Members Update, issue 15

In this update we will share current resources around the pandemic and needed feminist change, as well as updates and calls from WIDE+ and members. If you have news or information to share, kindly write to Gea.Meijers23@gmail.com.

Join zoom meeting planning webinars "Feminist recoveries from COVID19", Monday 21 September, 13.30 CET

Members and volunteers are invited to join our movement building working group to plan a series of webinars to raise awareness and create more knowledge on feminist recovery packages in the context of the pandemic. Feminist alternatives have been created to overcome the systemic inequalities underlying the current crisis, given that economic recovery packages proposed by governments fall short in including women equally and adequately.

**When:** 21 September 13.30-14.30 CET  
**Where:** Zoom  
**Whom:** WIDE+feminist movement building WG + other volunteers and members  
**Register:** kindly write to Gea.Meijers23@gmail.com
Read and Disseminate WIDE+ and Action Aid’s contribution to the EU Trade Strategy Review

WIDE+ and Action Aid have worked together to propose a strong feminist reply to the EU Trade Strategy Review that is opened by the EU to collect opinions for its new 5 year trade policy, reflecting on the experiences of trade with COVID19. Below are its key messages. Recommendations for a feminist perspective on digital trade will follow.

It will be possible to provide input up to 15 November and we hope member states will also include recommendations that promote women's rights in their replies to the consultation. We encourage members to reach out to their member states with recommendations.

Key Messages
We believe Europe needs to engage in a deep review of its trade and investment policy in order to fully engage in the just and green transition announced by the Green Deal and to contribute to EU’s gender equality strategy. We plead that the time has come not just for slight adjustments to trade and investment liberalisation, but for DG Trade to pursue a different mandate, i.e. a trade policy that fully respects international standards and countries governments’ regulatory space to redistribute wealth,
respect human rights and protect our planet.

Our submission therefore looks at the changes that are needed not only to protect well-being and the environment in Europe, but also in partner countries. This notably requires to (1) **Stop promoting trade and investment measures and rules that limit the policy options of partner countries to adapt to their changing circumstances**; and (2) **Enable shorter, more diversified and more responsible value chains, in Europe as in partner countries**.

In terms of EU’s gender equality approach in trade, we note that a **focus on women’s entrepreneurs is far from sufficient to address the massive impacts of trade and investment agreements on women’s rights**.

Read our contribution in full
Photo by Gyan Shahane on Unsplash

**Austrian Feminist Stimulus Package**

WIDE Austria together with many others are proposing a Feminist Stimulus Package towards the Austrian government that asks for:
A childcare & education package worth 5 billion euros
A care package worth 4 billion euros
A solidarity & lifesaving package worth 3 billion euros

The initiative is led by the Austrian group Femme Fiscale, with feminist economist Elisabeth Klatzer, and includes a [petition to sign on](#) (in German only).

**New Resources from WIDE+ member GADN UK**

Gadnetwork UK has published in the last months several very relevant resources and statements:

- In the wake of the recent Black Lives Matter protests, GADN’s Women of Colour Forum wrote a collective statement and recommendations on **addressing systemic racism and White supremacy in the UK international aid sector**. Please [follow this link](#) to read the statement.
A new publication **The Audacity to Disrupt: An introduction to feminist macro-level economics**. This resource pack forms part of FEMNET's annual African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA). In the context of COVID, this resource pack seeks to provide an introduction to a feminist analysis of macro-level economics alongside key issues, concepts and trends as well as how our economies can be shaped to work for everyone, especially women.

The 5 page paper **Wanted: a Feminist Lens on Climate Action**.

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**Webinar Available Online:** "**Mobilising for Feminist Trade Justice within the United Nations.**"

This webinar was held on on 21 July 2020, organized by IWRAW Asia Pacific as part the Gender and Trade Coalition's ongoing webinar series on trade justice in the time of Covid-19. WIDE+ is part of the steering gurp of the GTC (Gender and Trade Coalition).

It explores how the United Nations (UN) human rights system and other UN spaces can be used as a strategic tool by feminists and civil society to demand trade justice and support diverse advocacy actions - including in these times of mostly virtual gatherings.

Speakers discussed UNCTAD, special procedures, treaty bodies, and the coalition of Feminists for a Binding Treaty relating to the ongoing negotiations for a legally binding
instrument to regulate transnational corporations.

Background Materials to the webinar

- Alejandra Scampini and Fernand Hopenhaym, PODER, *Corporate Abuse is a Feminist Issue* (2019)

Feminist mini guid on digital security: how to choose Safe Messaging Applications in your communication in your personal life as well as your activism. In English and Spanish.

The "Istanbul Convention is Ours" animation shows us how the lives of the three women in our story taking place in Turkey would have changed, if the Istanbul Convention was effectively implemented. The video has subtitles, you can turn on the subtitle options.

The Intersections of Women’s Economic & Reproductive Empowerment

This article concludes among others that simplistic discourse in development policy about educating girls and getting women into the labor force will not translate into goals being met unless attention is paid to women’s reproductive health and rights.
Webinar available online: "#nextGenerationEU - Are women left out of the EU’s economic stimulus package?"

Webinar available online: "Taxation for Redistributive justice: Solutions for Women, the People, and the Planet"

Webinar available online: "Now is the time to act on debt from a feminist perspective", reflecting on current policies of International Financial Institutes.
Article published by PSI and Action Aid Australia published on the potential impact of the RCEP on women in Asia Pacific.
The RCEP is the largest planned Free Trade Agreement, including countries as Australia, China and South East Asian Countries.

Some of expected impacts:

- Public services that women rely on harmed
- Regulations necessary for gender equality reduced
- Corporations given more power
- Women’s working conditions harmed

Webinar online available: "What should FEMINISTS know about WTO amidst Covid-19?"

As well as available: “Care and Labor Rights: Challenges from the Capitalist Pandemic”
DAWN & WWGFG

Available analysis from ActionAid and PSI about the IMF advising low income countries to freeze public sector wages in countries facing health worker shortages.

Key findings include:

Of the 57 countries last identified by the WHO as facing critical health worker shortages, 24 received advice from the IMF to cut or freeze public sector wages.

For more in-depth look at this, see ActionAid’s report: Who Cares for the future: finance gender-responsive public services now! (p.65-7).