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Members Update, issue 11

Welcome! Do you have any suggestions of what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org

WIDE+ call to members to join in developing our plan of action 2020 to hold European policy makers to account during COVID phase

WIDE+ is calling on its members for the rest of 2020 to **co-develop our agenda in monitoring the measures our governments are taking to cope with COVID-19**. We want to promote a global feminist alternative for European policy makers.

WIDE+ would like to invite you to join **our Caucus meeting on Wednesday 3 June at 4 PM**, to reflect on below questions, or alternatively to answer these questions another time.

During the caucus meeting, we plan a presentation of answers and collective discussion for 1 hour up to 1,5 hours max, which we hope will give more concrete conclusions on what members expect from WIDE+ collective in the coming half year.

If you cannot join the caucus meeting, we appreciate to hear from you. Gea will be happy to have a brief call with you or you can answer the below questions in an email. All feedback will strengthen our collective decision making.

QUESTIONS FOR WIDE+ AGENDA POST-COVID

- 1. How has the COVID and its measures impacted your work? Are you taking up new issues?**

2. What do you see as necessary feminist issues we should work on together to influence the European agenda for the coming half year?

3. In what forms of European collaboration would you be interested?

Below you will find a summary of reflections among members so far on our agenda in COVID times.

Summary of WIDE+ reflection on COVID Pandemia and measures: developing our feminist approach

COVID-19 is exacerbating existing inequalities that are gendered and intersected. Women deliver most of the unpaid and paid care work, but European governments are not addressing these additional care burdens in their measures to cope with the virus. And intersected policies that address those women hit hardest, such as migrant women, are lacking. COVID-19 is also reducing public spaces for feminists to take collective action and encouraging the creation of new spaces. And some states in Europe are moving further to authoritarian capitalism.

This overview provides a summary of discussions we had previously in caucus, board and among members, which can serve as a basis to further reflect on,

- Covid-19 makes visible fundamental flaws in how we treat care. As feminists we are promoting a **care economy**, which demands placing care from the periphery of the economy to the center. This starts with analyzing current COVID-measures and their impact such as how gender divisions around paid and unpaid care work are being affected. This calls also for questions around migration and care chains being interrupted by measures to contain the pandemic.
 - Analysis of EU and European states' **bail out programmes**, for example: what do these bailouts mean for women in low-wage, part-time, flexible, or precarious work?
 - Reflections on **care in the context of EU's new Green Deal**.
- A socio-economic monitoring of COVID-measures and the business as usual approach taken in some policy domains could uncover the impact of European policies and positions on women and marginalized groups in the global South:
 - **European Development policies**: in collaboration with others reflecting on EU's GAP (Gender Equality in External Action Plan) policy (for EU and

member states) and/or the Sustainable Development Goals implemented by European governments, or:

- Raising awareness on the huge economic impact through **global value chains, and formulating alternatives.**
- The EU Commission is defending its neo-liberal **trade** approach through ongoing negotiations, while some states and spaces are contested. Relevant negotiations with the EU are **post-Cotonou and Mercosur**, and COVID again highlights the role of **intellectual property** (big pharma) and **privatization of public goods and services.**
- Crosscutting in many ways is the topic of **digitalization** (affecting education, issues around privacy/control through tracing apps etc.).
- COVID-19 and its measures on the situations of **migrant women** (increase risk of violence, isolation, precariousness, etc.). In particular advocating and analyzing:
 - **resourcing and financial support** for (migrant) women's organizations and migrant women.
- Specific domains could be analyzed such as the **health sector**, or impacts on **education**. There could also be a strand monitoring the impact on the **rollback on women's rights and shrinking spaces/democracy**, and alternative forms of organizing: e.g.: how can women's organisations further strengthen transnational and trans-sectoral collaboration to push back against the encroachment on women's rights in a post-pandemic world?

Proposed Activities

During this COVID-phase WIDE+ is working online through its working groups and with webinars. It could elaborate on these working methods, for example through preparing briefing and papers through working groups (supported by experts). It could add to these methods by offering online trainings or a buddy system. It could also organize its proposed Feminist Forum online.

CSW North American-Europe Caucus meeting on Friday 29 May, with Lopa Banajee, Director Civil Society Division, UN Women

WIDE+ member in Denmark. network KULU Women and Development is inviting other

WIDE+ members to share strategic feedback with KULU for this meeting.

The meeting will focus on CSW 65, Generation Equality, the situation regarding taking the Mexico and Paris initiatives forward, the B+25 event at UNGA. After putting the CSW64 on hold, the REALLY UNFINISHED BUSINESS of Beijing+25 is an important area of work for KULU.

Suggestions and questions about this meeting and KULU's project can be directed to Mette Høst Mikkelsen, Communication Officer: [Kommunikation\[at\]kulu.dk](mailto:Kommunikation[at]kulu.dk)



The Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC), The Independent Commission for Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), Oxfam and Public Services International (PSI) are pleased to invite you to a virtual event:

Health *versus* Wealth? Tax and Transparency in the Age of COVID-19, Thursday 28 May 2020, 13.00 - 15.30 (CUT)

[To register or find further information.](#)

This webinar is part of *Citizens for Financial Justice* project of which WIDE+ member KULU Women and Development is indirectly part of through the Gender and Tax Working Group.

Speakers:

- **Jayati Ghosh** ICRICT, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- **Rosa Pavenelli** General Secretary - Public Services International-PSI
- **Logan Wort** African Tax Administration Forum
- **Rajat Bansal** Government of India appointee to UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (invited)
- **Allison Christians** McGill University (invited)
- **Alex Cobham** Tax Justice Network

- **Emmanuel Saez** Center for Equitable Growth, Berkeley University (invited)
- **Samuel V. Makwe** Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations (invited)



Listen back to webinar "Feminist realities: Transforming democracy in times of crisis"

*This webinar is co-organised by **Transnational Institute** and **AWID**, and co-sponsored by **Focus on the Global South**, **AIDC** and **DAWN** and took place on 27 May.*

<https://www.tni.org/en/article/feminist-realities-webinar-recording>

Panellists:

- **Tithi Bhattacharya**, Associate Professor of History and the Director of Global Studies at Purdue University and co-author of the manifesto *Feminism for the 99%*.
- **Laura Roth**, Lecturer of legal and political philosophy at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, member of Minim Municipalist Observatory and co-author of the practice-oriented report *Feminise Politics Now!*

- **Awino Okech**, Lecturer at the Centre for Gender Studies at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London who brings over twelve years of social justice transformation work in Eastern Africa, the Great Lakes region, and South Africa to her teaching, research and movement support work.
- **Khara Jabola-Carolus**, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, co-founder of AF3IRM Hawaii (the Association of Feminists Fighting Fascism, Imperialism, Re-feudalization, and Marginalization) and author of Hawaii's Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19.
- **Felogene Anumo**, Building Feminist Economies, AWID presenting the #feministbailout campaign

Moderated by Lavinia Steinfort, Transnational Institute



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