

Feminist foreign policy: A new approach for a new era

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Timeline of Feminist Foreign Policies



2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

#nopeacewithoutfeminism

'Weak signals' in the context of a new era



Literature review: Sweden

Gender equality as a **central goal** of foreign policy +

Three R's:

Rights: promoting all women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights,

Representation: promoting women's participation and influence in decision making at all levels

Resources: working to ensure that resources are allocated to promote gender equality and equal opportunities.



“Sweden’s feminist foreign policy is a transformative agenda that aims to change structures and enhance the visibility of women and girls as actors.” – Sweden’s Feminist Foreign Policy Handbook

Literature review continued: Canada

Gender equality at the heart of the vision +

Twin track approach

Percentage targets



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We are positioning Canada at the forefront of this global effort. This is a matter of basic justice and also basic economics. We know that empowering women, overseas and here at home, makes families and countries more prosperous. --**The Honourable Chrystia Freeland**
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Literature review continued: civil society

Center for Feminist Foreign Policy:

A Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) is a framework which elevates the everyday lived experience of marginalized communities to the forefront and provides a broader and deeper analysis of global issues.

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

Feminist Foreign Policy is the policy of a state that defines its interactions with other states and movements in a manner that prioritizes gender equality and enshrines the human rights of women and other traditionally marginalized groups, allocates significant resources to achieve that vision, and seeks through its implementation to disrupt patriarchal and male-dominated power structures across all of its levers of influence (aid, trade, defense and diplomacy), informed by the voices of feminist activists, groups and movements.”

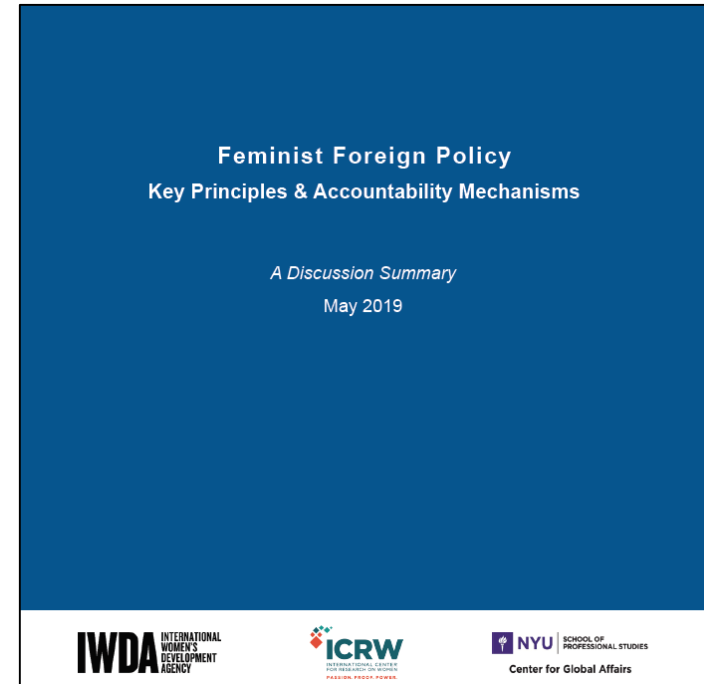
Action research: methodology

Research question: What do women in the global south see as the key principles and accountability mechanisms of feminist foreign policy?

Methodology: A participatory workshop; 40 women; 19 countries exploring the principles and accountability mechanisms for feminist foreign policy

Partners:

- International Women's Development Agency (Alice Ridge, Caroline Lambert and Joanne Crawford)
- International Center for Research on Women (Rachel Clement, Lyric Thompson and Sarah Gammage)
- Center for Global Affairs, New York University (Anne Marie Goetz)



Research Findings

Principles:

1. Rights based
2. Reinforce the State as the ultimate duty-bearer
3. Transform the status quo
4. Inclusive, intersectional, and power disrupting
5. Comprehensive and coherent
6. Promote non-violence and demilitarisation
7. Self-scrutiny and accountability

Accountability mechanisms:

1. **Resources:** human, financial, legal
2. **Planning and Reporting:** inclusive and public
3. **Transparent misalignment:** accounting for incoherence

So, how weak are the signals?

Five Principles

1. Conducting all aspects of foreign policy with the intent to advance gender equality and a feminist agenda;
2. Achieving gender parity at all levels of staff in the foreign ministry;
3. Combatting all forms of gender-based violence, including within the ministry;
4. Making equality visible; and
5. Practicing intersectional feminism, which is to say, an approach that values not only women's rights but also other intersecting social, economic, and environmental justice issues.



“Mexico is determined to move forward a progressive foreign policy, with a main focus on promoting human rights, equality, and women’s rights.”

*Cristopher Ballinas Valdés,
Director-General for
human rights and
democracy, Mexican
foreign ministry*

Policy Opportunities for Australia

1. Use the unique opportunity of a single individual holding the ministerial portfolios of Women and Foreign Affairs
2. Aid Policy Review
3. Establish our clear point of difference