

[View this in your browser.](#)



## Members Update, issue 1

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

## Webinar available: “The women’s strike in Poland as a feminist strategy for change”, held on 15 January 2021

The [video of the webinar](#): "The women's strike in Poland as a feminist strategy for change" is available at our site. It was very obvious during the webinar organized by WIDE+ and Bunt Kobiet that the [near-ban on abortion in Poland came into effect yesterday](#) represents the opinion of a small elite that has been able to hold power.

Kamila Ferenc, lawyer at the Federation of Women and Family planning, called for constant pressure on Polish politicians, in the streets and through legal as well as social actions. Most importantly, Poland needs more brave politicians that bring forward a clear alternative.

Dobri, a local activist for the women's strike, reflected on the huge support for the strike at local levels. In her town 1000 people came together, which is 5 % of the population, then towns around hers joined with radical slogans, not only women but also men. The message is crystal clear: people are fed up, not only when it comes to the abortion ban, but also on the role of the church among other issues. She also talked about oppressive violence that happens in Warsaw. There, you needed to be prepared for tear gas, tickets of offence and other measures police and law enforcement can use on you, if you express solidarity through joining the strike.

Maria Swietlik, part of the All-Poland's Women's Strike Advisory Council (advisory body) noted that there is a lot of solidarity between women in Poland -religious or not, rural or urban- as they share similar experiences of being a woman in Poland. It is a

constant struggle to keep your life in dignity. *"We are fighting for our rights in Poland, but it is part of a worldwide fight for the right of women. The right to abortion is a first step. People in Poland are also becoming more anti-neoliberal"*.

Jennifer Ramme, researcher, WIDE+ member and co-founder of Bunt Kobiet, reflected on the successes of the women's strike. One of its milestones is that it has brought many new people into activism by bringing issues of every day life to diverse groups, including mobilization in the rural areas: *"What we can learn is that change among people at large in mentality can happen superfast: change can happen only collectively, and we need open, inclusive discussion"*.



**Maria Swietlik**, All-Poland's Women's Strike advisory council (national level)

**Dobri**, Poland Women's Strike at local level, apostasy and LGBTQ\* support groups.

**Kamila Ferenc**, lawyer, Federation of Women and Family Planning.

**Jennifer Ramme**, European University Viadrina/Collegium Polonicum, Bunt Kobiet.

**Moderator: Silke Steinhilber**, researcher, trainer, consultant gender equality.

## Read about the campaign for regularization of migrant women in Spain, by RED Latinas and other members of the WIDE+ migration WG

The #Regularizacion campaign in Spain has brought forward mass mobilization of a broad alliance of migrant and other civil society activists and groups. The WIDE+ website now includes in [English statements from the collective and RED Latinas](#) on the demands and problems faced by migrants as a result of COVID.

A large coalition of people, civil society and other associations have been campaigning since March last year to **demand the approval of a Royal Emergency Decree for the**

## Administrative Regularization of Foreign People in Spain, which will guarantee that no human being is left out.

In Spain not only do migrant women contribute hugely to the societies, especially through care work, they have also been left out of major recovery measures. The Spanish government has taken exceptional measures contained in Decree 463/2020 "state of alarm" to offer support to Spanish citizens that are faced by the impacts of the pandemic, including basic income schemes. So far, they exclude groups that have a fragile or no connection with legal citizenship to reside in Spain. At present, it is estimated that between 400,000 and 600,000 foreigners reside in Spain in an irregular administrative situation, many of them are migrant domestic workers.



## Now available UNECE Policy Brief "Women's economic empowerment and the care economy"

[Policy Brief on Gender No. 1](#) analyzes economic and social policies of ECE member states in response to COVID-19 and to support the recovery from the pandemic. It also substantiates the importance of care work for societies and describes the impacts caused by the COVID-19 crisis on women's work and the care economy. It analyzes the policy measures that have been implemented in various countries in the region (which covers Europe and Central Asia) to address the crisis.

It concludes with a series of policy recommendations to strengthen the care dimension in economic and social policies developed as a way out of the COVID-19 crisis. The

Brief is written by Silke Steinhilber a consultant for the ECE in regards to their project around social protection and the pandemic, with a gender lens. She is also a member of WIDE+.

## Invitation webinar 'Leading the Way': Women driving peace and security in Afghanistan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen" 5th February 2021, 11.00 - 12.30 PM CET

This is a knowledge session organized by **WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform (WIDE+ member and the other way around)** and **Oxfam Novib**. It is co-hosted by [Kirsten van den Hul](#) - Member of Parliament for Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA)

In the face of conflict and insecurity, women across the globe are boldly advocating for women's meaningful participation in decision-making on peace and security, and for the full and effective realisation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Yet they face many barriers – including a lack of political support for the agenda nationally and internationally, as well as shrinking civic space and attacks and defamation campaigns. The Netherlands continues to position itself as a champion for the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and in December 2020 adopted its fourth National Action Plan on WPS.

It is a crucial moment to take stock. What strategies are women in conflict-affected countries using to ensure their voices are heard, and what barriers do they face? How has the Netherlands supported these efforts? At a time when women's rights are under threat globally - what opportunities do we see for the WPS agenda?

Please register at [a.snel@wo-men.nl](mailto:a.snel@wo-men.nl) with your name and organization. **Deadline of registration is February 2nd 2021.**



## Feminism at the World Social Forum to look forward to or look back to, 23-31 January 2020

The [World Social Forum](#) (WSF) is happening right now, and of course it is taking place in virtual mode. 20 Years and 13 editions after, the WSF manifests itself in the midst of a serious sanitary, economic, financial and care crisis. It will be the starting point for a process throughout the 2021, heading to another WSF event that will be centred in México. A few feminist events can still be attended:

- 28 January 6.30 PM: self-organized activity Workshop: [Feminisms and Sexual Dissidence in the WSF](#), A 20 year journey among advances, barriers and resistances. It is a call to think towards a more just and inclusive Forum Translation provided Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.
- 30 January: the Assembly of the thematic space Feminisms, Society and Diversity in the framework of the [World Social Forum](#).

WIDE+ partner Adéquations has organized an online debate on the trend of governments to claim themselves feminists. The webinar addressed questions like: "Will feminism be recovered by an economic model based on predation and general competition, by "feminist" displays of States, institutions or companies? What are the

analyzes, practices and resistance of women and feminists, from the local to the international level, that could lead to a real transformation of a world currently dominated by social, economic and ecological injustices?". The event was in French and organized with ATTAC: <http://www.adequations.org/spip.php?article2572>.

[World Bank updates procurement policy to enforce gender-based violence rules | Devex](#)

"The result is a new mechanism for about 10% of the bank's infrastructure projects — those determined to be high risk — which for all contracts starting Jan. 1 will be subject to the new rules and be more closely monitored. If the contractor is found to be in violation of gender-based violence policies, they could be disqualified from bidding on World Bank contracts for two years".



[CSO Lifeline: Advocacy in Restricted Spaces: A Toolkit for Civil Society Organizations](#) - now in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

**One can now register for the online NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum with special access to the platform for free**



The [documentary series "Justice for Women"](#) features 14 real stories of women victims and survivors of violence across the Western Balkans and Turkey to whom justice failed, as well as concrete recommendations to avoid such cases of violence to happen again.

The European Parliament adopts measures to [tackle gender digital gap](#) and it called for measure to [improve gender equality in the context of COVID](#).

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)  
WIDE+, Women In Development Europe+