Dear members, in this update we share with you the reports, candidacy forms and proposals that will be discussed and voted upon during the WIDE+ General Assembly (GA) and other relevant news. Email us at: g.ea.meijers23@gmail.com

WIDE+ General Assembly: Thursday 15 October, 18.00 CEST: all documents available

When: 18.00-20.30 CET
Location: Zoom (upon registration)
Whom: members and observers
Register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K-0qsjWRTmGJ9O1vgo88nA

You can find all documents are here: https://wideplus.org/log-in/wide-board/general-assembly-2020/, password: feminist warrior

Attending the GA and Proxy Vote

For those members that can join, we kindly invite you to register in advance through the zoom link. After registering, you will automatically receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

We also would like to encourage member to pass on their vote if they cannot attend. Member associations are represented with two votes at our GA and individual members with one vote.

Each member may be represented by another member acting through a proxy. A member or representative of a member association may carry a maximum of two proxy
votes in addition to his/her own vote(s).

Proxy vote(s) can be passed to other members by writing an email before the General Assembly to info@wide-network.org. You can indicate another member to whom you allocate the proxy or suggest that the GA committee arranges this.

Proposal to come to a strong board to sustain WIDE+:
Statutes Changes to set up Deputy System in Board

There is one proposal on the agenda that asks for changes to the statutes. The board proposes to introduce a system of deputy members to the board, in order to strengthen the functioning of the body.

Realizing WIDE+ common goals needs a strong board. The current number of active board members (3-4) lead to a fragile body which disables the WIDE+ and puts a lot of responsibility on a very few members.

The current board members want at minimum 7 people in the board to ensure there is a minimum of 5 members in a board meeting. To realize this we propose to set up a deputy system, inspired by the effective experience of WIDE+ Nordic members.

We propose the **creation of a pool of deputies within the board for the duration of the board tenure** (so people would sign up for one or two years). Deputy members will receive all the information and can join all the board meetings. However they vote only when a board member is absent, in order to replace the board members.
1) What changes will this imply?

No changes to role board members
Board members are expected to try to be present in the 6 board meetings per year, but we as women face unexpected circumstances that prevent us from taking part at times.

Changes to functioning board: minimum number of members present at board meeting
Right now if a board member cannot join the meeting of the body, the board is with less people that the minimum outlined in our statutes for the board: 5 members. The board needs the presence of at minimum 5 members to make collective decisions.

To read the proposal in full:

EUROPEAN SAFE ABORTION NETWORKING GROUP

Collective statement: "Ensuring Access to Safe Abortion in Europe", signed by WIDE+ and 65 other NGOs

WIDE+ undersigned this important statement release by the the International Campaign for Safe Abortion on 28 September, which marks Happy International Safe Abortion Day, calling for improvements in the access to safe abortion during COVID-19.
Access to abortion has been challenged further in several European countries during the pandemic. In Poland, Lithuania and Malta, for example, the pandemic has exposed the perversity of restrictive abortion laws. In some cases, the pandemic has become an excuse for unwilling doctors not to provide abortions at all, e.g. by describing abortion as “non-essential”, “non-emergency” or “routine” care.

In contrast, the Scandinavian countries, Belgium, Netherlands and Portugal have ensured continuing access to safe abortion services, undisrupted by the pandemic. Some countries went even further. To reduce the risks related to in-person care, Ireland first, then Britain and France introduced regulations enabling the use of telemedicine for arranging and following up self-managed abortion at home for first trimester medical abortions – but only for the duration of the pandemic.

Read the statement in full.

Online Consultation Session and Strategy Workshop, 2 PM CEST, 15 October, organized by KULU and others

WIDE+ member KULU Women and Development are organizing a final online session to reflect on their past activities and review future strategies engaging in the Financing for Development (FfD) agenda through a gender equality lens. It will also offer a chance to learn about some of the tools and strategies used in this projects to advocate for financing gender equality, including strategies partner networks use to mobilize and campaign.

In preparation to the consultation KULU has prepared an online survey to help the network in planning an interactive session to identify strategies for mobilizing and campaigning: Survey (3 minutes) - click here.
CSPF: Building a Feminist Recovery for All: Gender Transformative Policies are More Urgent than Ever, 15:45 - 17:30 CEST 1 October (today)

As the world prepares to build back better post-COVID-19, IFIs must play their part in ensuring a gender transformative approach to macroeconomic policies, that accounts for women’s disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, in order to close the gender gap for good.

ActionAid UK, ActionAid, Fight Inequality Alliance, IWRAW Asia Pacific, BWP, Kvinna till Kvinna, Gender Action and Oxfam are organizing a webinar today during the WorldBank's Civil Society Policy Forum. Anyone can watch and listen by clicking on the livestream link below, but questions can only be posed if you have registered for the Forum. Flyer attached and details copied below:

Join here (if you have registered for the CSPF): https://imf.webex.com/imf/j.php?mtid=me5a9a0539f5377bf89819674e0a89318
Watch live here (if you have not registered): https://www.imf.org/cso

Recent Report on "Women Political Leaders: The Impact of Gender on Democracy"

This report, Women Political Leaders: The Impact of Gender on Democracy, is a partnership between the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the Global Institute for Women’s Leadership. It reviews over 500 pieces of research conducted over the last twenty years on the impact of women’s political leadership. A few highlights of the report findings include, among others:

- Women political leaders are reshaping the nature of politics and international relations in a manner that is bringing in issues and problems previously perceived as ‘non-priorities,’ such as gender-based violence and reproductive health.
- Increased representation of women in elected office plays an important role in counteracting corruption and focusing resources on the quality and consistency of governance.
States where women hold more political power are less likely to go to war and less likely to commit human rights abuses.

Women bring collaborative and inclusive leadership styles into political environments.


UN Women and UNDP’s newly launched [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/gender-batch-2020.html) shows that only one in eight countries have measures in place to protect women against social and economic impacts, new data shows. The tracker shows the social protection and jobs response to the pandemic has largely overlooked women’s needs. The tracker includes over 2,500 measures across 206 countries and territories.


New working paper by ODI on 'Social protection and the future of work: a gender analysis', authored by Francesca Bastagli and Abigail Hunt. The paper explores key emerging issues related to gender-responsive social protection in the context of the future of work.
"A Feminist Exploration: The Great Replacement", an online discussion organized by the Gunda-Werner Institute and the Heinrich-Boll Stiftung European Union. The discussion dives into the naturalisation of inequalities, a cornerstone of right-wing extremist thinking.


Female voices 'drowned out' in reporting on Covid-19, report finds.

Analysis of stories across six countries (US, UK, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and India) found fewer than a fifth of experts quoted on the pandemic were women: the Guardian

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