Members Update 2021, issue 4

Welcome to this members Update. If you have news to share, kindly write to:
info@wide-network.org

WIDE+ celebrating Internatonal Women's day with call for image & quote from you before 4 March

Hope you are doing well! As you know, International Women's Day (March 8) is fast approaching and we would like commemorate this with all of you and make all of our continued and dedicated feminist activism visible to the public. We would like to ask all of you to join and respond to our call.

What we would ask you to do is to send us one photograph or illustration from your organisation or your work with a brief text, letting us know what important work you have done in the field of feminism, women's rights, gender equality between the previous can current international Women's Day. If you have a lot of photographs and information to share, more than one is welcome too!

We will then, in a format of a short video of photo collage, publish your stories on March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day and to send the message that every day of the year people need feminist activism. It is currently very difficult for many of us to March together; we can make ourselves heard online.

We hope you will join in this action and we cannot wait to see what you send in! Please send your contributions to this email (hanatarsic1@gmail.com) before Thursday 11 AM on 4 March.

Thank you in advance and kind regards,
Hana, Hidayah and Gea (current WIDE+ secretariat)


At the online workshop: “The responsibilities of European states” on 6 March, experts will discuss the background, the logic and the consequences of selected European states’ pursuit of a militarized security policy with an intergenerational postcolonial perspective.

European states share the responsibility for the world’s armed conflicts through their arms industries, their trade in war material, the militarized control of civilian spaces and their high-tech regulation of borders. Yet, too often they shirk accountability for the consequences of armed conflicts for civilian populations.

This online workshop is part of a series on disarmament that provides the space for feminist peace activists to share their experiences and points of view and to discuss how to achieve a gender-just peace and gender-sensitive security concepts.

One of the organizers is WIDE+ caucus member Annemarie Sancar, Network and Programme Manager of PWAG (Peace Women Across the Globe). She is also moderating this online workship with Heid Meinzolt of WILPF.

More information and registration

For more about the whole series: Facebook page: "PeaceWomen Across the Globe"

*Image is taken from the website of PWAG, the page where this event is launched.
Video available of WIDE+ webinar: “COVID19 and the care economy. What do we see, what do we call for?”, 24 February 2021

The video recording of the webinar on COVID19 and the care economy held last week is already online at our website. Our first webinar in the series: "COVID19 and care: feminist reflections on a new normal" gave us lots of thoughts on the nature and role of care in our economies and also discussed strategies to combat a neo-liberal understanding of care.

Silke Steinhilber ended our webinar with stressing that people in the West are now with COVID19 experiencing the precariousness of societies that people in the South have experienced for much longer: “Let’s use our COVID experience to look beyond our borders”.

Sara Cantillon supplemented this thought. The COVID pandemic has collectively revealed to us the universal truth that we are all vulnerable as people: “this calls for a new economic ordering of the economy that values care in all its dimensions, not as a commodity”.

Investing in care infrastructure has larger employment stimulus effects

Effects of 2% of GDP investment on construction versus care

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Source: Jerome De Henau and Susan Himmelweit

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Ulla Björnberg stressed that we need to end neo-liberal thinking that is deeply ingrained in our society. Feminists can contribute to developing a new appreciation of the central role of care through awareness raising and building knowledge. Elisabeth Klatzer added that we need mass mobilization beyond advocacy and lobby on this issue and share our personal stories. And in terms of demanding more investments in care, we should also demand these investments are not brought through a profit-seeking mechanism as this will always lead to pursuing profits above care.

[Click here for the article/brief report about the webinar.]

Online EU-Korea Civil Society Workshop, 8 March 2021

WIDE+ will be presenting at the online Civil Society Workshop: "Celebrating Women’s Day: Views from Korea and the EU on past achievements, present challenges and future", 9.00-11.00 AM, 8 March.

Register [here](#).

**WIDE+ has undersigned letter for the International Financial Institutions & States to stop loans to Myanmar**

Two hundred and eighteen civil society organizations from Myanmar and globally, including Recourse, have urged International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to immediately freeze loans and other financial assistance to the country amounting to an estimated US$11Billion.

In a joint letter led by 120 civil society groups in Myanmar, signatory organizations demanded that IFIs recall loans linked to the junta and military companies, and reassess engagement to ensure they do not benefit the junta that overturned the elected government in the 1 February 2021 coup d’état. The letter emphasized the need for IFIs to stand with the civilian population instead of the Myanmar junta, military (Tatmadaw)-linked companies, or their cronies.

[Read the letter](#).
Global Pressure from Civil Society to have Western States accept TRIPS WAIVER for COVID medicines and vaccines

The pressure is on! More and more people, associations and networks have called on the EU, its member states and other Western governments to accept the proposal to allow all countries in the world access to information protected by WTO patent law that would allow them to produce vaccines and remedies to COVID. Without this access it seems many countries in the Global South will only succeed to vaccinate their population in 2023 or 2024. One such letter came recently from CONCORD which called upon President Ursula von der Leyen for a far more equitable vaccine approach.

Two-thirds of WTO members issue call for a TRIPS waiver, see the image source by Lucas Chancel - using data from KEI, TWN and WTO, on which countries support and oppose the waiver.

WIDE+ joined this worldwide push in November with a letter we initiated. In February new letters have been published. You can see more details here, read the letters sent to governments opposing the waiver, and watch this video. For lending your support you can use this hashtag: #NoCovidMonopolies.

The WTO council meeting has currently its meeting (1-3 March), and the final decision on the waiver will be made on 11 March, that is the current expectation.
Prof Maria Floro and Dr Srinivas Raghavendra on Engendering the Macroeconomy, 8 March, registration.

You can listen here to an online discussion with Euoprean Commission’s representatives on: synergies between the european green deal and its gender strategy.

ActionAid International consultancy mid March to June: Supporting the piloting of ActionAid’s Feminist Research Guidelines and providing research support to international teams

Tasks:*to provide interim support to the ongoing piloting of the Feminist Research Guidelines (FRGs), *guidance to colleagues undertaking international research, aligned with the feminist Research Signature and the FRGs.

History is made: Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala chosen as Director-General of the WTO (World Trade Organization). She is the first women and frist African WTO director.

Short clip from Women Budget Group UK on COVID impact on young, black & ethnic minority and disabled women in 2020.

It is still possible to apply for the Consultancy for Women’s Rights Review of the Fair Finance Guide International Methodology, Asia, Oxfam Novib

Womxn Act for Climate Justice - International Women’s Day Online Event

Monday, March 8, 7:30pm CET, Register for the event here!
The Slovak Ministry of Health decided last month, with no public discussion, to no longer cover costs for abortion care for women above 40 years old, thus endangering their health. Show solidarity with women in #Slovakia by sharing this letter with the Ministry http://bit.ly/3kqdvHY

New online hub on digital platform work intersected with gender equality. The #WomenGigWork initiative answers pressing questions: How to make gig work more inclusive? How to promote gender equality? What's the role of #labour regulation & worker voice?

FES Webinar: "Ensuring a Rule of Law Mechanism for EU Enlargement", 2 March, 15.00-16.15 CET
The EU has introduced a »rule of law conditionality« for accessing EU funds. Although the new rules apply first of all to Member States, they will be also closely monitored by candidate countries, especially in the Western Balkans.