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Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth



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Introduction

Recent years have seen a wave of climate protests, as 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 the expression of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations coming to the forefront of political demands. With rising civil disobedience, far right and anti-rights movements, prolonged heat waves and floods as well as, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, now it is more important than ever before that youth from all backgrounds mobilise to change the world for the better. Russia's attack has large scale consequences, not only regarding energy security in Europe, but also for food security worldwide. It has made people in the Western world more aware of the Russian state's repression and colonialism towards its neighbours. Additionally, European reliance on Russia's oil and natural gas reserves mean that they have not been able to properly target Russian oppression.

It is a daunting time, and if you are worried about the future because of the climate crisis, current geopolitics, or if you reflect on your identity and how you relate to the world around you – then this toolkit will support you to turn these feelings into positive action!

Climate change and social inequalities are linked, and this link can be explored through feminism, even if this can seem confusing at first. 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 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 (and caused by) 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 and want - this toolkit will help explain how to do so with tools and information!

Advocacy is the process of an individual or group taking action that aims 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 can 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 you some important tools for mobilising around issues 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 well, 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 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 a social system that accepts the abled white hetero cis 'man' as the default and subject, and anything outside of this category (cis heterosexual women, lesbians, transgender men and women, nonbinary people...) are 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 built 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 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, to create an equal world for all (example taken from Perez, Caroline C. 2019. Invisible Women. London: Penguin Random House).

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 often 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 neo-colonialism below). The primary colonizers at that time were inter alia, the Belgian, British, Danish, Dutch, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese empires. These Western European countries colonized 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 and overexploitation by the colonisers 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.

A blind spot for many people from the Global North is Russian colonialism, to explain the dynamics of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia which were part of the Soviet Union or were under 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.



Climate colonialism: This is an expression used to describe the way in which countries in the Global North who industrialised first, live at the ecological expense of other countries. Colonialism is historically related to climate: colonialists have used climatic variabilities around the world to justify their colonial practices, conceptualising people living in

warmer climates as 'exotic'. Nowadays, the ecological transition, development projects or carbon offsetting have given Western countries and companies the opportunity to relocate their environmental pollution to countries where the laws are more flexible, which disproportionately affects BIPOC folks in both developed and developing countries. Further, many of these solutions involve displacement of indigenous populations from their lands leading to widespread human and land rights abuses.

Neo-colonialism: Neo-colonialism 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 it is unfair that many countries whose development was stunted by colonizers 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 modern society e.g., man-woman, white- non-white, straight-queer, and culture vs nature. Ecofeminism has evolved a lot since its inception, largely due to the work of LGBTQIA+ and Black¹, Indigenous (and) People of Colour (BIPoC) activists who utilize an intersectional conception of ecofeminism.

Intersectionality: The concept can be accredited to Kimberlé Crenshaw (1991), a young Black law professor from the United States who highlighted the invisibility of Black women’s experience in the law, as women could make discrimination claims based on 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 multi-layered discrimination because they are women and because they are people 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, social class, sex, gender identity, (dis)ability, socioeconomic status, religion etc. When discussing intersectionality, it is vital to acknowledge the fact that it was originally created in the United States to explain the dual oppression of sexism and racism and is the result of tireless fighting by Black feminist activists.

¹ This Toolkit uses Black with a capital “B” because it gives more the sense of a shared identity and history. Changing the capitalization helps making the word “Black” a culture rather than purely a skin colour.

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/countries in society and demands justice for these groups.

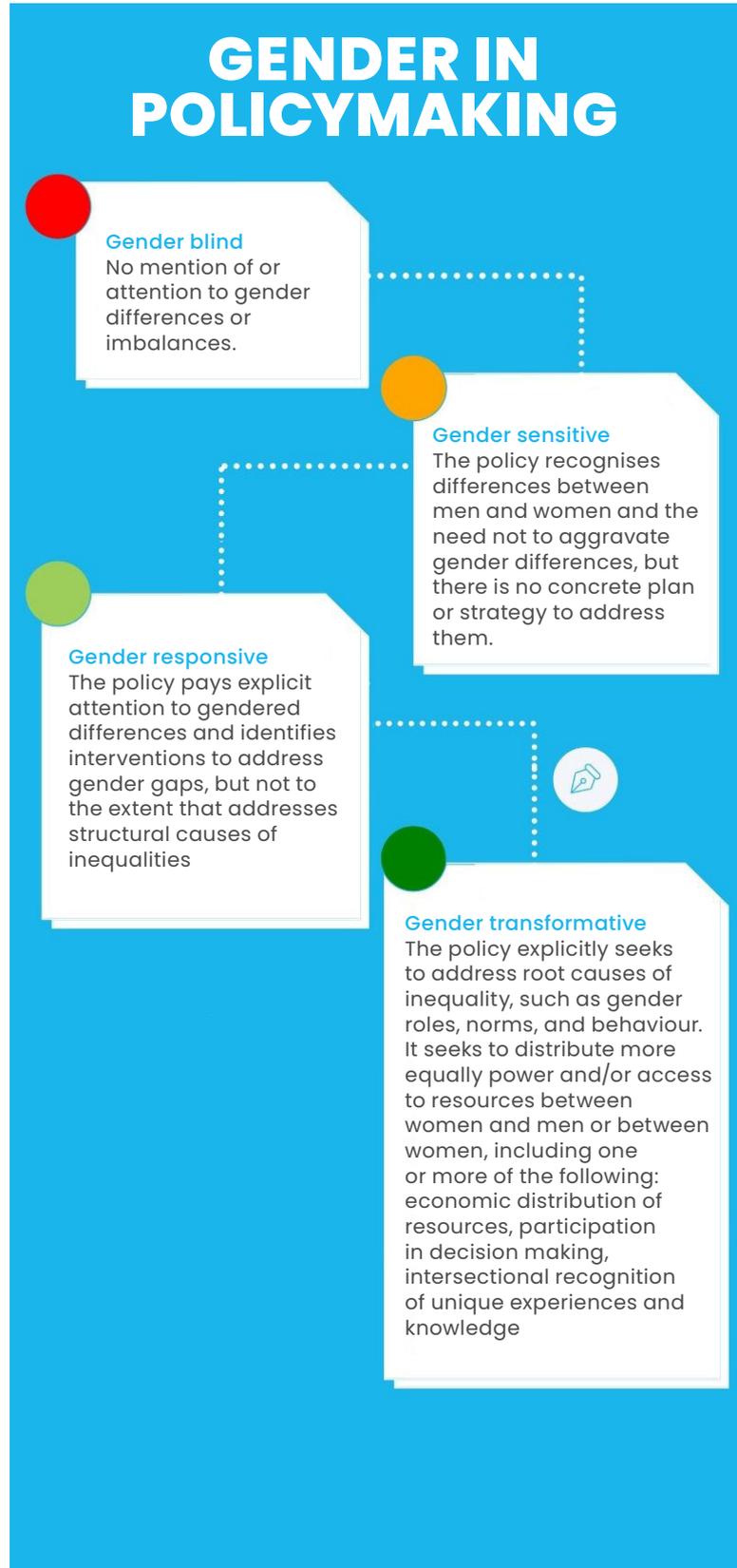
Other useful phrases

These are not as theory heavy as the terminology outlined above but are still useful to know when engaging in activism.

Adaptation: A common term used in environmental policymaking, 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 'official' 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 on men 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/Global : This terminology refers to the power imbalance in global politics. The Global North comprises wealthier countries that were typically colonisers, whereas the Global East 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. It is useful to understand the Global dynamics as it has important implications for gender and climate. 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 and food security are tied to power politics and decolonisation with Russia using nuclear threats and energy & food supplies (stealing Ukrainian grain for example) to influence regional politics.

LGBTQIA+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus is an umbrella term that encompasses groups living out with the dominant sexual orientation (straight) and gender identity (gender assigned at birth, aka cis gender). Also often referred to as rainbow/queer community.

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. For instance, WECF is an NGO!



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 disabilities², 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. For instance, people with disabilities suffer from higher mortality rates when hit by climate change. 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.

² for the purpose of this Toolkit, we will stick with term “people with disabilities”, however this is not necessarily the only way to refer to this category. Some people prefer the adjective before the noun, therefore “disabled person/people” and some even use the word “crip”. Just ask what they use!



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 additional persecution in the aftermath of natural disasters. Racialized communities

Strengthening women environmental defenders through a digital and advocacy network in Latin America: Gender Just Climate Solutions 2021

Many territories in Latin America are deteriorated by extractivism and agrochemical contamination. This affects the right to land as well as access to clean water and natural resources for the local population. Their civic space is also restricted, especially for women. 'Defensoras Ambientales' empowers women environmental rights defenders from indigenous peoples and local groups in Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, with a gender justice perspective. A network of over 1,200 women has been built, and an innovative mobile phone application (PLAC) was launched to inform, connect, protect, and communicate efficiently. A feminist school was established in 2021 to strengthen local and ancestral knowledge, technical and advocacy skills for climate adaptation and mitigation, with the aim to improve the groups' resilience and amplify their demands. The impact of the project goes beyond the local level: the political participation of women environmental leaders is strengthened in international human rights and SDG frameworks. This is ecofeminism!

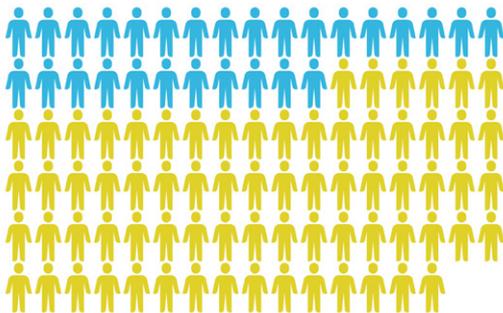
such as [Roma in Eastern Europe](#), or [indigenous Aboriginals](#) in Australia, experience some of the worst effects of climate change due to their status as an ethnic minority as well as their spatial segregation (living in urban, semi-urban ghettos).

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, because 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.

Representation

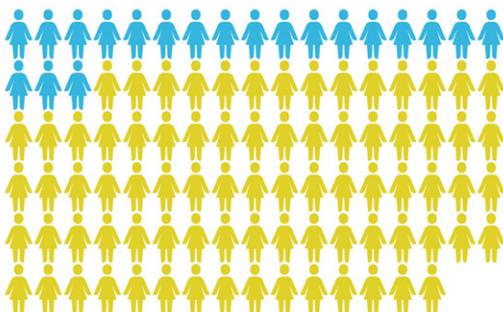
Another key issue of climate justice is representation. Women are underrepresented in decision making and financing decisions related to climate change. Only one third of governments' commitments to fight climate change under the Paris Agreement of 2015 - called Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) - include gender. Women hold only 7% of all environment, natural resources and energy ministerial posts, and only 3% of science and technology (Women and Gender Constituency, see Annex). This lack of representation leads to reproduction of modes of oppression, which hinders any progress towards climate justice.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN DECISION MAKING



ONLY 26,8%

National ministries dealing with environment/ climate change: 26.8% of senior ministers are women ([EU-28 average for 2020](#))



41/196

At COP25 in 2019, 41 of 196 Heads of Delegation (21%) were women.



Section Two:

How can I turn theory into advocacy?

To find fellow activists, you must identify what key issues matter to you, for example: spreading awareness amongst young people on the climate crisis, engaging with your local homeless community on their vulnerability to extreme weather, arguing for more diverse representation in your local decision-making spaces, etc. You need to be clear and precise about what you want to advocate for. When you brainstorm the topic, you want to work on, try to also research its causes and its relevance and importance. 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 always respectful. 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 honest about where you are coming from and your position in society.
- **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. Do you want to know if you have "White Privilege"? Although this test was created from a USA point of view, taking this test helps you to understand power relations better.
- **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



"Example of Green Community Energy project by our partner ARUWE in Uganda"

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. Also, think about existing organizations that could become your allies.
- 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/environmentalist book group with your friends. You can also create a Telegram ecofeminist group to network with other people interested in your cause and share what is happening with each other!
- Group together and create a magazine/paper for your local area which covers key ecofeminist issues.



- Organize a litter pick in your local area and get chatting to fellow environmentalists/feminists.
- 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? What injustices are happening in your country?
- 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 or your own social media page, 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:

Examples of existing organisations in Europe engaged in feminist active climate work

Not all 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

WECF is an international ecofeminist organisation based in Europe. They work on three key areas: sustainable development, climate and environmental action and a non-toxic society, always from a feminist perspective. Their activities are aimed at capacity

building, influencing policy, and raising awareness, to strengthen the position of women and girls in all their diversity worldwide. Check out their [Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists Activity Kit](#) for further tips on getting involved in advocacy. Their [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 several campaigns such as [Period Poverty in Europe](#). This is an excellent example of an issue that links feminism and the environmental products. 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.



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.

Generation Climate Europe (GCE)

GCE is the largest coalition of youth-led networks on climate and environmental issues at the European level. They work at the intersection of climate and human rights with 381 National Organizations across 46 European countries. They have several volunteer positions every now and then on different environmental topics. GCE also organises capacity-building events and workshops for young professionals to become the new European climate leaders. Keep an eye on their [LinkedIn](#) to learn more!

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 190 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1.500 NGOs and more than 47million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe. It has a number of youth member organisations and increasingly engages with youth and mobilisers including via capacity building sessions and webinars.



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 and European level

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.

In the European Union climate, gender, energy and development policy is decided by the European Commission, European Council and European Parliament. However when it comes to the UNFCCC negotiations, decision-making is made by the European Commission and European Council which is made up of the EU Member States. The

European political group	Relevant Working Groups
European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	Economy, Jobs & the Environment Budget, Agriculture and Regional Funding Foreign Affairs
Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (PES)	Development Women's Rights and Gender Equality Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety Agriculture and Rural Development Industry, Research and Energy Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home affairs
Renew Europe Group	Green Deal working group Eastern Partnerships
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	Green movement in the Balkan region Mediterranean green network Gender network
Identity and Democracy Group	None
European Conservatives and Reformists Group	Reducing Plastic Waste Family and Life (<i>strengthening heterosexual family</i>) Migration Protecting the environment at a cost we can afford
The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL	Economic Justice Environment Feminism

European Commission and Council make up the EU delegation to the UNFCCC. Each year they agree their position ahead of COP, with Ministers publically adopting Council Conclusions . The most relevant Council meetings are by Finance Ministers and Environment/Climate Ministers . Although it does not have negotiating powers the European Parliament adopts a Resolution each year ahead of the COP, sends its own delegation, and can have an influence on the Commission and Council.

The Members of the European Parliament sit in political groups – they are not organised by nationality, but by political affiliation. There are currently 7 political groups in the European Parliament, although some members of the European Parliament do not belong to a political group and are non-attached.

When it comes to the UNFCCC negotiations, decision-making is largely undertaken by the European Commission and European Council, who make up the EU delegation to the UNFCCC. Each year they agree their position ahead of COP, with Ministers publically adopting Council Conclusions. The most relevant Council meetings are by Finance Ministers and Environment/Climate Ministers. Although it does not have negotiating powers the European Parliament adopts a Resolution each year ahead of the COP, sends its own delegation, and can have an influence on the Commission and Council.

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 of the European People's Party](#)
- [European Liberal Youth](#)
- [Young Democrats for Europe](#)
- [European Christian Political Youth](#)
- [European Free Alliance Youth](#)

Global

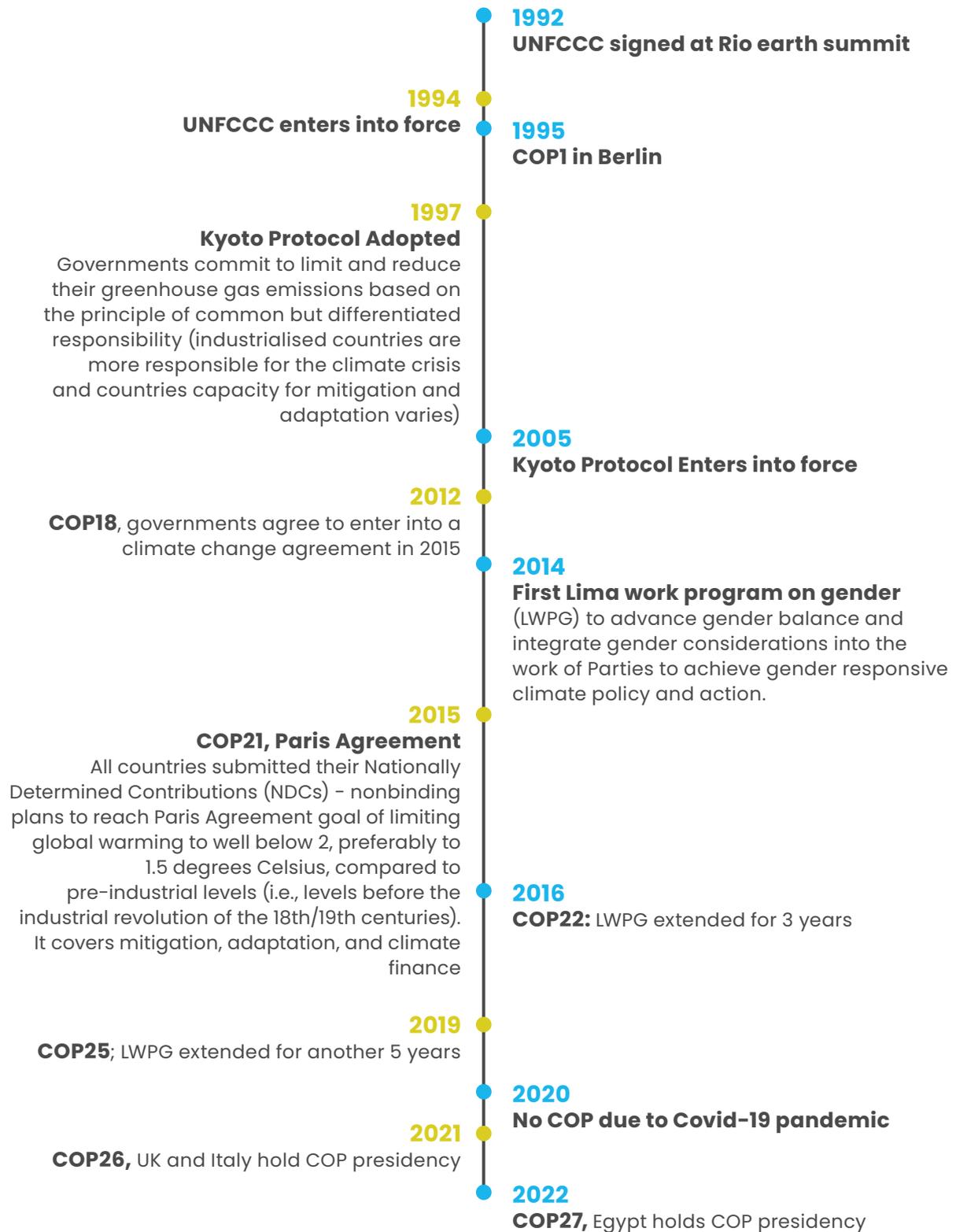
As climate change is a global problem which requires a global solution, international processes that encompass all regions are being increasingly used to make decisions around climate change mitigation and adaptation.



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

TIMELINE



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 COP27 held in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 8-16 November 2022.

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
- ENGO: Environmental NGOs
- Farmers: Farmers and agricultural NGOs
- IPO: Indigenous people's 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, 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 COP27.
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](#)

COP27

Each COP is prefaced by a preparatory meeting held a month before, called Pre-Cop. This year's pre-cop the [virtual meeting](#) took place from September 19-24. This year there was also a [Youth4Climate meeting](#) in New York, to elaborate concrete proposals on topics that affect the negotiation process of COP27. And in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the [Global Youth Adaptation Summit](#) took place September 3-4, bringing together young people and global leaders to accelerate adaptation action and ensure youth's perspectives and solutions are promoted to deliver on the Glasgow Climate Pact.. Even if you are not in attendance at these youth summits, it is important to pay attention to the processes here



as this will help inform how you prepare and engage with the COP.

[COP27](#) will take place during 6–18 November 2022 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. 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 public to have their voices heard through events, exhibitions, workshops, and talks.

COP27 is the first climate summit on the African continent since 2016, and African civil society voices should be central to the negotiations. However, the Egyptian human rights movement, supported civil society across the globe, have expressed their concerns about meaningful civil society participation at this year's COP. The Egyptian government is restricting rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, and prosecutes civil society activists and organizations. In a petition they call for this to end, but it is still unsure what civil society participation will look like in Sharm-El-Sheikh.

The Covid-19 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 COP27. Online engagement and hybrid forms allow for more inclusivity, [see this petition](#) – although whether this will be utilised at COP27 remains to be seen.

COP27 has four main goals as formulated by the Egyptian presidency:

1. Mitigation

We must unite to limit global warming to well below 2c and work hard to keep the 1.5 c target alive. This requires bold and immediate actions and raising ambition from all parties in particular those who are in a position to do so and those who can and do lead by example. COP27 will be a moment for countries to fulfil their pledges and commitments towards delivering the objectives of the Paris Agreement to enhance the implementation of the Convention. This year should witness the implementation of the Glasgow pact call to review ambition in NDCs, and create a work program for ambition on mitigation.

2. Adaptation

Extreme weather events from heatwaves, floods, forest fires have become an everyday reality of our lives. World leaders, governments and state parties to the convention have reiterated their commitment at COP26 for enhanced global action on Adaptation in the COP26. The Global Goal on Adaptation was one of the significant outcomes of COP26. We must ensure that COP27 makes the crucially needed progress and urge all parties to demonstrate the necessary political will if we are to capture and assess our progress towards enhancing resilience and assist the most vulnerable communities. Beyond the global goal on Adaptation, COP27 should witness enhanced global agenda for action on adaptation, confirming what we agreed on in Paris and further elaborated in Glasgow pact with regard to placing adaptation at the forefront of global action.

3. Mobilise finance

In COP27 it is essential that we make significant progress on the crucial issue of climate finance while moving forward on all finance related items on the agenda. The importance of adequacy and predictability of climate finance is key to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, to this end there is a need for enhanced transparency of finance flows and facilitated access to meet the needs of developing countries specially Africa, LDCs, and SIDS.

Existing commitments and pledges, announced from Copenhagen and Cancun, through Paris and all the way to Glasgow, require follow up in order to provide clarity as to where we are and what more needs to be done. Progress on delivery of the annual USD 100 billion will build more trust between developed and developing countries, showing that actual commitments are being fulfilled.

4. Collaboration

Enhancing and facilitating agreement in the negotiations is of the utmost importance for the Presidency of COP27 to achieve tangible results in a balanced manner. The advancement of partnership and collaboration will help deliver our four goals and ensure the world is adopting more a resilient, and sustainable economic model where humans are at the centre of climate talks. The UN negotiations are consensus-based, and reaching agreement will require inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders. We are working tirelessly to ensure adequate representation and participation from all relevant stakeholder in COP27, especially vulnerable communities and representatives from countries in the African region whom are increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change.

We need to turn the Glasgow outcome into action, and commence with its implementation. Ensuring humans are at the centre of climate talks is imperative. Governments, the private sector and civil society need to work, in tandem, to transform the way in which we interact with our planet. We must introduce new solutions and innovations that help alleviate the adverse impacts of climate change. We also need to replicate and rapidly upscale all other climate-friendly solutions towards implementation in developing countries.

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. And keep up to date by following the work of the [Women and Gender Constituency](#) before, after and during the 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:** COP27 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, policy makers, 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 COP27. 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, if 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 the resources cited are publicly available online, with the exception of the following texts:

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

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

Annex: Additional Sources

For more work on intersectionality and climate justice 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
- Gender and Climate Justice - Document produced as part of Oxfam's work on Gender and Climate Justice in Latin America. Text by Alexandra Vásquez Fárez.

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](#)

For more Youth-led Advocacy tips have a look at:

- [Youth-led Advocacy resource hub by CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality](#)

Social media accounts to follow:

[@Intersectionalenvironmentalist](#)
[@earthrisestudio](#)
[@wecf_international](#)
[@wedo_worldwide](#)
[@oxfam_international](#)

