



Civil Society Dialogue Network Conference with Academics

Feminist perspectives on peace and security in Europe

Monday 5 June 2023 (12:00-18:30 CET) & Tuesday 6 June 2023, (09:00-15:30 CET)

Venue
Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie
Av. Louise 91, 1050 Brussels

Concept note

This Civil Society Dialogue Network Conference with Academics is co-organized by EPLO and PAX for Peace.

Background

Over recent years, interest in Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) has grown in the European Union (EU), with several Member States adopting, or considering to adopt such Policies. At the same time, hostility to FFP, women's rights and gender equality has grown, including through the rise of the "anti-gender movement" and the radical right across and beyond the EU.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has accelerated EU tendencies towards militarized security as foreign policy imperatives. The EU has, for the first time, delivered arms via its so-called European Peace Facility. Russia's invasion but also EU responses have been highly gendered.

While gender equality is a central concern of FFP, FFP also focusses on inclusive peace through and people- and power systems centred approaches to safety and security, which includes furthering disarmament, decolonisation, climate justice, and engaging with women-led organisations and inclusive civil society in third countries.

Objectives

This meeting will bring together civil society activists, academics and EU officials to consider the relevance of feminism to foreign policy, with a special focus on promoting peace and security, and to gather best practices and lessons learned regarding promoting gender equality in external action.

The overall objective of the meeting is to generate recommendations for Member States in the field of FFP and for EU officials on maximizing the effectiveness of the [Gender Action Plan III](#) (GAP III) and specifically implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.



Format

The meeting will take the form of a facilitated round-table discussion under the Chatham House Rule¹. It will be held as a one-day conference split over two days. The discussions will be held in English.

Participants

The meeting will bring together about 40 participants, including about 10 EU officials and EU MS representatives, 15 CSOs active on peace and security matters and 15 Academics.

Outcomes

A report of the meeting with key recommendations will be shared with all participants and published on the EPLO website.

¹ Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed (see: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>).



Agenda Monday 5 June

12.00 – 13.00	Registration and light welcome lunch (please confirm attendance)
13.00 – 13.20	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Laura Davis (EPLO) • Sanne Tielemans (PAX)
13.20 – 14.00	Round of introductions (all participants)
14.00 – 15.30	Introductory Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lina Andeer (EEAS) • Prof Toni Hastrup (University of Stirling) • Dr Leandra Bias (University of Bern) • Ms Ola Saleh (Independent Expert) <p>Guiding questions for the session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In how far can the current approach to peace and security taken by the EU and its MS be described as feminist? 2. What could feminist EU approaches to peace and security look like? 3. What are the key obstacles to adopting these, and how might these be overcome? 4. What are the opportunities? <p>Moderator: Laura Davis, EPLO</p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee and Tea
16.00 – 17.30	Session 2: Lessons learned about the adoption (and dismissal) of Feminist Foreign Policies in Europe and the promotion of feminist peace (plenary) <p>Academic and practitioner participants will share their expertise in response to the following guiding questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What have been the main challenges to implementing FFP? (How) have these been overcome? 2. Has FFP led to greater gender equality in external action? 3. What have been the (dis)advantages (from a gender equality perspective) of states adopting FFP? 4. What are the key lessons to be learnt so far? <p>Moderator: Laura Davis, EPLO</p>
17.30	Close
18.30	Informal networking dinner (please confirm attendance)



Agenda Tuesday 6 June

08.30 – 09.00	Coffee and registration
09.00	Opening
09.00 – 10.30	Recommendations for EU and MS to further gender equality and implement feminist approaches to peace and security (working groups) Thematic working groups convene to consider recommendations concerning four of the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peace and militarization• Climate justice• Gender equality and women's rights• Economic justice
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee and Tea
11.00 – 12.30	Recommendations for EU and MS to implement feminist approaches to peace and security (plenary) Working groups present their recommendations in plenary; discussion Moderator: Laura Davis, EPLO
12.30 – 13.00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Laura Davis (EPLO)
13.00	Light lunch (please confirm attendance)

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).