety of intersections: race, age, class, sex, gender identity, (dis)ability, socioeconomic status, religion etc. However, the widespread use of the concept has led to its co-optation and dilution by white mainstream feminist thinking. Therefore when discussing intersectionality, it is vital to acknowledge the fact that it was originally created to explain the dual oppression of sexism and racism, and is the result of tireless fighting by black feminist activists.

**Climate justice:** As explained in the introduction, climate justice is the idea that climate change needs to be framed as an ethical, political and social issue. Climate justice is linked to ecofeminism in that it highlights how the burden of climate change does not fall equally on everyone, it impacts under-represented and historically excluded groups in society, and demands justice for them.

### Other useful phrases

These are not as theory heavy as the terminology outlined above, but are still useful to be aware of when engaging in activism.

**Adaptation:** A common term used in environmental policy-making, this refers to responding to the effects of climate change so that they are reduced, and have less of an impact.

**BIPoC:** Black, Indigenous (and) People of Colour is an umbrella term being increasingly used by people to articulate their shared experiences of racism, exclusion and oppression.

**Civil society:** A space where citizens connect based on common interests and engage in collective action, outside the realm of politics.

**Gender disaggregated data:** Collecting data that is split (disaggregated) along different genders. This allows for a better understanding of the lived experiences of men, women, non-binary people etc - instead of just collecting data and assuming this applies to all genders equally.

**Gender just:** Commonly used in policymaking, gender just refers to a policy that is fair on all genders and rebalances the inherent power imbalance between men and women in all their diversity.

**Gender mainstreaming:** The policy process of including gender considerations into the design, implementation and follow-up of all processes - regardless of whether

they are explicitly related to gender from the offset. E.g., gender mainstreaming in environmental policy looks at how environmental policy will impact genders differently.

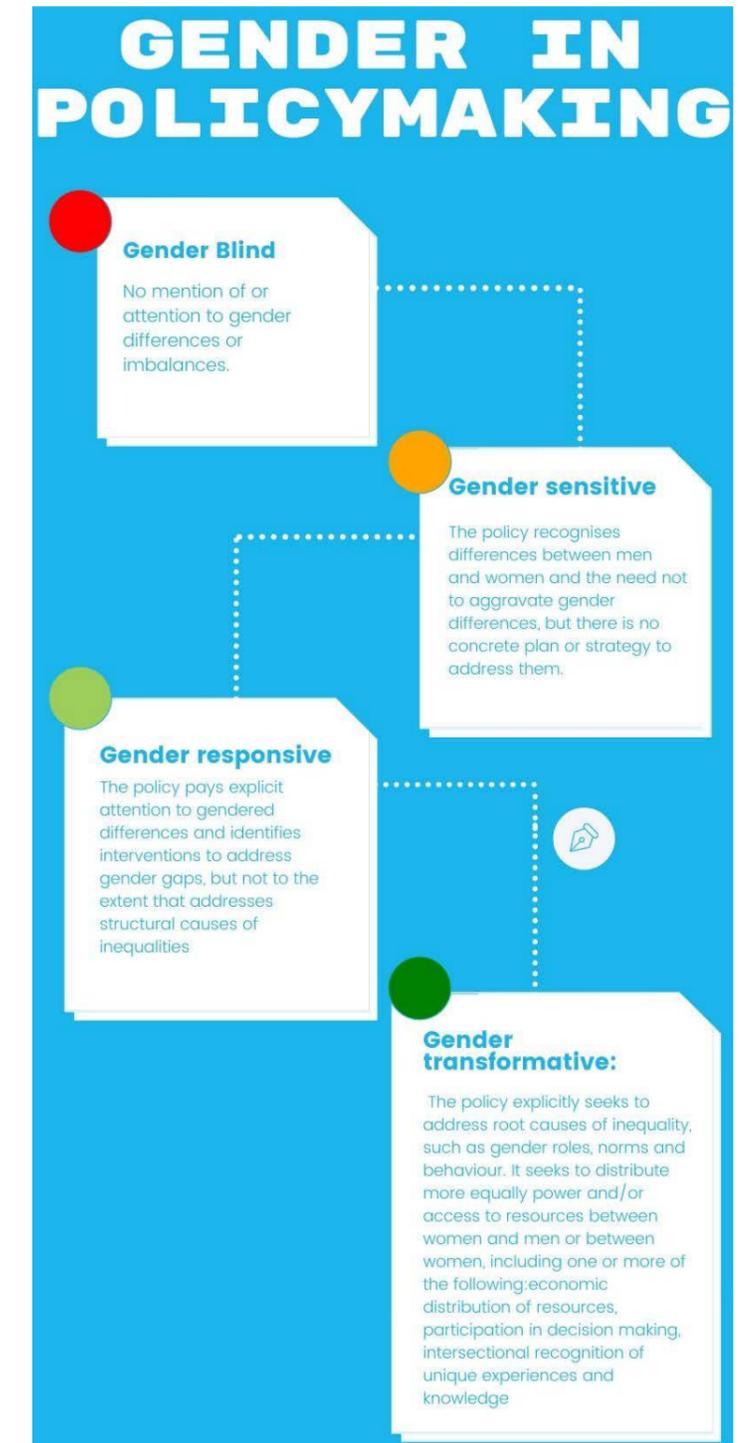
### Global South/Global North:

This terminology refers to the power imbalance in global politics. The Global North comprises wealthier countries that were typically colonisers, whereas the Global South comprises poorer countries that had their development hindered by colonialism. This is not a strict geographical distinction (for example Australia and New Zealand are in the Global North), but it is preferred to other terms such as developed/developing which suggest a hierarchy of countries.

**LGBTQIA+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus is an umbrella term that encompasses groups living outwith the dominant sexual orientation (straight) and gender identity (gender assigned at birth, aka cis gender)

**Mitigation:** Practices and measures that avoid the emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that cause global warming.

**Non governmental organisations (NGOs):** Groups that are not part of political decision making but serve to influence the government in various ways





## Section One:

# I care about climate change and/or feminism, but how do they link together?

## Ecofeminism

We all know that the world is getting hotter, and that this has negative impacts on all aspects of our lives: biodiversity, natural disasters, extreme weather, rising sea levels amongst other tragedies. Yet this impact is not felt evenly across the world. In most societies, able-bodied straight men of the dominant ethnic group have access to the most power, and resources. This results in the subordination of other social groups (women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, queer people). Therefore, these marginalised groups have less power to make decisions around handling the climate crisis and their experiences are often overlooked. This means that when climate change worsens, these marginalised groups disproportionately bear its impact. Ecofeminism argues for a transition toward a greener world that puts the experiences of these groups at the forefront. For example, women are more likely to [experience violence, lose their income or die during natural disasters](#) than men, and these disasters are only set to increase due to climate change. Additionally women bear the brunt of unpaid and undervalued care work, which is often neglected when we talk of a transition to a green society.

Many young LGBTQIA+ people are marginalised, and are more likely to be homeless and face social exclusion. This increases their vulnerability to the effects of climate change,

such as extreme weather, air pollution and chemical exposure. Additionally, examples from the [Global South](#) and [America](#) show that non-binary and transgender people face are more likely to persecution in the aftermath of natural disasters. Racialised communities such as [Roma in Eastern Europe](#), or [indigenous Aboriginals](#) in Australia, experience some of the worst effects of climate change due to their status as an ethnic minority as well as their spatial segregation (living in urban, semi-urban ghettos).

However, women and girls in all their diversity, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ groups, (and you!), can also be powerful agents of change in fighting the climate crisis. You can challenge existing power structures and change the world for the better. This can only be done through an ecofeminist fight, as if we do not act, climate change is going to widen inequalities. Advocating for an understanding of the diversity of experiences for those most affected by climate change is a key ecofeminist demand.

## Indigenous women designing climate policies in Oaxaca, Mexico: Gender Just Climate Solutions 2019

The Ikoots, Mixe, Mixteca and Zapoteca indigenous communities of Oaxaca State, Mexico experience marginalisation. These indigenous communities often speak their own languages and have their own cultural practices, [many do not speak Mexico's national language \(Spanish\)](#). The women do the majority of care work and have less access to education. This means that the Indigenous women of Oaxaca experience the complex interplay between local cultures in ways many Mexican policymakers do not. Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias works with indigenous women in Oaxaca to improve their climate resilience and get involved with political processes. Community centres for refugees and committees involving 3,330 indigenous women have developed self-built eco-technologies for energy, water and sanitation based on ancestral know-how. Ancestral knowledge is being protected and shared with the community, leading to more engagement and climate resilience. The increased political engagement of indigenous women means that territorial public policies will address gender issues and benefit the community. This is ecofeminism!

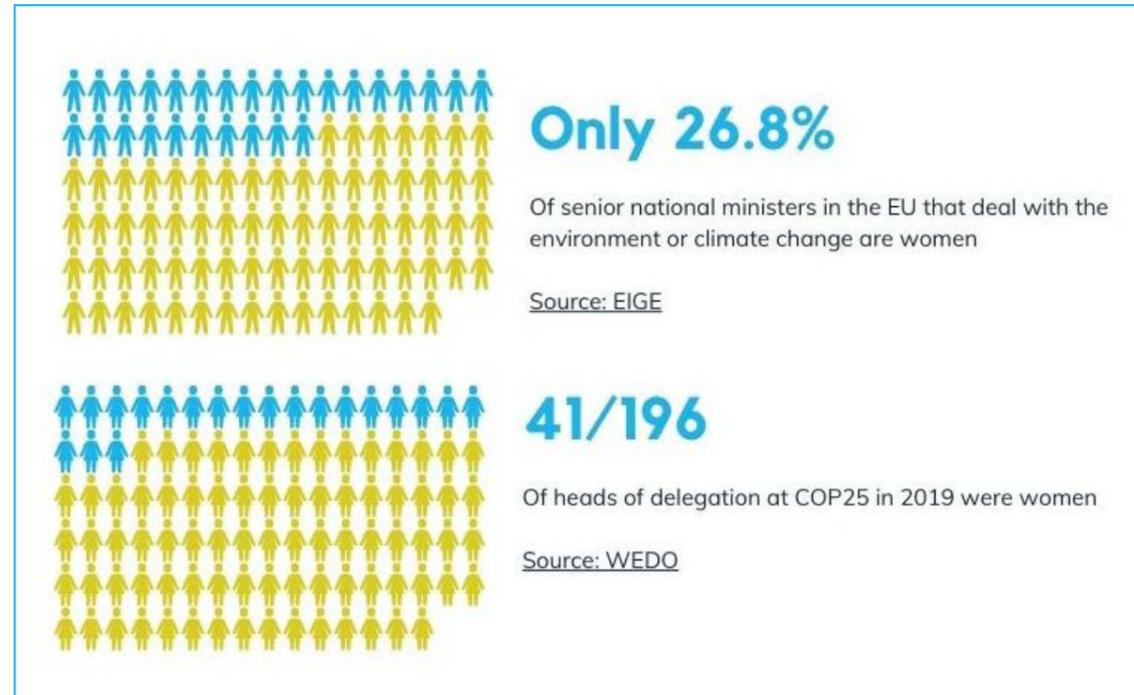


Shubhangi Singh | Survival Media Agency

### Representation

Another key issue of climate justice is representation. Women are underrepresented in decision making and financing decisions related to climate change. Only one third of governments' commitments to fight climate change under the Paris Agreement of 2015 - called Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDCs) - include gender. Women hold only 7% of all environment, natural resources and energy ministerial posts, and only 3% of science and technology. This lack of representation leads to reproduction of modes of oppression, which hinders any progress towards climate justice.



### Section Two:

## How can I turn theory into advocacy?

In order to find fellow activists, you have to identify what key issues matter to you, for example: educating young women and girls on the climate crisis, engaging with your local homeless community on their vulnerability to extreme weather, arguing for more diverse representation in your local government, etc. Your cause can be as general or as specific as you like, as long as it is something you are passionate about. Below are some guiding questions for thinking about what ecofeminist work you may want to get involved in:

- How does the climate crisis affect my future?
- Does it affect my current reality?  
If the answer to this is no, why not? What privileges do you have that make it easier for you to manage climate changes? Why do other people not have these?  
If the answer is yes, how does it affect your reality? What would you change if you could?
- What inequalities do I see around me that I would like to change? How would these inequalities change if the environmental issues we see today were to continue?
- Do I feel connected with social and environmental issues in my local area? Or would I rather work on something more global?
- How would the different people in my life be affected by extreme weather, natural disasters or resource scarcity?

Think about how you have answered these questions and what is important for you, what you would want changed for the better, what direction you would like climate justice to go in and how to achieve it. It is important when finding your cause or engaging in activism that you are respectful at all times. Below are some key tips for feminist communication:

### Feminist Communication

- **Who am I speaking for?** Great if you want to help others, but ensure you are not speaking for other people. Remember you are informed by your own unique experiences and you should always respect other people's stories.
- **Be aware of power structures:** no relationship has equal power, so try to reflect on your identity in relation to who you're working with. Are you a member of the dominant ethnic group in your area working with ethnic minorities? Remember that there will be an inherent power imbalance in situations like this, and you should always give others space to speak their truth.
- **Diversity:** try and ensure you have a diverse group. If this is not currently feasible, then ensure you are only speaking for who your group represents. If your group or organisation is not very diverse, it is better to be upfront about that and work on bringing in more diverse perspectives, rather than trying to force one or two people in for the sake of diversity (this is called tokenism and is harmful).
- **Give credit where credit is due:** if you are using someone else's ideas make sure you credit them.
- **Keep personal details private:** if someone divulges personal information to you/ your organisation, never ever share it with anyone without their permission.
- **Be respectful of others' identities:** if you misgender someone or make an honest mistake, simply apologise and move on; do not make a huge deal out of it, just remember for next time.
- **Be aware of local contexts:** youth climate activist from Sudan [Nisreen Al Sayeem](#) points out "Although it is a very progressive thing to hold strikes in Global North countries, in a country like Sudan, going to school is a privilege for a lot of students. It doesn't make any sense for people to strike from a school they got into after a huge struggle." Don't expect the same type of activism from everyone!
- **Pay for content:** a lot of free databases exist, ensure that you are using one of these and not ripping off someone else's content (if they have given you permission to use it for free that is fine!)
- For more feminist communication and self care advice see [Young Feminists Want System Change Toolkit](#)

### Finding your fellow activists

The grassroots level is where advocacy begins, and if you are just beginning to engage, finding people in your local area or online is a great place to start. Here are some examples of ways you can engage with people at the local level:

- If you are at school, university or college, why not form a society around ecofeminist issues and promote it on campus? Or join an existing feminist or environmentalist society and make the link to others there.
- If there are no people in your immediate area, social media is a good way to connect with other like minded people; create a twitter or instagram (remember not all communities are physical!).
- If you want more space to write, you could make a feminist climate justice blog and advertise for fellow writers, or find like-minded bloggers.
- Create a feminist book group with your friends.
- Group together and create a magazine/paper for your local area which covers key ecofeminist issues.
- Organise a litter pick in your local area and get chatting to fellow environmentalists.
- Go to the library or look online at your area's community work/charities in relation to environmental/feminist issues. Contact them and get involved in whatever way you can.
- If forming your own group does not interest you - there are many great civil society groups out there already which you could get involved with (more on these later).

### Advocacy methods

Know your rights and keep yourself safe! In many countries the right to free assembly is limited in certain circumstances. Make sure you have read up on your rights before you engage in more high-risk forms of advocacy such as protesting.

- Send letters to your local representatives and politicians highlighting you or your group's stance on key feminist and environmental issues; what groups are represented in decision making? Is this a fair representation of your region? What is your (local) government doing about the climate crisis?
- Design and put up posters in your local neighbourhood to get people talking.
- Stage a rally or public protest in a place where you will get a lot of attention.
- Communicate with local media about the work you are doing; let them know your core aims in a simple straightforward way.
- Hand out flyers or post letters through people's doors.
- Set up an information desk at local events.
- Start an online advocacy campaign, with a hashtag or images about ecofeminism.



If you have set up your own organisation and would like to broaden its horizons, or if you wish to individually work with a larger organisation, below are some suggestions for civil society organisations already doing great work which you could become a part of:

## Existing Organisations

Not all of these organisations are explicitly environmental-feminist organisations. However, often environmental groups advocate for a just and inclusive transition to a sustainable environment, and this is a good space for making feminist demands. Similarly, feminist networks encompass an incredibly broad range of issues so it is easy to make space for yourself as a young ecofeminist.

## Women Engage for a Common Future

We are an international ecofeminist organisation. We work on three key areas: sustainable development, climate and environmental action and a non-toxic society, always from a feminist perspective. Our activities are aimed at capacity building, influencing policy and raising awareness, in order to strengthen the position of women and girls in all their diversity worldwide. Check out our [Young Feminists Want System Change Toolkit](#) for further tips on getting involved in advocacy. With our Ecofeminist Scorecard, we created a tool for analysing party manifestos regarding our ecofeminist demands. The tool has been used during European and national election campaigns. [Ecofeminist Scorecard](#) is a tool for analysing party manifestos to see how they address ecofeminist demands.

## Young Feminist Europe

[Young Feminist Europe \(YFE\)](#) are an inclusive platform that amplify feminist voices and activities across Europe. You can [pitch articles on feminist issues](#) to be published on



their website. You can also join their grassroots and digital activism. They have a number of campaigns such as [Period Poverty in Europe](#). This is an excellent example of an issue that links feminism and the environmental movement. Moving toward more sustainable forms of menstrual products is beneficial to the planet, but poses its own challenges in terms of period poverty (lack of access to clean water, no private space for people who menstruate to clean, unaffordability of more sustainable menstrual health products).

## Youth Environment Europe

[Youth Environment Europe \(YEE\)](#) is the largest independent European network of environmental youth organisations. As a member, you get the support of YEE's network and can expand your organisation's connections. If you are unable to pay the membership fee, YEE offers resources and information. Their website has [campaigns and projects](#) on different environmental topics, which you can engage with in virtual advocacy. YEE conducts [online training and webinars](#), many of which you can freely watch on their website, including training on grassroots organisation and advocacy. Please see the annex for similar networks in other regions of the world.

## Fridays for Future

Since Greta Thunberg and a group of students sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for 3 weeks to protest the lack of government action on the climate crisis, their organisation [Fridays for Future](#) has grown into a large protest based advocacy organisation. You can find [advice on how to strike](#) and resources for striking on their website. You can also join in with their social media campaign [#Fightfor1point5](#), which advocates for countries to honour their commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Or, you can add a planned strike to their [strike map](#) to coordinate efforts with a larger network.

## Fossil Free Feminists

[Fossil Free Feminists](#) are an ecofeminist organisation based in the Netherlands. They aim to dismantle oppressive systems whilst advocating for the abolition of fossil fuels. Their slogan 'climate change is a man made problem with a feminist solution' speaks of the intersectional climate justice that is needed in a sustainable transition. Their website contains lists of [ecofeminist resources](#) such as books, articles and videos. Additionally, they have various working groups you can volunteer to be involved with as well as [spaces for collaboration](#) and article pitching. For those based in the Netherlands, Fossil Free Feminists usually meet in Amsterdam and Utrecht to discuss their strategies.





### Section Three:

## How can I influence political processes?

Once you have formed a group of young ecofeminists, or joined a wider network, you could start to engage with more high-level political processes, where you can influence decision-makers. The next section explains how political parties and their youth factions operate at the national and regional level. However if you do not want to be affiliated with a party, as a group of young feminists or a wider network you can also engage in political processes directly - you don't need to go through the parties and their youth factions. For example, offer petitions to MPs directly, push them to ask questions to cabinet, or engage with civil servants to shape policies.

### National

In countries with democratic practices, parties field candidates to legislative assemblies under a common label. Party politics in Europe is incredibly diverse, and many parties have a youth faction, which is a space where you can make your voices heard. Below are examples of this in the Dutch context:

National Party	Youth Wing	Relevant Working Groups
CDA	<a href="#">Christen Democratisch Jongeren Appèl</a>	Sustainability, Nature and Agriculture
Groenlinks	<a href="#">DWARS</a>	Integration, Emancipation and Diversity Energy, Sustainability and Mobility Nature, Environment and Agriculture Law and Democracy
D66	<a href="#">Jonge Democraten</a>	Diversity and Participation Sustainability Economics and Social Affairs
VVD	<a href="#">Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie</a>	Divided per region in the Netherlands
FVD	<a href="#">Jongerenorganisatie Forum voor Democratie</a>	None
Piratenpartij	<a href="#">Jonge Piraten Nederland</a>	Unknown
PvdA	<a href="#">Jonge Socialisten</a>	Democracy and Rule of Law Diversity and Emancipation Sustainability and Agriculture International Politics
DENK	<a href="#">OPPOSITIE</a>	Unknown
ChristenUnie	<a href="#">Perspectief</a>	Sustainability Democracy and Governance Economics Society and Diversity Migration
Partij voor de Dieren	<a href="#">PINK!</a>	Action Committee Think Tank PINK!clusivity
Bijl	<a href="#">RADICAAL</a>	Unknown
SGP	<a href="#">SGP-Jongeren</a>	Divided per region in the Netherlands

## Regional

Often international processes are organised regionally so that countries can group together to put forward their common interests. Examples include the European Union, the Eurasian Economic Union, the African Union, as well as regional groupings at the UN. Alongside these spaces for regional government co-operation, there are places in which civil society or youth parties can work across regions. Check out these youth networks of European parties:

- [Federation of Young European Greens \(check out their feminist network!\)](#)
- [Young European Socialists](#)
- [Youth European People's Party](#)
- [European Liberal Youth](#)
- [Young Democrats for Europe](#)
- [European Christian Political Youth](#)
- [European Free Alliance Youth](#)

## Global

As climate change is a global problem which requires a global solution, international processes that encompass all regions are being increasingly used to make decisions around climate change mitigation and adaptation.



## Conference of the Parties

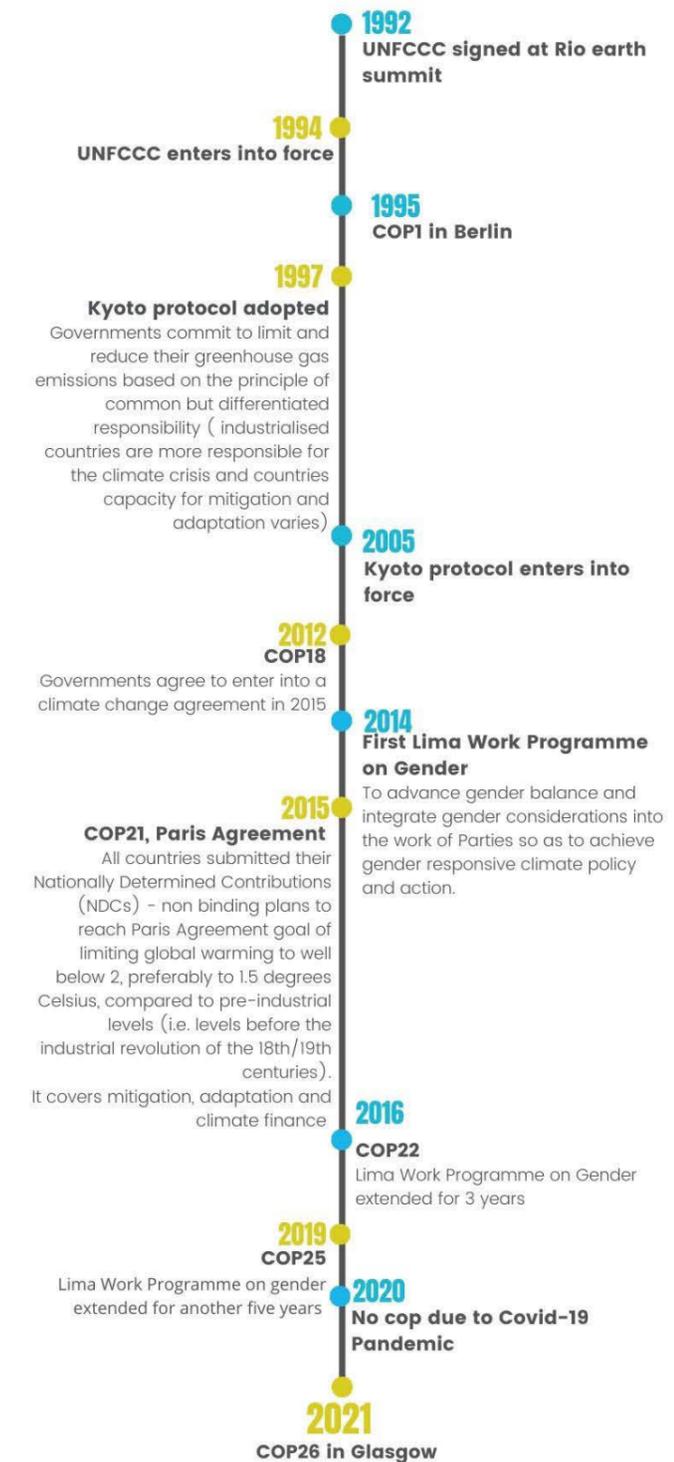
COP, or Conference of the Parties, began with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. The UNFCCC agreed that international co-operation was needed to combat the threat of climate change, and called for Parties to take on varying responsibility for their role in this process. The COP is a yearly meeting to reflect and plan on the implementation of the UNFCCC. The presidency of the COP and the country in which it takes place rotates each year, with this year's COP26 held in Glasgow, (31 October - 12 November 2021).

## Structure

The UNFCCC has nine constituencies, which are groups of organisations with diverse interests but who come under a common umbrella in terms of aims:

- BINGO: Business and industry NGOs

# TIMELINE



- ENGO: Environmental NGOs
- Farmers: Farmers and agricultural NGOs
- IPO: Indigenous peoples organizations
- LGMA: Local government and municipal authorities
- RINGO: Research and independent NGOs
- TUNGO: Trade union NGOs
- WGC: Women and gender constituency

Check out their range of [research reports](#) and [factsheets](#), as well as [briefing papers](#) for the COP. You can also join their [advocacy list](#) which is open to members of civil society who would like to engage in international climate policy! Or you can join their more general [Women's Caucus Mailing List](#).

- YOUNGO: Youth NGOs

## YOUNGO and the Conference of Youth

[YOUNGO](#) advocates for youth interests in international climate change. Each year YOUNGO plan and host the [Conference Of Youth \(COY\)](#), which takes place right before the COP, in the host country. COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP. The COY has four main areas:

- 1 Policy Document:** A position paper is developed which outlines youth stances for COP26.
- 2 Capacity Building:** Delegates from 140+ countries will undergo a series of plenary and breakout sessions, with topics on how climate change affects different sectors and industries.
- 3 Skill-building Workshops**
- 4 Cultural Exchange**

## COP26

Each COP is prefaced by a preparatory meeting held a month before, called Pre-Cop. This year's pre-cop will take place in Milan (30 September – 2 October). Part of this 'pre-cop' is the [youth summit](#), where youth organisations will meet in Milan from 28 – 30 September 2021, to elaborate concrete proposals on topics that affect the negotiation process of COP26. Even if you are not in attendance at this youth summit, it is important to pay attention to the processes here as this will help inform how you prepare and engage with the COP.

[COP26](#) will take place during 1-12 November 2021, and it is split between a blue and green zone. The blue zone is managed by the UN and brings together delegations from the 197 parties, as well as pre-approved observer organisations. The green zone is open to the general public to have their voices heard through events, exhibitions, workshops and talks. [The People's Summit](#) is worth checking out for civil society groups rooted in climate justice.

A key barrier to engagement at this year's COP is Covid-19. The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities across the world and has highlighted global power imbalances as many countries in the Global South have not been able to access the vaccines they need, due to vaccine hoarding by the Global North. It is uncertain how civil society will be involved in the physical space at COP26. Online engagement and hybrid forms allow for more inclusivity – although whether this will be utilised at COP26 remains to be seen.

COP26 has four main goals:

### 1 Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach

This is a reflection of the Paris Agreement's commitment to stop dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. This goal comes under 'Nationally Determined Contributions', which are non-binding commitments pledged by governments. That is why the role of activists is vital to ensure governments are held to account on their NDCs.

### 2 Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats

Communities and natural habitats are being destroyed by climate change, yet only certain communities experience the worst of it. This is a key ecofeminist issue.

### 3 Mobilise finance

Countries in the Global South have less financial power to tackle the climate crisis, and are also less responsible for it as they did not industrialise in the same way or at the same time as the Global North. Therefore, for climate action to be fair and just, finances need to come more from the Global North who both have the resources to deal with it and are the main perpetrators.

### 4 Work together to deliver

The role of civil society is vital here to ensure diversity and accountability.



## Ways to Engage

### Before

- **Working Groups:** In the run up to the COP, you can split your organisation into different working groups, for example; communications, advocacy, civil society engagement. This allows you to better coordinate your efforts.
- **Pre-Cop:** Engage with the youth summit and the conference of youth. Even if you are not physically able to attend, write emails to fellow feminist organisations or to the gender working groups, keep updated on their stance and see what their demands are for this year's COP.

### During

- **Position Paper:** Work within your organisation or reach out to others to draft a position paper. This is an excellent way of summarising your organisation's expectations of the COP. What is your stance on the four themes of this year's COP? How do they link to the ecofeminist aims of your group? You can then widely share this position paper.
- **Side Event:** Although the deadline for side events at the COP has passed, you can still creatively organise; host a webinar, do something in your local area.

### After

- **Outcome documents:** COP26 will produce outcome documents that you can access and analyse. Remember when looking at these to focus on what is being left out as well as what is being said. Is there something important you feel has been overlooked? Are key links between social and climate issues missing? One good basis for analysis is to see any discussion of the gender action plan.
- **Reflections:** It is always a good idea to reflect on a process after it has happened. What worked, what did not? Some communication methods may have been more



effective than others, similarly with tactics employed by working groups. Coming together at the end to reflect on this will allow you to plan your next steps and keep momentum moving forward.

## Conclusion

Ecofeminism is a movement that requires the participation of the whole of society. It can be easy to think that acting on political issues is something for experts, policymakers or those with years of experience. But the opposite is true and you should get involved in whatever way you can. Advocacy can range from writing a post online to getting involved at high level processes such as COP26. The climate crisis is not going to wait for us to act: we need actions now that demonstrate we want a climate movement that is gender just. This toolkit has given you pointers and ideas that you can use to get inspired, rather than strict guidelines. There is no 'right' way to do advocacy and activism, as long as you are fighting for something you believe in whilst being respectful of others.

## Bibliography

This publication aims to be accessible for all, and therefore all of the resources cited are publicly available online, with the exception of the following texts:

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43 (6): 1241-1299.

Faleiro, Eduardo. 2012. "Colonialism, Neo-colonialism And Beyond,." *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues* 16, no. 4 (Winter): 12-17.

Perez, Caroline C. 2019. *Invisible Women*. London: Penguin Random House.

## Annex: Additional Sources

For more work on intersectionality and race please see:

- Center for Intersectional Justice and Gunda Werner Institute, 2019. ["reach everyone on the planet..." - kimberlé crenshaw and intersectionality](#)
- European Network Against Racism and Center for Intersectional Justice, 2020, [Intersectional discrimination in Europe: relevance, challenges and ways forward.](#)
- Equinox, 2021 ["Towards Gender Justice Rethinking EU Gender Equality Policy From an Intersectional Perspective"](#), Brussels
- Equinox, 2021 ["Towards Climate Justice Rethinking the European Green Deal from a racial justice perspective"](#), Brussels

For environmental youth networks outside of Europe, please see:

- [African Youth Initiative on Climate Change](#)
- [Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar](#)
- [Asian Environmental Youth Network](#)
- [Caribbean Youth Environment Network](#)



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