



## FEMINIST VISIONS FOR THE G7 VISIONS FÉMINISTES POUR LE G7

We are a group of 60+ feminists from Canada, G7 countries and around the world. We represent feminist organizations and activists working on a cross-section of issues to address discrimination and inequalities on the basis of gender and other intersecting factors. We are at the frontline of resistance and progress on issues ranging from climate change to gender-based violence, from child care to foreign policy.

**We've come together to establish a feminist vision for the 2018 G7 and beyond.** Two G7 leaders have publicly declared themselves feminists, identifying gender equality as a priority for their foreign and domestic policies. We take this opportunity to call on all G7 leaders to adopt progressive approaches, incorporating feminist principles on all G7 issues and beyond.

The world desperately needs real solutions. Feminists are holding the line in the face of coordinated attempts to roll-back hard-won rights. Our ability to collectively organize is severely undermined and threatened. Progress on global challenges is too slow. Our health, security wellbeing and lives depend on bold political action.

Decisions made by the G7 have global impact. Bringing a feminist approach to the G7 has the potential to dramatically shift how decisions are made - and who wins and loses. Feminists have largely been absent from G7-related decision-making spaces. If the G7 is to truly advance gender equality, then feminist leaders must be heard and feminist approaches must be adopted.

**We call on G7 leaders to adopt a feminist approach** that seeks to uproot structural and systemic inequalities and transform systems of power and privilege, many of which are grounded in social constructions of gender and patriarchal attempts to control women's bodies and choices. A meaningful feminist approach works to end discriminatory laws, policies and programmes by ensuring all people have agency, autonomy, choice, empowerment and space to engage at all levels of decision-making. To us, a feminist approach is one that:

**...Integrates intersectionality.** An intersectional approach that recognizes the multiple and intersecting aspects of identity that play out in women's lives and experiences, such as class or race/ethnicity, and that compound and exacerbate oppression and marginalization, must be applied. This approach challenges us to expand our understanding of gender beyond binaries (woman/man, femininity/masculinity). Adopting an intersectional lens to gender based analysis means centering women who are most systematically marginalized including Indigenous women, women of colour, women with disabilities, LGBTQI, among others, in all decision-making. It means recognizing the diversity among women with different levels of privilege and

vulnerabilities, all deserving of equal voice. We urge the G7 to ensure feminists are heard on political, economic, social, ecological and cultural issues – all issues are feminist issues.

**...Centers the diversity of lived experiences and expertise, especially those most impacted by G7 decisions, policies and programmes.** Consultation should involve hearing and acting on the inputs from women in all their diversity. Targets should be set for meaningful participation by women who represent the full range of feminist organizing, in particular Indigenous and racialized women, in policy processes. Greater transparency of decision-making and year-on-year reporting of actions taken (as well as results achieved) relating to women's rights should become the norm at the G7. Affirming and amplifying women's agency is key to this.

**...Guarantees resources for feminist movements and organizing.** Ambitious new non-conditional investments in feminist organizing - both within G7 countries and globally - are required. New funding mechanisms and pathways will ensure money lands in the pockets of organizations who need it the most and have direct impact on local communities. Funders should move beyond competitive funding mechanisms, toward those that support collaboration and movement building. Resources should be accessible to diverse women rights and feminist organizations, flexible in nature and sustained over the long-term, supporting objectives defined by these organizations themselves. Reporting, as well as monitoring and evaluation requirements, should be streamlined to avoid onerous administrative burdens.

**...Establishes a new economic model.** Our economic model must work for women in G7 countries and the rest of the world and fulfill their economic and social rights. That will require a feminist approach to economics, moving away from policies that fuel conflict, inequality, poverty, discrimination, climate change and land grabbing around the world towards the expansion of fair trade, tax justice and an equitable and just shared global economy. We therefore need a just and equitable transition from our current economic model based on exploitation and extractivism to an economy based not on unchecked and rampant growth, but on sustainability and social, economic and cultural rights for all, in both the formal and informal economies. Too many women are facing precarious, dangerous and exploitative work situations and all life is threatened by climate change. G7 leaders must work towards inclusive economic security. This requires investments in decent work and livelihoods; the redistribution of wealth; the provision of universal public services and social protection based on needs; the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work; the recognition and valuing of care work; the expansion of food sovereignty and the ecologically-sustainable economy.

**...Grounds itself in accountability.** The G7 must be accountable to those most affected by their policies and actions. States must implement existing human rights obligations, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, among others. As well, the 2018 G7 should outline how it has responded to the recommendations of the W7 in the past (and other social engagement groups) and how it will do so moving forward. A key element of accountability is the regular collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated along intersectional gender lines. Greater transparency on the impacts of policy choices will greatly enhance accountability to feminist organizations and movements.

**WE CALL ON G7 LEADERS TO:**

### **Adopt Intersectional feminism**

Canada should lead the G7 countries to adopt an intersectional approach to their deliberations with respect to all issues, be it political, economic, climate change, and a whole host of other topics to be discussed by the G7. Adopting an intersectional lens to gender based analysis means centering women who are most systematically marginalized, including Indigenous women, women of colour, women with disability, LGBTQ, among others, in all discussions, and decision-making, recognizing the diversity among women with different levels of privileges and vulnerabilities, recognizing that all are deserving of an equal voice.

G7 countries must demonstrate its commitment to an intersectional approach to gender based analysis through clear and strong accountability measures enabled by the collection of disaggregated data based not only on gender but all other social identities and locations.

Accountability also demands that Canada should ensure all G7 countries provide core and sustainable funding to women organizations, and funding allocations must target groups that are most disadvantaged by structural barriers created by government policies and practices.

As black feminist lesbian poet Audre Lorde says, “There is no thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not have single-issue lives.”

1. **Collect disaggregated data:** We need G7 countries to collect data that is disaggregated and intersectional beyond age and sex that is non-binary, in order to track outcomes of and progress made by policies and investments dedicated to promoting gender equality amongst all marginalized groups of women and girls.
2. **Ensure core funding:** Set aside significant direct funding to organizations comprised of and led by women from diverse and marginalized communities (i.e. women of colour, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, LBTQI.....) working on gender equality, that continues to grow in line with national economies. Start tracking the percentage of GDP currently going towards programs that promote gender equality domestically and globally.
3. **Create GBA+ government structure:** Each G7 Country commits to establish a permanent government structure to conduct gender based impact analysis through an intersectional lens on all government policies, budgets, programs and investments at domestic and international levels.
4. **Shared decision-making:** All decision-making tables must include a majority of women and no less than 50% of those must be women who are directly impacted by the particular issue at hand.

### **Facilitate women’s economic empowerment**

Our current economic model is based on the exploitation of the poorest and most marginalized – the majority of whom are women, in particular women of colour and Indigenous women – and the destruction of the planet. A feminist economic model is based on sustainability, equality and social, economic and cultural rights for all, in both the formal and informal economy. To us,

inclusive growth means inclusive economic security that leaves no one behind and is environmentally sustainable. In order to get there, the G7 countries need to take action in 3 overarching areas:

1. **Tackle Inequality:** Inequality is reaching extreme levels and exacerbates gender inequality. The wealth of the richest is built on the backs of women. The G7 must repeal discriminatory laws and put in place legislation and policies that tackle structural barriers to economic and gender equality and level the playing field between the rich and poor and men and women. An intersectional feminist approach to policy-making includes meaningful engagement and participation of the most marginalized to ensure no one is left behind. We call on the G7 leaders to make quality gender analysis and gender budgeting, including for taxation, mandatory throughout all fiscal policy processes.
2. **Ensure decent work and livelihoods:** Too many women face precarious, dangerous and exploitative work situations in particular violations of their right to work that allows them to make a decent living for themselves and their families, as outlined in the International Covenant for Economic Social and Cultural Rights.. The G7 must work to ensure access to decent work and livelihoods for women in both the formal and informal economy. Women's waged work must be remunerated with decent pay, following the principles of "equal pay for equal work of equal value," that covers basic living costs, is as valued as men's work and adheres to labour rights, especially the right to collective bargaining. Self-employed women, often working in the informal economy, must benefit from enabling conditions to move towards formalization, their recognition as women workers, and access to social protection. The G7 must also work to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid or low paid care work in order to provide women with the time and resources to pursue work and livelihoods. We urge the G7 to ratify and comply with all international conventions related to women, labour and decent work for both formal and informal workers which provide a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and women's rights.
3. **Invest in the universal provision of social protection and public services:** Social services are fundamental to women's economic security as they provide women the time, resources and access to pursue decent work and livelihoods. Investments in universal child care enable women to enter the workforce. The provision of income security enables women to escape exploitative working conditions. Actions to end violence against women and gender-based violence enable women stay in the labour market. We urge G7 countries to meet the international benchmark of 1% of GDP to provide universal quality child care—in addition to investments in the provision of elder and disability care, which also takes a disproportionate toll on women's lives. G7 countries must expand income security to ensure access and levels based on needs. In order to reduce gender-based violence, the G7 must support the principle of a comprehensive and integrated ILO Convention and Recommendation on 'Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work' by working with stakeholders from labour, women's rights organizations, including for informal workers, civil society and government to ensure the Convention's scope reflects the needs of all women.

## **Build a more peaceful and secure world**

Women are essential to peace, and are key protagonists for peace. Women and survivors of violence and conflict must be involved in building solutions to conflict; the G7 has a key role in promoting this basic principle.

As donors, the G7 countries have a key role to play in listening to local voices and not exacerbating or deepening conflict in war or conflict countries. It is critically important to be accountable back to women and their communities in conflict countries.

1. **Rights:** Conduct a review to ensure all G7 women, peace and security efforts, at home and abroad, are designed utilizing the human security framework and affirm and protect women's human rights. This includes but is not limited to: arms trade, the war on drugs, countering violent extremism and other related efforts. In its outcome document (communiqué or chair's statement) Canada should acknowledge the role G7 countries have played in fomenting violence and conflict and commit to adopt this frame in G7 efforts on the WPS agenda moving forward.
2. **Resources:** Champion a peace and security approach that puts women and peacebuilding at the center: 50% of G7 funding to conflict-affected countries should be spent on women, peace and security. This includes funding to end violence against women, funding for local/grassroots women's rights organizations, funding for comprehensive women survivors' assistance, funding for women's inclusion at the peace table, in conflict prevention and reconstruction processes and ensuring women's political participation and leadership. All National Action Plans (NAPs) on Women, Peace and Security should have accompanying budget plans by 2020, and progress should be reported annually.
3. **Representation:** All G7 discussions or major international events on peace and security must include 50% women in positions of influence, and include mechanisms to be accessible to local, grassroots women's organizations (the Global Open Days is one example). Canada should include a commitment that no future G7s will proceed without gender parity in G7 delegations in this in its final outcome document (communiqué or chair's statement).

## **Work together on climate change**

Climate change resulting in global warming and changing weather patterns, manifests in different ways across the globe. All people and the planet will be negatively affected by climate change, but its most devastating impacts, including displacement, social and political upheaval, lost livelihoods and ill health will be experienced differentially. Those most impacted include Indigenous peoples, people living in poverty, women in all their diversity, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those least responsible for the problem. They are also the people at the forefront of addressing climate change and defending solutions.

As the world's wealthiest nations and those most responsible for climate change, G7 nations must:

- 1. Strengthen and implement the Paris Agreement commitments to hold global warming to 1.5 degrees and mobilize \$100 billion in climate finance by 2020.**
  - a. Revisit and enhance G7 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020 and bring a commitment to increasing climate action to the ambition-raising conversations set to happen through the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue at the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
  - b. Affirm the \$100 Billion roadmap and G7 countries' commitments to fund it.
  - c. Fund the Gender Action Plan at the UNFCCC and support the operationalization of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Knowledge Platform.
- 2. Transform the global economic system from one focused on growth to one focused on justice, particularly taking into account the gendered and health impacts of climate change.**
  - a. Entrench the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including the rights of Indigenous communities to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
  - b. Follow-through with the G7 countries' commitment to stop funding the problem and phase-out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025. To deliver on this promise the G7 should develop and table a Roadmap by 2019 that describes how G7 nations will phase out subsidies by 2025.
  - c. Lead a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuel dependence and violent extractive industries. A just and equitable transition must challenge the current gender division of labour, in which women often work in precarious, low-wage and informal and subsistence and service industries, and it must support decent work for all, including women's participation in the low-carbon economy.
  - d. Move away from forms of financialization and commodification of nature which delay real cuts to emissions and lead to ocean and land grabbing that highly impact women who often lack secure land tenure.
  - e. Using gender-based analysis and social determinants of health tools, examine and commit to undertake action and provide sufficient resources to reverse or ameliorate the gendered (and other social determinants of health) impacts of climate change, especially in countries and amongst peoples least responsible for creating the problem.
  - f. Reallocate funds away from militarization and toward gender-responsive climate solutions.
- 3. Invest money and capacity in alternative solutions that come from communities, academics, and feminist movements. These solutions will protect forests, fresh water supplies and oceans, and build a more just economy where women, farmers, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples will not just survive, but thrive.**
  - a. Describe and demonstrate how G7 nations are incorporating marginalized peoples, especially women, in all phases of their mitigation and adaptation activities
  - b. Achieve a 50/50 balance between climate finance for adaptation and mitigation, recognizing that adaptation is often led and critical to the survival and well-being of women and frontline communities.
  - c. Promote the use of safe sustainable and renewable energy supplies to cycle contemporary materials in local, closed-loop material flow patterns. Our emissions into the oceans (plastics) and the atmosphere (CO<sub>2</sub>) causing the

ocean and climate crises are the result of not recycling, of de-localizing, and of use of fossil fuel rather than safe, renewable and locally-controlled energies and materials.

- d. Facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology, including gender-responsive small-scale renewable energy technologies.
- e. Mobilize resources to help communities as they suffer the impacts of climate change, including through insurance mechanisms like InsuResilience.
- f. Fund and make visible grassroots women's and feminist organizations leading on climate solutions, including women-led agroecology initiatives.
- g. Fund women's networks and movements to come together to talk about these issues and propose solutions.

### **Adopt a feminist approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights**

We call on G7 leaders to adopt a feminist approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), which entails support for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services information, and knowledge, grounded in the principles of bodily autonomy and reproductive justice.

This requires a shift towards:

- equitable access to comprehensive knowledge, information and access to commodities, supplies and medicines; away from supply-driven approaches,
- demand-driven approaches; away from public-health/population control arguments,
- an approach one that looks at mental, social health and well-being and to do so, examining whose rights (to health, bodily autonomy, information, non-discrimination) are upheld and whose are not;
- service delivery that goes beyond 'women of reproductive age,' that meets the rights and needs of all individuals and recognizes sexuality as an integral part of women's health and rights; moving away from a verticalized approach,
- intersectional and integrated approaches; valuing women's lives and bodies, rather than instrumentalizing us as reproductive agents; and
- an approach that incorporates considerations of enabling environments as it relates to upholding sexual and reproductive rights, including the rights to choose if, when and with whom to have children, not have children and parent the children we have in sustainable communities.

A comprehensive package of SRHR information and services includes: comprehensive information on sexuality and contraception services and supplies (including emergency contraception, post exposure prophylaxis, male and female condoms); pregnancy care (antenatal and post natal care, skilled birth attendance, referral systems, and emergency obstetric care); safe abortion services and post-abortion care; access to assisted reproductive technologies; prevention, prevention tools, treatment, and care of sexually transmitted infections and HIV; prevention, treatment and care of reproductive cancers. It requires: expanding access to a range of modern methods of contraception, including those accessible for men, adopting women-driven approaches to research in sexual and reproductive health, ensuring all service delivery initiatives are developed in line with right to health – accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality of SRH health services, supporting movements, local activists and

government-led initiatives to improve SRHR – supporting spaces to strategize, organize, have dialogue, access to justice and voice accountability, and supporting comprehensive sexuality education, grounded in intersectional feminist and rights-based approaches.

- 1. Taking steps to address negative impacts of legal systems and structures that seek to restrict or criminalize sexual and reproductive health and rights**
  - a. Aligning sexual and reproductive health laws and policies with HR frameworks
  - b. Withdrawing of Mexico City Policy / Global Gag Rule
  - c. Ending the criminalization or restrictive regulation of abortion, sex work, HIV transmission and disclosure, same-sex sexual activity, and all other ways in which gender, sexuality and reproduction are criminalized, particularly affecting illegalized and marginalized communities.
  - d. Removing barriers to and actively facilitating access to justice systems or other redress mechanisms by marginalized individuals and communities.
- 2. Increasing resources supporting human rights/sexual and reproductive rights advocacy work and delivery of feminist SRH services**, particularly as it relates to the most neglected areas of SRHR (range of methods of contraception, safe abortion care, adolescent SRHR and advocacy for SRHR):
  - a. Pledge a commitment to increase development assistance for comprehensive SRHR and increase domestic resource mobilization across G7 countries
  - b. Addressing trade-related barriers to accessing affordable SRH supplies, commodities and medicines
- 3. Accountability for the delivery of feminist sexual and reproductive health and rights**
  - a. Data collection disaggregated across multiple lines of marginalization (including sex, age, gender, race, Indigenous status), also recognizing gaps in data for those 10-14 and 49+

### **End violence against women**

The UN has declared that Violence Against Women is a global pandemic. An intersectional feminist approach to violence against women recognizes the ways in which extractivism, economic injustice, criminalization, climate change, and other factors, cause, perpetuate and protects those who perpetrate myriad forms of gender-based violence. In Canada, the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women is one pressing example that demonstrates the need to adopt an intersectional approach towards ending violence against women. Acknowledging this, the G7 states have the opportunity to lead by example, investing in solutions and funding nationally and globally, commensurate with the urgency and breadth of the pandemic. We recommend:

1. A fixed percentage of the G7 States GDP is devoted to comprehensive Violence Against Women action that grows incrementally from now over the next 4 years.
2. Ensure that funding for the creation, implementation and on-going evaluation of any National Action Plan to End Violence Against Woman and Girls (EVAWG) is commensurate with the urgency and breadth of the pandemic.
3. That grassroots feminists' movements, inclusive of indigenous and marginalized women, must direct priorities on VAW programming. The plan must provide for sustainable



funding and meaningful accountability to the communities, driven by the collection and public dissemination of disaggregated data.

4. G7 states' position on foreign aid and trade, investment and debt waivers must consider the gender responsive and 'do not harm' and bodily autonomy approaches. Foreign aid, trade and investment must encourage continued domestic investment in addressing violence against women, including in the Global South.

### **Build feminist movements**

Feminist leaders, organizations and movements are the key driver of change on women's empowerment and rights of women and girls. These organizations challenge social norms, build coalitions, articulate positive alternatives, provide services, envision a more equitable world, and are constantly innovating. It is feminist movements that hold governments accountable for commitments made and push for the implementation of human rights agendas. Yet, the world over, these organizations are under-resourced and often run on volunteer labour. There is a need to support feminist leadership and movements both in G7 countries and around the world. This includes increasing the financial resources directly invested in feminist organizations as well as developing new mechanisms to disburse these funds so that these organizations flourish and are not buried in bureaucratic red tape.

1. **Build greater policy coherence consistent with a feminist agenda across all G7 discussions.** This includes the implementation (and reporting on) existing treaties and conventions (including but not limited to CEDAW, UNDRIP, UNSCRs on WPS, SDGs). As well, corporations based in G7 countries should be held to the same standards (environment, human rights) internationally as they are domestically. The collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data (intersectional) is a basic requirement of improved feminist policies and actions.
2. **Provide ambitious, sustainable, robust funding for women's organizing in your own countries and internationally.** Women's organizations require resources to mobilize, research, innovate, develop leadership, articulate alternatives and hold governments accountable. This funding should be controlled by feminist themselves and delivered through new mechanisms that do not undermine feminist organizing. These resources should be flexible and long-term, as well as provide core-support. We call on G7 members to track and report on these investments and allocate a minimum of 5% of their international assistance to women-led organizations/women's rights organizations.
3. **Recognize that feminist leadership involves bringing diverse women who represent and are accountable to feminist movements into leadership spaces.** Therefore, we call on the G7 to continue this year's practice (and fund) a feminist W7 that puts participation from feminists in the global south at the centre and that includes clear pathways to engage with and influence the G7 agenda, ministerials and outcomes. While the Gender Equality Advisory Council is a worthwhile initiative, it should not crowd out a process led by civil society.
4. **Finance robust protection mechanisms for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD).** These mechanisms should be designed by WHRD themselves so that they respond to their realities and needs.