Members Update 2022 | Issue 12

WIDE+ secretariat welcomes all members back from summer break in Europe!
Do you have any suggestions on what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org.

Time confirmed of our fourth webseminar: "Learned lessons from feminist led peace processes" 6.00-7.30 PM CEST, Monday 12 September 2022, in English and Spanish: [Click here to register](#)

In this webseminar we ask the question: ‘what can we learn from examples of feminist peace initiatives?’.
It will reflect on how women’s rights defenders have mobilised and with what learned lessons and strategies of interventions.

Confirmed Speakers and Moderator:

- **Sonja Lokar** is a feminist in Slovenia and internationally, with a long list of organisations, to which she contributed. As a sociologist and a specialist in political party development she has published more than 300 articles in different languages.

- **Inga Luther** is Managing Director of the Mobile Academy for Gender Democracy and Peace Promotion OWEN e.V. OWEN has facilitated a six year long programme Women’s Initiatives for Peace in Donbas (WIPD), Ukraine. Through this programme, partners from Ukraine, Russia and other countries have worked on different activities.

- **Iliana María Colonia Llanos** is a feminist, pacifist and antimilitarist. She has been active with la Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres en el Valle del Cauca y la Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia for the Cali section. She has been among others promoting initiatives for the participation and leadership of women and young people in the processes of peacebuilding.
• **Moderator is Cristina Reyna.** She is a feminist activist and media specialist and is currently project officer at "Free a Girl". Her expertise is on SRHR, UNSCR 1325, women’s rights, GBV and migration. She is a WIDE+ caucus member and member of the gender and migration WG.

Complete Biographies and a full announcement will follow for this webseminar.

**Feminists, including WIDE+, demand the end of UN Women's partnership with BlackRock: UN terminates deal**

![#BlockBlackRock](image)

On 25 May 2022, UN Women announced a partnership with BlackRock, Inc “to cooperate in promoting the growth of gender lens investing”. A huge collective of feminist activists and women’s rights organisations and other civil society groups from around the world have come together to resist this increasing influence of cooperations on UN Women. In response to this shocking announcement, global feminist groups, including WIDE+, signed a powerful [letter](#) to demand an end to this partnership.

BlackRock is the largest investor in fossil fuels and deforestation-linked agricultural commodities. Its investments are worsening the climate crisis, land grabbing & violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Civil society watchdog groups consistently identify BlackRock as among the **worst performers** on corporate accountability.

As a result of the global campaign #BlockBlackRock led by global feminists, UN recently stated that **it will end its partnership** with this private firm. You can also watch a
webinar recording organised by AWID, WEDO, and Equidad de Género, Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia that unpacked reasons why feminists are calling for UN Women to terminate its partnership with BlackRock.

An update on new and upcoming projects of WIDE+, collaborations with members and other partners

The WIDE+ Secretariat team with the project partners of CB4VOL in Madrid, hosted by Alianza por La Solidaridad

After several fundraising efforts, WIDE+ is pleased to update you that the network will be involved in several EU-funded projects, all of which are collaborations with WIDE+ members and other partners. Feel free to contact the Secretariat about the following projects to find out more or if you are keen to be involved:

1. **WE-EMPOWER**: The project aims to encourage and empower migrant women to participate in civic and democratic action in Europe. This is a transnational collaboration led by WIDE+, together with partner organisations like Alianza Por La Solidaridad, NGO Atina, Red Latinas, KULU, GADIP, Romanian Women's Lobby, ADRI Association and Gabriela.

2. **CB4VOL**: The project's main objective is to strengthen the capacity of the partner organisations to develop volunteering work at the local level. At the same time, the organisations will promote the participation of youth in their local communities, to improve awareness and knowledge about gender equality and inclusion. This is a partnership led by Alianza por La Solidaridad, with WIDE+ as a partner organisations along with Asticude (in Morocco) and YWCA (in Palestine).
3. **FINDHR**: The goal of this EU funded project is to create anti-discrimination methods, algorithms, and training for Artificial Intelligence (EU's official name for all data is part of the digitalisation of societies). It focuses on algorithmic hiring but the results, including intersectional non-discrimination standard will be applicable to any human recommendation application. It is a collaboration with reputable Universities in this domain and with ETUC, in which WIDE+ represents women's rights groups.

4. **COPGendered**: This EU funded project builds up tools, knowledge and methodologies for learners to upskill themselves (in groups, individually or with a teacher) in the relationships between gender inequality and the climate crisis. This includes providing tools for adult education providers. It will be led by WIDE+, along with partner organisations such as GenderCC, KULU, WIDE Austria, GADIP, Feministische Perspektiven, Fundacion Mundubat and Center for Sustainable Communities Development Foundation.

**Calling for feminist solidarity & connections: Olga Karatch from Belarus wants to connect with feminists based in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany**

Olga Karatch, Head of the Civic Campaign "Our House", journalist and former politician from Belarus is traveling around Europe in the coming weeks and would like to connect with WIDE+ members, partners, and/or relevant contacts.

Our House supports women human rights defenders and feminists from Belarus and Ukraine, especially Belarussian feminists in diaspora. Our House also began a feminist anti-war campaign aiming to block the Belarusian army to go to Ukraine. The campaign is called “NO Means NO”. Its objective is to help young Belarusian conscientious objectors and deserters avoid service in the Belarusian army, and thus, avoid being sent to the war with Ukraine. She previously shared her work in a webinar organised by WIDE+ on the status of feminists and women human rights defenders in Belarus.

Olga would like to connect with other feminists and relevant contacts during her travels. She would like to raise awareness of the issues impacting feminists in Belarus and Ukraine, and discuss ideas for further support and solidarity. If you are keen to get in touch with her, email WIDE+ at info@wide-network.org.

Her travel dates are:
1. 05.09-11.09.2022 - Amsterdam, then Utrech
2. 11.09-16.09.2022 - Belgium, first to Brussels
MEMBERS AND PARTNERS NEWS

Latest podcast episode from International Women Space - "Ukraine: BIPOC refugees are fleeing the same bombs but don't get the same treatment"

*Dalís Pacheco Salcedo (left), from the Universität der Künste Berlin and Nora Brezger (right) from the Flüchtlingsrat Berlin*

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army attacked Ukraine forcing millions of people to flee their homes seeking safety and protection within Ukraine itself or to neighboring countries. Faced with such an emergency, European countries decided quickly and without much bureaucracy that Ukrainian refugees would receive temporary protection for up to three years without having to apply for asylum, with rights to a residence permit and access to education, housing and the labor market. However, not all people fleeing Ukraine could access such freedom of movement or protection. Black and brown refugees were met with a different kind of welcome at the borders and beyond them.

To talk about this situation Jennifer Kamau of IWS speaks with Nora Brezger from the Flüchtlingsrat Berlin and Dalís Pacheco Salcedo, from the Universität der Künste Berlin. Listen to the podcast episode [here](#).

"We have a lot to fight for," Interview with young activist, Dagmara Adamiak from Szczecin, Poland
As part of a project titled, “Miteinander Reden” coordinated by WIDE+ member Jennifer Ramme, here is a new series of interviews with activists from the German-Polish border regions, discussing the problem of social divides in the societies we live in. This video launches the project and features an interview with a young activist Dagmara Adamiak from Szczecin, Poland.

Adamiak works for women’s rights and LGBTQ* people and runs the RÓWNiE foundation. She is active in local politics. In this interview, Adamiak talks about how she perceives social divisions in Poland and how “freedom is taken away piece by piece.” She also shares what motivated her to get involved socially and politically, and what gives her the strength to continue.

The project is a collaboration between OWEN e.v., Paula Panke, and the Social Unrest Archive. You can find out more on this link: www.facebook.com/SocialUnrestArchiv

Join the Global Interactive Map on Migration and Gender
The **Women in Migration Network (WIMN)** is updating its interactive map of organizations working on the intersection of gender and migration. The map spotlights groups advocating for the rights of women and girls in the context of human mobility. WIMN hopes this map provides the foundation for strengthening connections among organizations across the globe.

If you wish to be put on the map, fill in this form [here](https://wideplus.org/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&data=WzEwOCwiYzMyMmUxNmMyMWE1IiwwLDAsOTksMV07/10).

---

**GENERAL NEWS**

**Call for Proposals for virtual events: The End Austerity Activism Festival, 30 September and 1 October**

The End Austerity Activism Festival is a 2-day virtual event that will take place on Friday 30th of September and Saturday 1st of October 2022. It is run by a collective of women's rights organizations, environmental groups, economic justice communities, trade unions, human rights defenders, activists, researchers, humanitarian organizations, and individuals who work together to end austerity as the universal policy prescription. The team for the festival calls on organizations, grassroots movements, activists, and artists to submit session proposals for the End Austerity Activism Festival.

Proposals can consist of anything that can be streamed online for a length of max 2 hours. This includes panels and workshops, interviews, live music or poetry reading, the streaming of pre-recorded videos or films/documentaries, etc, provided that they address one or more of the following topics:

- Evidence of new austerity trends, for example, cases of cuts in public spending;
- Evidence of recovery policy trends, how they favoured corporates, entrenched inequality, while giving far less to people and planet-friendly recovery policies;
- Stories on the impact of austerity on people, planet, and human rights (including lack of public services, lack of women's rights and gender equality, food crisis etc)
- Cases of resistance against austerity and social struggle, and building alternatives for a transformative feminist, decolonial and green recovery

- Examples of people and groups that are building alternatives to austerity and working to build a human-rights-based economy.

Please email cmariotti@eurodad.org / jwagman@actioncontrelafaim.org with the following information:

- Who you are and/or who your organisation/movement is/ and an email or phone number to contact you

- Topic you would like to address, and a few words on what you would like to say

- The format of your session (artistic event, testimonials, interactive workshops, people's tribunals, panel discussion, etc.)

- How long your session would be (each slot is of maximum 2 hours, but we recommend considering 1.5-hour events for panel discussions)

- Indicate the language you would prefer to express yourself (they will get back to you about the capacity to provide interpretation)

There is no cost to register an event!
Uncomfortable conversations: Confronting development’s white gaze: Make change happen podcast, episode 18

Report by EIGE: Gender balance in politics in the EU

Over the last 20 years, gender balance (quota of at least 40% of each gender) has improved in EU Member States’ parliaments. And the application of legislative quotas that aims to ensure a minimum proportion of each gender among candidates has played a key role.

While women are well-represented in politics at the EU level with the current European Commission demonstrating full gender parity, representation of women among Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) remains low in several Member States. At the national level, women account for only one-third of national parliament seats.

Report by IOM: The impacts of COVID-19 on migration and migrants from a gender perspective

This research report explores and critically examines the short- and longer-term gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration and the well-
one-third of national parliament members, and at regional and local/municipal levels across the EU, women lead only one in five assemblies. Read the report here.

Training series for activists and campaigners in Europe on using tools for online campaigning: Sept and Oct 2022

The report analyses the gender impacts of COVID-19 on different “groups” of migrants, including health-care workers, agricultural and domestic migrant workers, internally displaced persons and international students, and assesses migrant vulnerabilities as well as the opportunities for gender-responsive migration governance that have been revealed by the pandemic.