

EN

# Activity Kit Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists



This report has been produced by WECF, as part of the [ClimAct/Spark a change Programme](#). All figures and tables were developed by WECF, unless otherwise mentioned. Copying parts of this publication is allowed on condition that the source is mentioned.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of WECF and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the EU.



#### Imprint:

Copyright WECF 2022

[www.wecf.org](http://www.wecf.org)

WECF International | Korte Elisabethstraat 6, 3511 JG, Utrecht | Phone : +31302310300

Author: Rose Heffernan

#### Editors:

Merlinde Hellinga

Chantal Van den Bossche

Sanne Van de Voort

Rebecca Heuvelmans

**Designer:** Charlotte Aukema, [aukemaontwerp.nl](http://aukemaontwerp.nl)

**Illustration Cover:** Leyla Ali [@byleylaali](https://www.instagram.com/byleylaali) • Instagram photos and videos

**Copyright pictures:** WECF International, Annabelle Avril, Nynke Kloppenburg and the Green Livelihood Alliance

## Contents

Introduction	5
Section One: Your Issues and Demands	7
Ecofeminism	7
Ecofeminist Fact Box:	8
Activity: Personal Reflection	14
Activity: Linking Issues	16
Section Two: Commission on the Status of Women	19
Key Aspects of the CSW	20
Interview: Being on a Delegation at the CSW	21
CSW66	22
International Women's Day	23
Activity: Quiz	23
Section Three: Strategy	26
Activity: Finding fellow activists	26
Activity: Influencing Decision Makers	28
Activity: Planning an Event	30
Conclusion	33



## Introduction

Being a young person today is equal parts exciting and confusing. Navigating a global pandemic, the climate crisis, as well as taking time to understand yourself and how you relate to the world around you can be a lot sometimes. Luckily, you are not alone in feeling like this! Many youth from all over the world are coming together to fight for their futures, and in doing so are not only changing the world but are also better understanding themselves and what they want. This interactive toolkit will help you make sense of some of your political desires and demands, and explain how you can use these feelings to inspire action!

The link between wider global issues and your own personal identity is important, even if it might not be obvious to begin with. Gender identity intersects with other areas of self-identification (racialized group, dis/ability, migrant or refugee status, sexual orientation, religion, class) and this will change how you understand and experience the climate crisis. Fighting against climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters should be intertwined with a fight for a more equal and fair society.

If this interests you but you do not know where to start, then look no further! This toolkit aims to put you and your experiences at the centre to help you create strategies to influence decision makers on these important issues and gain a better understanding of yourself. This toolkit is the second in a series, and our [Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth](#) gives you tips for engaging in activism around climate justice. This toolkit takes a different approach and gives activities for self reflection and strategizing for another important international conference, the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an annual conference between governments, United Nations entities, and civil society - which include organisations such as WECF, on issues related to the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. This year's (2022) theme is "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."

How you use this toolkit is up to you! First there are some activities to help you reflect on your gender, your identity, what is important to you and how you relate to the world around you. Then some information on the CSW and how it all works, as well as some strategising activities for mobilising for the CSW and other advocacy spaces.



# SECTION ONE: YOUR ISSUES AND DEMANDS

This section has some key activities to help you reflect on how you relate to the world around you and the link between gender and climate change. Although this is only the theme for this year's CSW, this is something we work on all year round at [Women Engage for a Common Future](#). We are involved in every CSW no matter what the theme, engaging with governments and planning events, as the link between gender and climate covers a lot of ground - and the fight is not over yet!

## Ecofeminism

At WECF, we base all of our work on Ecofeminist principles. **Ecofeminism** shows 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 emphasizes that the existing heteropatriarchal capitalist system is not compatible with women's rights and a sustainable planet.

For us, ecofeminism means using an intersectional feminist approach when fighting structural barriers that prevents us from enjoying a healthy environment. Meaning, we take a holistic approach, recognising that we all come with a different baggage of discrimination (or lack thereof) depending on our gender, age, social class, ethnicity, sexual identity, education, religion, ability or social class. These barriers, among others, include capitalism, extractivism, militarism, gender-based violence and shrinking space for civil society to influence.

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- nonwhite, straight-queer. Ecofeminism has evolved a lot since its inception, largely due to the work of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex Asexual Plus (LGBTQIA+) and Black, Indigenous (and) People of Colour (BIPOC) activists who utilise an intersectional conception of ecofeminism.

Intersectionality was originally coined by American black activist Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the dual oppression black women face, and highlight their lived experience at the intersection of racist and sexist structures. Intersectionality has since been expanded on to highlight all dual oppressions that occur at the same time. For example, an older woman from the middle class living in Germany experiences the climate crisis differently than an indigenous young woman living in Brazil. Here, the identities and experiences of gender, age, indigeneity, and location all intersect.



## Who are WECF?

WECF stands for Women Engage for a Common Future, we are a non governmental organisation that is part of civil society. But what does that mean? Non governmental organisation (or NGO) means that we do not work for profit, and that our work is separate from governments. NGOs along with other non profit organisations such as universities, trade unions, faith based organisations, youth organisations make up civil society. Civil society is sometimes called the third sector because it is different from the private (organisations that work for profit) and the public (government funded) sectors.

The main issue WECF works on is ecofeminism, which is explained on the next page! Our work includes awareness raising and mobilisation, doing projects in our partner countries, advocating for ecofeminist issues with governments and promoting our ideals at international events such as the CSW.

## Solar Age: empowering refugee women through solar engineering (Gender Just Climate Solutions)

The Solar Age project is implemented by the organisation 'Imece Inisiyatifi' in Turkey. The Solar Engineering Course, a 10-day theoretical and practical training in solar energy has benefitted 200 Syrian women refugees. Some have also been taught how to build Energy for Everyone solar batteries (EFE) which they then sell on the local market. This gives Syrian refugee women agency over their own energy. For refugees, the EFE battery can be a life-saving tool as they can use the EFE battery as a flashlight or to power their phones to improve communication. This is ecofeminism in action!

If you want more definitions, examples, and an overview of climate justice as a youth activist, check out the first toolkit in this series.

[Justice Toolkit for Youth](#)

We hope this toolkit will inspire you, like us, to think about the link between environment, climate and gender. Ecofeminism is also not just about gender, but also other identities such as dis/ability, migrant status, income, racialized group etc. So no matter who you are, you will have important contributions to make to the ecofeminist fight for a better world. Before we begin with some activities, we have an ecofeminist fact box to get you thinking and reflecting on what is important to you. Hopefully you can relate to some of these examples!

### Ecofeminist Fact Box:

#### Climate and Environment

Climate change and environmental degradation do not affect everyone equally. Below are some examples of the key sectors related to climate and environment, and the impacts that gender has when intersected with other factors (age, income, country).

#### Agriculture and Land Rights

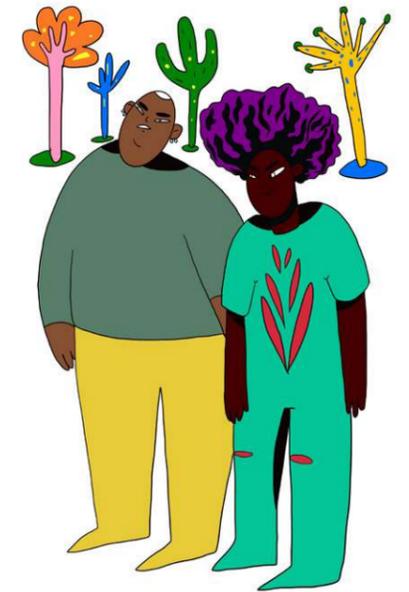
- On average, women comprise 43% of the agricultural labour force in the global South, ranging from 20% in Latin America to 50% in Eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- If they had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30%.
- Women are of vital importance to rural economies. Rearing poultry and small livestock and growing food crops, they are responsible for 60% to 80% of food production in the Global South.

#### Biodiversity

- Although Indigenous peoples make up only 5% of the world's population, their traditional territories account for 22% of the Earth's land mass, making them [de facto stewards of 80% of the world's biodiversity](#).

#### Chemicals

- Skin-lightening creams are often promoted to women with darker skin, as is a need to achieve a white European beauty standard. Not only is this racist, but such creams often [contain high levels of mercury](#) which can lead to skin rashes, skin discoloration and scarring, reduction in the skin's resistance to bacterial and fungal infections, anxiety, depression, psychosis and peripheral neuropathy.



### Global North, Global South and Global East

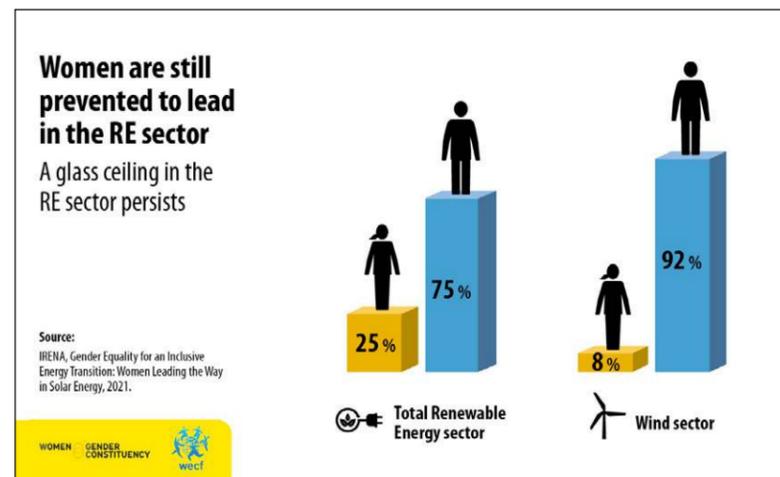
This terminology refers to the power imbalance in global politics. The **Global North** comprises wealthier countries that were typically colonisers, whereas the **Global South** comprises poorer countries that had their development hindered by colonialism. This is not a strict geographical distinction (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. In recent years, the term **Global East** has been used to explain the dynamics of Eastern Europe and Central Asia which were part of the Soviet Union and Soviet influence. This is important as there is a tendency in Western European media and politics to ignore the complexities of the process of decolonialisation of countries in the Global East, and the different historical development people in these countries experienced under Soviet oppression and communism.

It is useful to understand the Global dynamics as it has important implications for gender and climate. For example, one of the reasons that the Global South countries are less able to handle the climate crisis is because of their exploitation and extraction by the Global North. Additionally, the Global North as colonisers used their colonies to industrialise rapidly, meaning they are more responsible for global warming. In the Global East, issues such as energy are tied to power politics and decolonialisation with Russia using energy to influence regional politics.

- Female anatomy is different to male anatomy and under researched in terms of chemical exposure. Social factors lead to women's higher use of cosmetic products, cleaning products, and hence [greater exposure to hazardous chemicals](#).
- Tampons, sanitary towels and other disposable products for people who menstruate contribute to [non biodegradable waste and pollution](#). The myth that period blood is 'unclean' leads to [bleaching and perfuming](#) of menstrual products, which has negative impacts on the health of users.

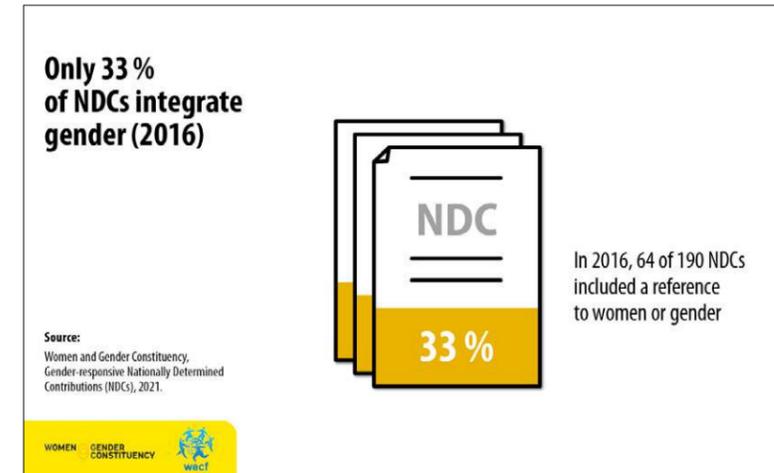
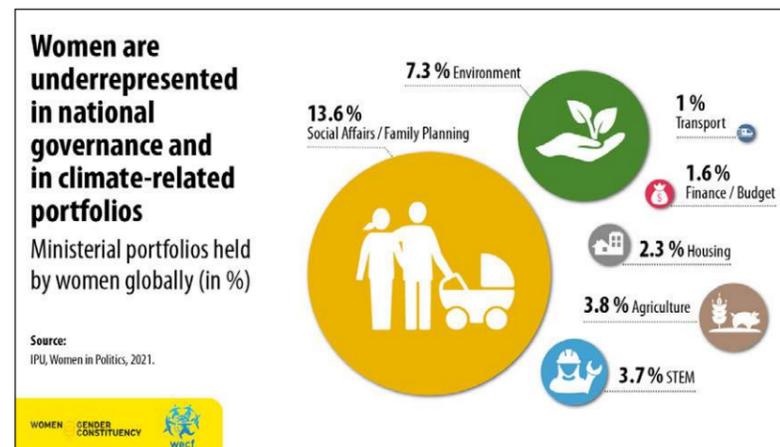
**Energy**

- [1.2 billion people](#) worldwide have no access to electricity, most of these are rural women.
- Energy Poverty is when a household cannot achieve the minimum level of domestic energy consumption required for satisfying basic needs. This disproportionately affects women, and intersects with other factors such as age and income.

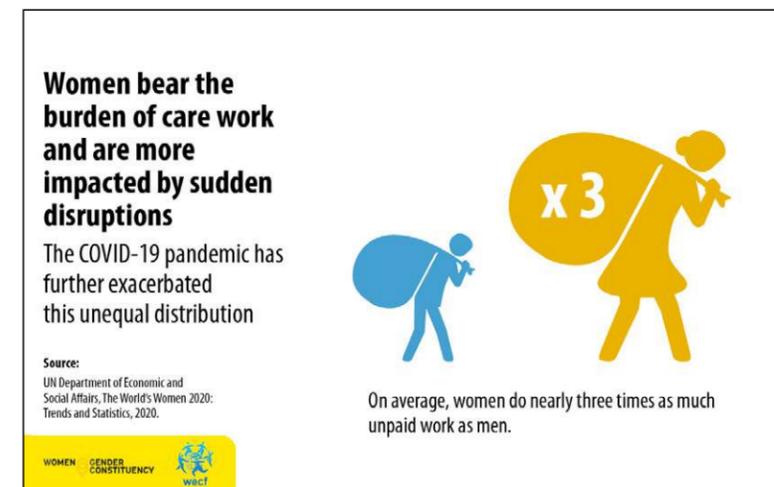


**Transport**

- [Trip patterns are gendered](#), in part due to women's lower participation in the labour market and higher involvement in unpaid care work.
- Women are more likely to ['tripchain'](#) i.e., make several, shorter trips to do care duties,



- household tasks, while men are more likely to undertake individual trips commuting to and from a workplace.
- [Male trip patterns have largely shaped transport policies](#). Additionally, men dominate in the transport industry; In the EU, the share of women on management boards is less than [20%](#) and women represent only [9.3%](#) of drivers.
- In the Global North, low-income groups are [twice as likely](#) to use public transport as higher income groups.
- In the Global South, women often spend [over 65%](#) of their household time on transport.



**Decision-Making**

- Despite being most affected by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, women in all their diversity are under-represented in decision-making, and therefore are less able to utilise their wealth of knowledge and skills.

- Out of all the ministerial positions held by women, [only 16%](#) of those are related to environment, energy, territorial planning, transport, science and technology.
- Just [33 percent](#) of decision making positions at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are occupied by women

#### Disaster Risk Reduction

Natural disasters are set to increase with global warming, and yet gender intersects with other factors to mean that they disproportionately impact marginalised groups.

- LGBTQIA+ persons are [more likely to experience discrimination and violence](#) in the aftermath of natural disasters.
- During the big freeze in Texas 2021, Black and Hispanic people were [more impacted and likely to lose their lives](#) due to living in poorer insulated homes and having on average less income. This is an example of environmental racism.
- Women and children are [14 times more likely](#) than men to die from natural disasters



## Activity: Personal Reflection

How did you feel after reading the fact box? Were there any examples that stood out to you?

*After reading the fact box I felt angry, for example at the fact that LGBTQIA+ people are more affected by natural disasters, as a queer person myself this was not something I had experienced and it made me feel solidarity with others in my community to learn about this discrimination.*

What examples could you not relate to? Why do you think that is? What privileges do you have?

*I could not relate to the natural disaster examples as I have never experienced one, and as a white person I could not relate to the example of environmental racism.. This was not something I had thought about before. Biodiversity and its relation to indigenous peoples was also new information for me as I come from Scotland where this is not regularly talked about.*

What climate change issue(s) matter the most to you? Why? How will they impact the people around you?

*I think that care work matters a lot to me, as my mother is disabled and alongside managing her disability has borne the unfair burden of care work most of her life. I had not thought about care being a green job before, and it has never been explained to me in that way. I also think energy matters to the people around me as I have family members who struggle with heating their home, which I had not thought to be a climate issue before.*

What aspects of your identity do you most relate to? How do you think this will impact your future related to the climate crisis?

*As a young woman from the global North I know I have had a lot of privileges, and I need to reflect on these. However as a young woman I am concerned about the climate crisis as well as gender inequality, and I would like to fight for a world that is more equal for all.*

**How did you feel after reading the fact box? Were there any examples that stood out to you?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What examples could you not relate to? Why do you think that is? What privileges do you have?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What climate change issue(s) matter the most to you? Why? How will they impact the people around you?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What aspects of your identity do you most relate to? How do you think this will impact your future related to the climate crisis?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



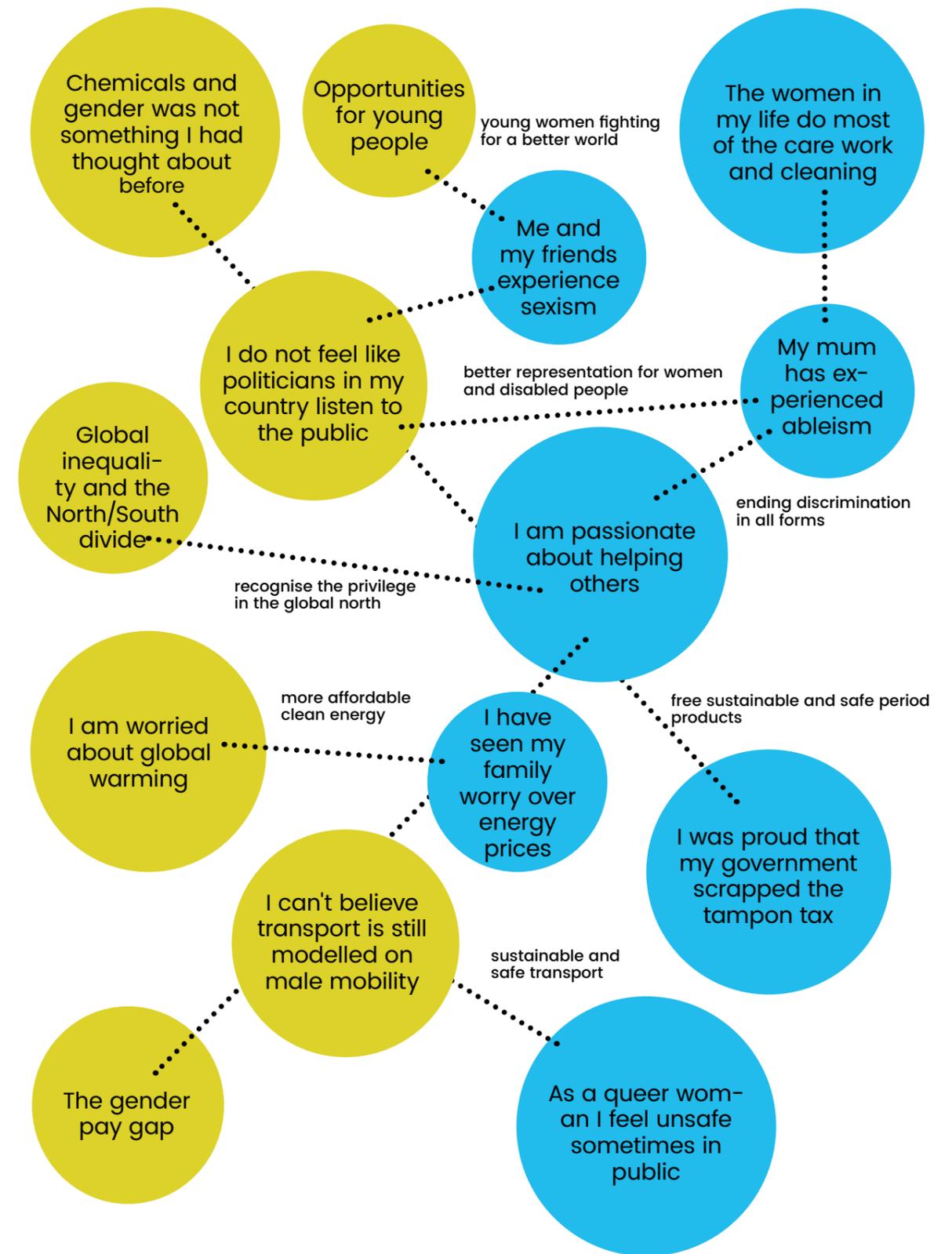
## Activity: Linking Issues

Choose a couple of key facts from the fact box that matter to you, (or others if you have them!). Write them in the yellow bubbles under 'My key issues'. Look back on the self reflection task and identify some of your strengths and what you think matter to you. Put them in the blue bubbles under 'My experiences'

Once you have done this you can start to link them to each other, and get a better idea of your cause! Remember there is no right or wrong answer here. The links can be super global, or they can be things that are very important to you. They can be actions you want to see happen in the next few years (better access to menstrual products) or longer term goals (smashing the patriarchy). There is no right or wrong answer, the point of the exercise is just to get you making some links and thinking about causes.

### My Key Issues

### My Experiences



### My Key Issues

### My Experiences

A collection of 15 empty circles for notes, arranged in two columns. The left column contains 7 yellow circles under the heading 'My Key Issues'. The right column contains 8 blue circles under the heading 'My Experiences'.

## SECTION TWO: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Now you understand more about this year's theme, it is time to look at how the CSW works!

The Beijing Platform for Action was established in 1994 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. After two weeks of political debate between 189 governments as well as key work and pressure applied by 30,000 Non governmental activists, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was created. At the time, it was a progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights. Following this, The Commission on the Status of Women began in 1946, and was started by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Every year in March, decision makers, ministers and civil society come together for two weeks in New York (or online since Covid) to make commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. CSW is organised by UN Women, the United Nations agency for women's rights and gender equality.



## Key Aspects of the CSW

It can be difficult to imagine how UN processes and different parts of the CSW impact you as a youth activist, or more importantly how you can impact them! The table below gives an outline of the key elements of the CSW, explaining what they are and why each of them is important. If you want more detail on any of them, check out our [Young Feminists Want System Change Toolkit](#) for more information.

Aspect of CSW	What is it?	Why is it important?
Agreed Conclusions	An outcome document that provides guidance to member states on how they would implement the key areas covered at the CSW. Member states initially prepare the zero draft (first draft), amendments are proposed in multiple stages, and the final outcome is only reached if all Member States agree.	Although the agreed conclusions are not a binding document, their language is very important as it is terminology that can eventually become law. This is why it is vital to advocate for inclusive language that advocates your position, as one day this will likely be made into legislation.
Side Events	Side events are organised by governments (often in collaboration with civil society) and are part of the official programme of the CSW. Governments use side events to showcase particular aspects of their work.	Working with a government delegation means you can gain contacts among decision makers, and as your event is part of the official programme of the CSW, you have increased visibility.
NGOCSW	The NGOCSW runs alongside the CSW, it is a space for non governmental organisations to collaborate and make sure their voices are heard.	This is an important space for engagement if you are a youth activist and have not yet contacted any official government delegations! You can sign up to the <a href="#">NGOCSW mailing list</a> , check out the <a href="#">NGOCSW Advocacy toolkit</a> for more information
Parallel Events	NGOCSW consists of parallel events, these are different from side events as they are organised by civil society and not by governments.	Although they do not make up the 'official' programme of the CSW, parallel events are very important for organising, meeting fellow activists and raising awareness on your issues

## Interview

### Being on a Delegation at the CSW



WECF is lucky this year as our Advocacy Officer Sanne is the NGO representative for the Dutch delegation to the CSW. Each country has a delegation which it sends to the CSW, and these people are key in negotiating the agreed conclusions and participating in the official events. We had a chat with her about her role and what it entails.

#### **First of all, congratulations on this new position!**

Yes, thanks a lot! Really excited to have this opportunity to be the new Dutch NGO Representative to the CSW!

#### **Could you please introduce yourself to those that don't know you?**

My name is Sanne van de Voort. I work for Women Engage for a Common Future. We are an international ecofeminist network, working on promoting gender equality in sustainable development and climate action. And my role in our organization, is doing a lot of our advocacy work, internationally and nationally as well.

#### **To start from the beginning, what is the Commission on the Status of Women?**

The Commission is the main body working on promoting gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women internationally and it falls under the United Nations. So the Commission meets annually at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss progress on achieving gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women. It's an intergovernmental body, which means that governments meet at the UN and discuss the progress, but also civil society and NGO's play a big role in this, so they are also part of these annual meetings at the UN. Every year the CSW focusses on a priority theme and it reviews another theme that has been worked on over the last years.

#### **What will your specific role be as the Dutch NGO Representative?**

I will be part of the Dutch governmental delegation that attends the CSW. Meaning that I will be joining the preparatory meetings of the Dutch government in finalising priorities for the Dutch government towards the CSW and I do that not on behalf of myself or WECf, but on behalf of all of civil society working on this process in the Netherlands. So there is also a really close collaboration between civil society as a whole in the Netherlands working on this process.

**So the focus of this year's CSW is "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk"**

**reduction policies and programmes,” why is this so important?**

The climate crisis, – and related crises as well when it comes to environment and biodiversity, – is one of the biggest crises that we face as humanity as a whole, in this moment. What we see is that, climate change, biodiversity loss – all related factors – exacerbate existing inequalities. So inequalities that already exist, for example gender inequality, are made worse by the effects of climate change.

If we truly want to fight climate change and environmental degradation, we need to make sure that everyone’s solutions, everyone’s perspectives, everyone’s recommendations are part of the solutions. And that is something that at the moment is not the case. When it comes to the decisions that are being taken in terms of climate, women for example are underrepresented, other marginalized groups are underrepresented and that is what we need to change. It is a great opportunity that this year the CSW also focuses on this theme, because then the connections between gender inequalities and the need for integrating gender in our climate solutions is high on the agenda. We need to use this momentum to also make progress as the international community.

**What are your hopes for CSW66?**

That is very closely connected to what I just mentioned. I think there is right now a great momentum for increasing our ambitions for climate action. What we saw at the last climate summit; new ambitions have been agreed on, but also, not enough is being done. Agreements have been made to increase the ambitions in the next year for governments from around the world, so every government in the world needs to strengthen their commitments and strengthen their policies. So that is what is at stake now in the next year. This CSW gives us the chance to push among our governments to make sure that gender equality becomes a part of the solutions we come up with.

**CSW66**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, methods of working for CSW have altered a bit, and no longer fully take place in New York. At the time of writing it is not completely certain how the CSW66 will take place, but it seems a lot of events are, yes, you guessed it, online! Which means that it can be easier to engage as a young person working in another part of the world. Later, this toolkit will go into more detail on how you can strategize for this year’s CSW. For now, here are some important bits you might want to know:

Every year of the CSW has a priority theme (focused on during the two weeks) and a review theme (a theme from a previous CSW that is followed up on). As explained in the introduction, this year’s priority theme is:

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

**International Women’s Day**

March is a busy time for feminists worldwide, as not only do we have the CSW but we also have International Women’s Day on the 8th of March.



International Women’s Day began in 1975  
This year’s hashtag is #BreakTheBias, and people are showing their solidarity against bias, discrimination and stereotypes by sharing images of them placing their arms in a cross under the hashtag.

Source: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/2022Theme>

**Activity: Quiz****1. The Commission on the Status of Women takes place every year in**

- a. January
- b. March
- c. June
- d. November

**2. Which one of these is not part of the CSW?**

- a. Agreed Conclusions
- b. Parallel Events
- c. The People’s Summit
- d. Side Events

**3. This year’s theme for the Commission on the Status of Women is**

- a. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.
- b. Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

- c. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### 4. The Beijing Platform for Action in 1994 was important because..

- a. It made women's right to vote legal everywhere
- b. It was the first time China had hosted an international conference
- c. It was the first international blueprint for achieving women's rights worldwide

#### 5. International women's day is for

- a. Governments
- b. Women only
- c. Everyone!

### Answers

#### 1. The Commission on the Status of Women takes place every year in

- a. January
- b. **March**
- c. June
- d. November

March, usually the second half of the month.



#### 2. Which one of these is not part of the CSW?

- a. Agreed Conclusions
- b. Parallel Events
- c. **The People's Summit**
- d. Side Events

The People's Summit is a parallel event to the UN's annual climate summit hosted/organized by civil society and activists, not part of the CSW! For more information see our [Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth](#)

#### 3. This year's theme for the Commission on the Status of Women is

- a. **Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.**
- b. Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
- c. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year's theme is focused on climate change, environmental policy and disaster risk reduction. Answer b is from 2021 and c is from 2020 – the focus theme changes every year!

#### 4. The Beijing Platform for Action in 1994 was important because..

- a. It made women's right to vote legal everywhere
- b. It was the first time China had hosted an international conference
- c. **It was the first international blueprint for achieving women's rights worldwide**

The Beijing Platform in 1994 laid the groundwork for a lot of feminist advocacy, which many young feminists are continuing today!

#### 5. International women's day is for

- a. Governments
- b. Women only
- c. **Everyone!**

International women's day is about raising awareness and global solidarity among the feminist movement, it is for everyone!

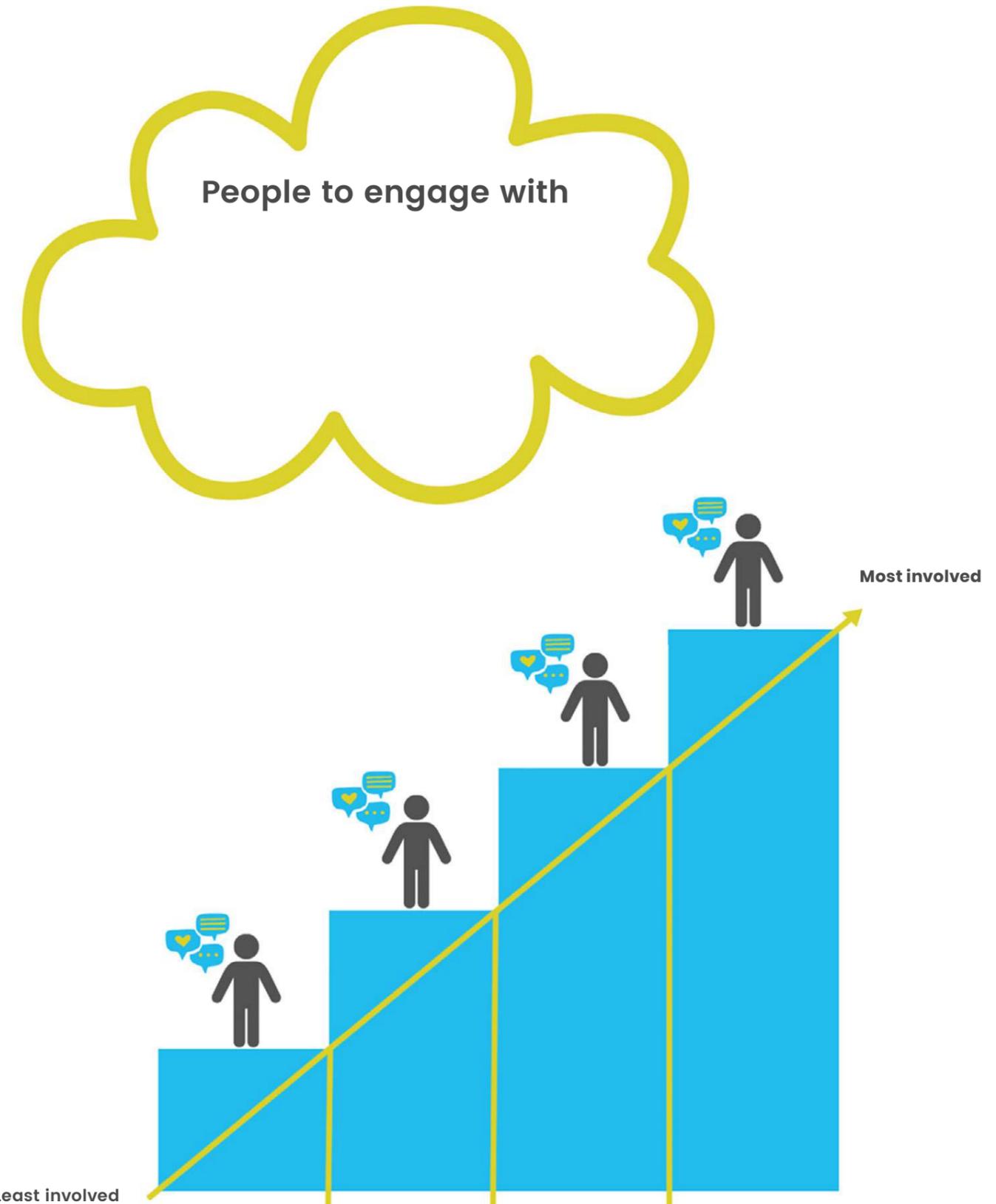
## SECTION THREE: STRATEGY

After some reflection hopefully you have found some key issues that matter to you and that you would want to advocate for, and have a better understanding of how the CSW works. Once you have found your causes or causes, then you can start to develop a strategy to take to the CSW. This will help you plan how you get your cause on the radar of other people, and you can start to turn your thoughts into action! Below are some activities for how you can find other people to join you in advocacy, as well as how to influence decision makers and plan and event.

### Activity: Finding fellow activists

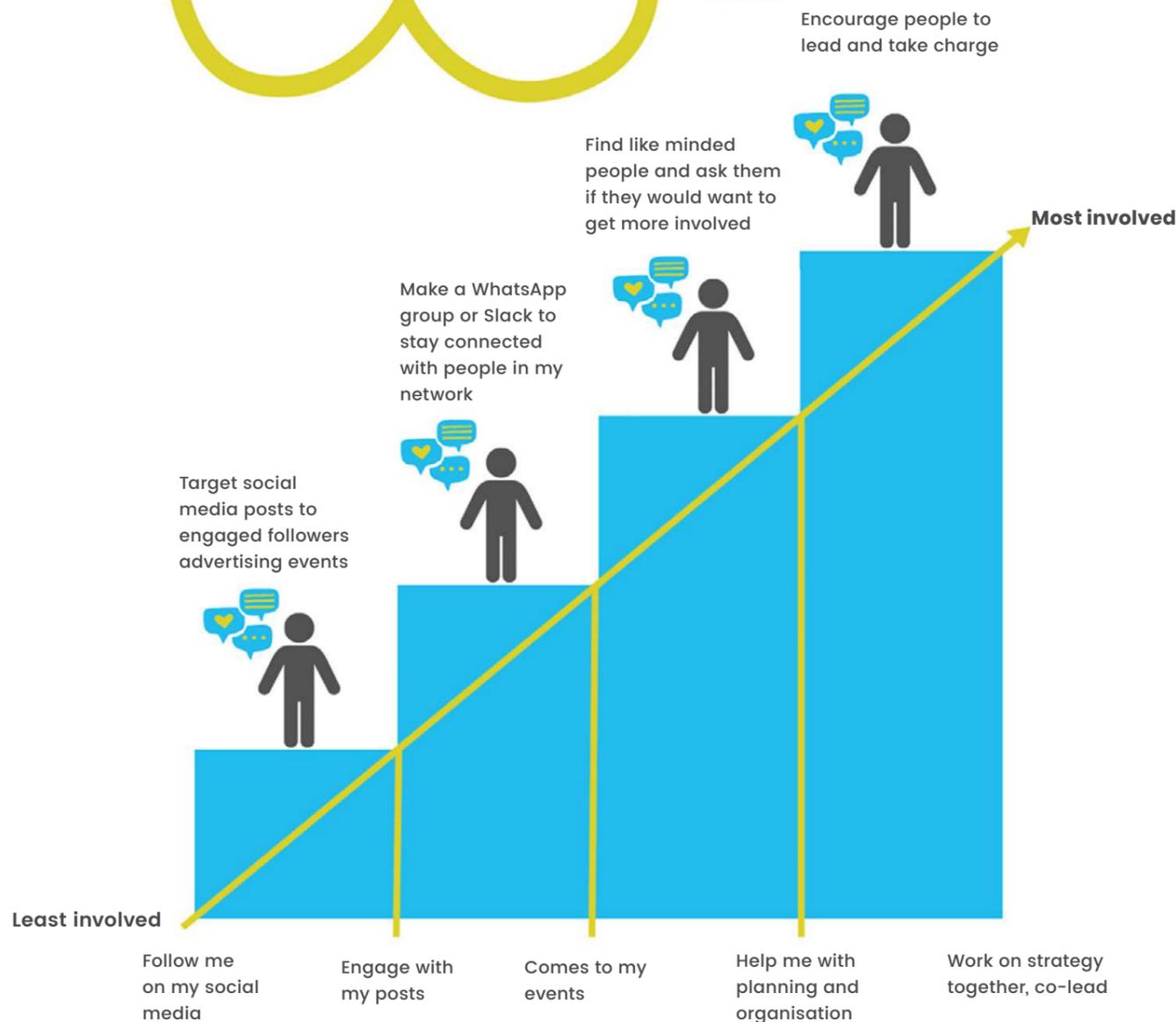
Once you have found a cause you want to advocate for, you can start to find other people to engage with. More tips on this, as well as existing organisations you might want to join can be found in the [Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth](#).

1. Make a list in the bubble of those around you you might want to get involved with. This could be total strangers that you engage with online, people you know only vaguely or maybe some close friends who are already keen to get involved in some activism.
2. Once you have done this, think about the different steps of engagement. For example, those at the top of the steps are people who would want to create and advocate with you, whereas people at the bottom are maybe just those you have engaged with once or twice. For now, it doesn't matter who you have on the steps or how they participate, just that you understand a bit who you can engage with.
3. Once you have filled in the bottom of the steps, you can start to come up with strategies for moving people up them! The closer to the top they are the more engaged they are with your cause.



### People to engage with

- People on my course/at my school
- Colleagues at Work
- Friends who are interested in feminism
- People in my extracurricular social clubs
- My twitter followers



## Activity: Influencing Decision Makers

During international processes such as the CSW, negotiations take place between representatives of Member States (governments), the Bureau of the CSW (UN body), and other stakeholders – such as non-governmental organizations.

To influence the decisions and negotiations, it is important to know who is representing your government. Member-States send in delegations for the negotiations. The delegations consist of diplomats based in your home country at (departments of) Ministries of Women’s Affairs and often also Foreign Affairs, as well as diplomats working from the country’s Permanent Representation in New York. Some Member-States, like the Netherlands, also take on board an NGO-representative to their Delegation. In the Netherlands, the Ministry for Education, Culture and Science (OCW) coordinates Dutch priorities, in collaboration with the Gender Task Force of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is also important to be aware of European Union dynamics. EU Member-States negotiate at the CSW, and other international processes, as a bloc. This means they prepare their joint positions and priorities for the negotiations well in advance. Your government representatives in Brussels negotiate at EU-level months prior to the CSW, often already in November or December, to finalize common priorities. Therefore, if you want to influence decision-makers, you have to prepare in time.

What to keep in mind when influencing the process?

- Prepare your own positions in time. If you have your priorities clear in time, it leaves enough time to influence decision-makers.
- Reach out to other NGOs (or NGO networks) in advance of the CSW. In the Netherlands, an NGO network for the CSW is coordinated by [WO=MEN](#) and [Atria](#) every year. They prepare a common NGO position focused on the year’s priority theme, and have regular meetings with the Dutch Delegation. By working together with many other NGOs, the messages to the Delegation are stronger and more convincing.
- Arrange meetings with your Delegation before and/or during the negotiations. Often this is coordinated by an NGO network, but you can also reach out to Delegations individually. Make sure you present your priorities and asks to the Delegation clearly. Some things to consider:
  - Ask for a personal meeting to introduce yourself and your demands, and hear the priorities for the negotiations from the government.
  - Proposals for language and/or important priorities for the Agreed Conclusions on the thematic focus of the year, with clear argument on the importance
  - A proposal for an official side-event with the Delegation

## Activity: Planning an Event

Most international political gatherings include spaces for participation in the form of events. At the CSW there are “official” side events and “unofficial” parallel events. The first are always organised together with a specific government and the second can be purely led by non governmental organisations. You can join in on both, as governments official side events work with civil society (depending on your government). Unofficial parallel events are easier to organise since you can have full control as your organisation! Since Covid-19 has led to more hybrid formatts, these NGO events have taken place on The [NGOCSW virtual platform](#). At the CSW, governments can hold official side-events at the UN headquarters. Only governments can apply for these, but often they are willing to collaborate with NGOs. You can, with your NGO or a group of NGOs, propose an event to the government. This happens informally, so it is important to already have connections to the Delegation if you want to do this. Make sure you propose something in time, in January before the CSW in the second half of March, so there is enough time to discuss details with the Delegation before they have to hand in their official application.

The deadline for applying for NGOCSW events is often in December/January, and so even if you go down this route and do not need to contact delegations etc, you still want to start organising your event in advance to ensure you have a good concept when you submit the application.

In order to begin planning and applying, you will need to create a concept note. A concept note is how you apply for a slot to hold an event – and it should capture why your event is important as well as its key themes. Below is space for writing your concept note, including tips for all the bits to include!

- **Title:** The name of your event should be snappy and convey what it is your event will focus on.
- **Background:**  
This section should give an overview of
  - **Format:** Many events are now in hybrid format (a mix of online or offline). It is important you clarify which it is you will be using. Online is good as it allows for participants all over the world, and it is free! But the atmosphere of in person events is also harder to recreate online.
  - **Software:** It is good to have some ways to get the audience engaged, such as PollEverywhere, MiroBoard, Slido or Padlet. Remember your audience is the most important part of an event! Nobody wants to sit in a room and listen to someone else talk for hours.
  - **Accessibility:** Simultaneous interpretation, captioning or sign language all improve the accessibility of events. However these services often cost money, if you cannot provide them due to lack of funds it is okay.



- **Agenda:**  
It is good to give an overview of the speakers, as well as what they will be talking about, and the time slot they have to speak. Slots for events often run on a strict time schedule, and it is important that you stick to it as much as possible.
- **Moderator:** A moderator helps manage the flow of the event, and ensure that everyone sticks to their timings, as well as introduce the different speakers.
- **Speakers:** If you have some ideas for people to be speakers but they have not confirmed their attendance, you can write (tbc) by their name. Your speakers should represent a diversity of locations and people where possible.

### Example:

Here is an example of a side event concept note we co-wrote for CSW65! This is a parallel event example so it was hosted on the NGOCSW platform and organised by us. If you were organising a side event, a government would be the key organiser and there would be space for them to showcase their work.

### CSW65 Parallel Event

#### Why we need a feminist vision for Agenda 2030

CSW65's priority theme is women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This CSW65 parallel event will bring feminist leaders from across the world to share the results of their advocacy to expand women's participation in decision-making, as presented in the Global Women2030 Shadow Report.



The Women2030 coalition partners gathered community-based data and published shadow reports that highlight the structural barriers and constraints faced in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate policies. Understanding and removing these barriers is a vital step in achieving women's full and effective participation in public life. Women's full and equal participation in Agenda 2030 is needed if the SDGs are to achieve their aims.

Our event will share good practices from local activists on achieving increased participation of women's and feminist groups in decision-making. One speaker for each region (Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean) will share their lessons learned and dialogue with respondents from different governments and donor organisations.

#### Agenda

**Moderator** : Jeanette Sequeira, Global Forest Coalition

#### Opening

- Women2030, who we are, why we are organising this: **Winnie Lichuma**, Chairperson of the Board, WEP Kenya/Nigeria and former chair of Kenya's Gender Equality Commission
- **Marlene Holzner**, European Commission INTPA, strategic cooperation with civil society

#### Speakers

- APWLD Women 2030 , development justice impact - **Wanun Permpibul, Climate Watch Thailand**
- Changing election laws, climate policies and giving women candidates for elections a stronger media presence - **Priscilla Achapka, President WEP Nigeria** / Laretta George, **Rescue Women Liberia**
- Women's leadership and indigenous communities protecting forests and food sovereignty and claiming space at policy table - **Lucy Mulenkei ICN Kenya** and **Juana Vera Delgado, GFC**
- Feminist advocacy and the changing legislation on gender quotas in Georgia - **Ida Bakhturidze, WECF**

#### Respondents

- Ministry of Environment Nigeria, cooperating with civil society on developing the Gender Action Plan of Nigeria's climate policies
- **tbc**



## CONCLUSION

Activism and advocacy should be fun, and we hope you have had fun doing some of the activities in this toolkit. It can be daunting not knowing where to begin, and we hope that we have given you a space here where you can reflect on what matters to you and how to get involved.

Youth are so often at the forefront of change, and we hope you feel inspired to make some changes to the world around you no matter how big or small. Stopping the climate crisis and smashing the patriarchy go hand in hand, and we must work together to build an intersectional feminist movement for people and planet.

We would love to hear from you and see how your ecofeminist efforts are getting on! Check out our ecofeminist committee, or follow our work at CSW on our Instagram, Twitter or Website.

