

Introducing the Purple Age

This report presents the output of a transnational participatory process – Policy Kitchen – organized and implemented by the Open Think Tank Network and dedicated to the question: What should a feminist foreign policy look like in the 2020s?

This bottom-up process with over 180 participants from five continents has generated a wealth of relevant policy recommendations for decision-makers in international affairs. The recommendations for a comprehensive feminist foreign policy (FFP) are presented in five thematic chapters, which emerged during the process.

Crowdsourced Recommendations for a Feminist Foreign Policy

December 2020



Intersectionality and Representation

- FFP is a comprehensive approach that, beyond seeking gender equality, aims at achieving overall equality based on rights. It is fundamentally pacifist and promotes a regenerative approach to nature.
- FFP must always be intersectional and critical towards postcolonial structures, power asymmetries and oppressive hierarchies.
- FFP decision-making processes must be based on the experiences and demands of civil society representatives from all walks of life. The discourse about women as victims must shift towards one that acknowledges women as independent agents.

Health, Safety and Autonomy

- Ensuring that women and traditionally marginalised groups are secure and have autonomy over their bodies is a central objective of FFP.
- FFP should define 'Purple Lines', a set of minimum standards with regards to gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- Participants proposed specific recommendations in areas as diverse as health, education, finance, and urban development. The context of armed conflicts is treated separately in the Peace & Security chapter.

Environment and Climate Change

- The link between gender and climate change must be acknowledged. The social justice impact of mitigation and adaptation policies must be assessed.
- Data and indicators to inform policy making should be disaggregated by gender.
- Environmental, climate, and energy policies must be based upon inclusive decision-making approaches, with particular focus on the inclusion of indigenous knowledge.
- Women and traditionally marginalized groups must be empowered to shape environmental, climate, and energy policies with measures ranging from educational programmes to gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting.

Peace and Security

- FFP prioritizes human security over 'traditional' national security approaches.
- Measures must be taken to address the stark underrepresentation of women and traditionally marginalized groups in peace negotiations.
- FFP requires countries to disengage from arms trade and prioritize the global disarmament agenda.

The Economic Sphere

- Gender biases and thereto linked dynamics of exploitation and discrimination are pervasive and reproduce in the economic sphere. FFP strives to reshape economic priorities based on inclusion and sustainability.
- Recommendations cover a wide range of policy areas: from education (particularly digital empowerment and digital literacy), employment, informal work, unpaid care work, social protection, family policy, taxation, public financial management, trade and investment to global economic governance.
- The chapter highlights the responsibility of the private sector, including measures to strengthen corporate social responsibility, transparency, and providing accessible banking services.

About OpenTTN

The Open Think Tank Network (OpenTTN) strives for the creation, development, and cooperation of open-source think tanks around the world. We use innovative crowd-sourcing methods and participatory structures to provide opportunities for participation in political debates outside of the traditional fora. Currently, the group consists of think tanks in Austria (Ponto), France (Argo), Germany (Polis180), Switzerland (foraus - Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy) and the UK (Agora).

About Policy Kitchen

Policy Kitchen is a policy crowdsourcing methodology developed by foraus – Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy and supported by Engagement Migros. It enables a diverse network of thinkers to find creative policy recipes for pressing foreign policy challenges. The methodology is built on a crowd innovation platform, physical workshops, and a support process to bring the best recipes to impact.



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