



JAPAN 2023

# Communiqué

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**Feminist Demands for  
Building an Equal, Just, and Peaceful Future**

W7 Japan 2023

## PREAMBLE

The legacy of Hiroshima is a profound commitment to world peace, born from the devastation of the first deployed atomic bomb in 1945. The 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit provides the G7 leaders with **an unprecedented opportunity to renew and strengthen their commitments to build an equal, just, and peaceful future, where militarism is overcome and the principles of non-violence and human rights are fully respected.**

It has become increasingly evident that **climate crisis, conflict, pandemic, natural disasters, and global inequalities have disproportionately affected women and girls in all their diversity<sup>(1)</sup>, especially those from marginalised and vulnerable groups and of diverse SOGIESC.** We have to emphasize also that women and girls experiencing intersectional inequalities and discrimination<sup>(2)</sup> are often the most marginalized. Reasonable accommodation is not being adequately made to ensure their rights and freedoms. There are also concerning accounts from various parts of the world, of backlashes in the form of hate speech and/or physical violence, targeted at those who fight for gender justice, which sometimes take the most cruel and inhumane forms. Even women who simply wish to have a peaceful everyday life with their basic rights duly protected have been subjected to this backlash. Harmful and adverse impacts on women of recent advancement of digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) that destructively reinforces conscious as well as unconscious bias should be redressed.

This Communiqué of W7 Japan 2023 has been developed through discussions of feminist experts from 38 countries including youth and those from the Global South, and further refined through youth as well as public consultations with participation from around the globe so that voices and lived realities of those often unheard are reflected.

The Communiqué consists of five thematic areas. Let us emphasize that **the perspective of intersectionality and the multiplicity of gender-based inequality and discrimination is placed as the overarching theme** of the recommendations of each area.

It is the unyielding belief of the W7 Japan 2023 that peace is more than the absence of war. It requires dismantling of structural violence and injustice which marginalize certain groups of people, especially women and girls. **We urge the G7 Leaders to commit to policies that build an equal, just, and peaceful future in a sustainable manner that firmly places gender equality and women's rights including those of various SOGIESC at its core and take immediate, robust, and transformative actions to deliver on its commitments with tangible resources.**

In realizing the commitments of the G7 Summit for advancing gender equality and women's rights, we can never stress too much **the important and critical role that has been played by feminist and women's rights organizations and movements, especially those working at the grass-roots level.** Sufficient and flexible financial, technical, and other resources and opportunities should be ensured to further support and strengthen their activities.

We strongly call on the G7 Leaders to take into consideration the recommendations of the W7 Japan 2023 and duly reflect them in their discussions and declarations. **An equal, just, and peaceful future with gender equality at its core is certainly a future that benefits all.**

- (1) It includes the underrepresented and marginalized women and girls, those in poverty, those with disabilities, indigenous and those from other racial and ethnic minorities, the aged, persons of diverse SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics), those living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, refugees, migrants, and those in detention and humanitarian settings including conflict zones, and those living in remote rural areas, among others.
- (2) The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and ableism, class and other forms of discrimination “intersect” to create unique dynamics and effects. All forms of inequality are mutually reinforcing and must therefore be analyzed and addressed simultaneously to prevent one form of inequality from reinforcing another. (slight modification is added to the definition of Center for Intersectional Justice: <https://www.intersectionaljustice.org/who-we-are>)

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION, AND LEADERSHIP

*Empowerment, meaningful participation, and leadership of women and girls in all their diversity [hereafter referred to as 'women'] are essential to peaceful, just, equitable, and democratic societies. While progress has been made towards gender equality and women's rights, persistent legacies of systemic racism, colonialism, imperialism, and patriarchy continue to restrict women's meaningful participation, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. Support for women's political, social, and economic empowerment, as well as equal access should be strengthened through full ratification of CEDAW, National Strategies on Gender Equity and Equality (NSGEE) in line with human rights treaties, using a whole-of-government approach to increase women's impact on family, society, and the economy.*

Women7 (W7) calls on G7 leaders to:

1. **Apply gender quotas through National Action Plans to achieve full parity by 2030** to realize women's political empowerment at all levels of government and political life. Meaningful participation must promote, embed, and sustain multidimensional, timely, and impact-driven women's participation and leadership in decision-making and implementation processes, while promoting the rights of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), youth, disabled, LGBTQIA+ and SOGIESC communities, and other marginalized and underrepresented groups.
2. **Empower women at all levels and social stratifications**, including those in the informal sector and the unemployed, to achieve social empowerment, equity, and equal opportunities. **Enhance education systems** to be gender-sensitive; to nurture self-esteem and self-actualization of women at all ages; to provide education on sexual reproductive health and rights, wellbeing, and identity; to increase access and funding for programmes aimed at education on the SDGs, financial and digital literacy, emerging technologies, STEAM fields, overcoming the severe gender bias in healthcare, and empowering women for careers and positions of leadership; to support the cultivation of relevant skills, including continuously reskilling, and to meet the demands of the changing world of work. **Support the development of a post-2030 Agenda** to ensure sustainable progress for future generations.
3. **Ensure public access to transparent gender-disaggregated data with intersectional lens** on women's representation and leadership, expanding the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps (OECD) to create a G7 and G20 Gender Data Network and Outcome Dashboard, and incentivize private and third sectors to invest in transparency tools, including bolstering gender in ESG standards and supporting gender parity quotas with budget allocation and accountability.
4. **Promote legal reforms to ensure women's economic empowerment, eliminating the persistent gender pay, pension gaps, and discriminatory tax policies, and to include the promotion of women-centred entrepreneurial policy frameworks and ecosystems** to provide tailored support for women entrepreneurs and ensure women's equal access to land and property rights, finance, markets, networks, connectivity, and digital and procurement opportunities, including public procurement. Adopt the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code (We-Fi)<sup>1</sup> and ensure that policies and programmes encompass microenterprises, SMEs, growing enterprises, and rural, green and blue enterprises owned or led by women.
5. **Regulate Artificial Intelligence to ensure transparency, traceability, and accuracy** to safeguard against the destructive reinforcement of conscious and unconscious bias in AI algorithms and prevent harm to women and other marginalized communities in the labour market and all AI-dependent political, social and economic areas.

<sup>1</sup> The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code is a multi-stakeholder, data-driven public-private partnership to systemically address the \$1.7 trillion financing gap facing 400 million women-led firms globally. It draws on a UK best practice that addresses finance and data gaps, challenges financial institutions to track and report on their funding to women-owned firms, and commits their organization to taking action.

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND CARE ECONOMY

*The COVID-19 pandemic, escalating cost of living, spiraling debt repayments and climate crisis have all had a disproportionate impact on women and girls, in all their diversity, exposing, exacerbating and reinforcing structural economic inequalities. These crises further highlight the central role of the care economy in the normal functioning of our societies and economies as well as the chronic underfunding of adequate and affordable public care services. In the absence of adequate public services, it is women's unpaid and underpaid care work that has been filling the gaps and will only increase as these crises exacerbate and inequality continues to rise. Given increasing understanding of the ongoing legacies of colonialism it is also time to address the ways in which inequality continues to be perpetuated, and to acknowledge the need for decolonization measures in order to ensure gender equality for all women, whatever part of the world they live in.*

We, the W7, call for G7 Leaders to:

1. **Recognize the value and importance of care throughout government policymaking, and the responsibility of governments to invest in public care services and systems.**
  - **Increase** public spending on social infrastructure and gender-transformative health and care services by an additional 2% of GDP in order to improve the quality of services, reduce women's disproportionate unpaid care loads and provide more decent work in sectors dominated by women.
  - **Promote decent work** for all health and care workers in the formal and informal sectors including: ratification and enforcement of ILO conventions on freedom of association (87) collective bargaining (98) and sexual harassment in the workplace (190); commitment to living wages and reduction in the gender pay gap including pay transparency legislation; increased public investment in education, training and upskilling, and recruitment of health workers.
  - **Ensure** public funding of universally accessible, adequate and gender-sensitive social protection schemes, particularly for women in the informal sector.
  - **Reduce the load of unpaid care work** for women including gender responsive policies such as parental leave, and flexible work, and other social protection policies and tackle entrenched social norms to 'de-feminize' care-giving and change gender norms around caring responsibilities.
  - **Include** the meaningful participation of both paid and unpaid care workers in decision making on care policies, including migrant and informal health and care workers.
2. **Promote economic policy measures that provide an enabling environment for the achievement of women's economic justice**
  - **Evaluate** all macroeconomic policy making against its impact on women's rights to ensure that fiscal, trade and monetary policies promote rather than undermine gender equality.
  - **Raise revenue to fund public services and prevent austerity measures** by implementing progressive national and international tax regimes including: combating illicit financial flows and tax avoidance/havens; introducing wealth taxes for the super rich and windfall taxes for corporations and supporting calls for a UN Tax Convention and global tax body.
  - **Acknowledge the continuing impact of colonial legacies** and the need to decolonize international economic systems, if gender equality is to be achieved globally, including supporting the cancellation of the sovereign debts of previously colonized countries by bilateral, private and multilateral lenders.
  - **Ensure equal access and control of productive assets:** Implement progressive laws that guarantee gender equality in control and ownership of land, natural resources, housing and properties. Through international regulation such as the UN Draft Legally Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights, prevent multinational corporations from land grabs and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources that often have grave impacts on women of indigenous communities.

## BODILY AUTONOMY AND SELF-DETERMINATION:

### Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC)

*Structural and institutional factors including socio-cultural norms and discriminatory laws continue to marginalize certain groups of people such as women and girls in all their diversity and persons of diverse SOGIESC, preventing them from receiving equal opportunities and participating in society equally. Furthermore, risks of discrimination and violence including GBV are increasing drastically, especially in the context of conflict and disaster while backlash against gender equality, SRHR, and persons of diverse SOGIESC is rising. We are calling on the G7 countries to achieve, to the fullest extent, bodily autonomy and self-determination, especially in the areas of GBV, SRHR, and SOGIESC.*

We, the W7, call for G7 Leaders to commit to:

1. **Fund programmes empowering and supporting bodily autonomy and self-determination**  
**Increase and sustain** funding to achieve comprehensive SRHR, integrated GBV prevention, protection, and mitigation services, and to protect rights of women in all their diversity and persons of diverse SOGIESC. **Ensure** solid, stable, and sustainable funding for civil society-led organizations, and allocate resources especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities with due recognition of intersectionality.
2. **Ensure advancement of legislation for GBV prevention, protection, prosecution, mitigation and response, including in support of persons of diverse SOGIESC**  
**Advance** national legislation, justice-based programming on GBV that is in alignment with international human rights standards, laws, and frameworks targeted to the needs of survivors and those at increased risk of all forms of GBV including that perpetrated online, child, early, and forced marriage, and homo and transphobic violence. Ensure meaningful involvement of civil society throughout the process of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluating policies.
3. **Ensure access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) care for all**  
**Reiterate** the importance of SRH care as an essential part of Universal Health Coverage. **Promote** access to safe, youth-friendly, inclusive, rights-based, sex-positive and non-stigmatizing contraception, abortion, and other SRH services regardless of age, gender and sexuality including in humanitarian crises and emergency situations. **Implement** CSE both in and out of schools through community-based training and outreach with diverse SOGIESC perspectives. **Repeal** discriminatory and restrictive laws and policies against SRHR such as criminalization of abortion and forced sterilization. **Reaffirm** collective efforts and full commitment to SRHR based on international agreements, such as the ICPD Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, and CEDAW.
4. **Ensure equality and equity among all genders and sexualities across all countries**  
**Endorse** the recommendations of the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity and advocate internationally for their implementation, in particular on the decriminalization on grounds of SOGI, banning conversion therapies, sterilization requirements, and introducing legal gender recognition based on self-identification.  
**Ensure** protection against discrimination and violence to remove social and financial barriers and achieve equality and equity among all genders and sexualities.  
**Strengthen** legislation and its enforcement on equal opportunities and participation in education, health care, housing, employment, occupation, marital status, parenting and other sectors, as well as **repeal** policies that reinforce discriminatory gender norms.



## FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE: Responses to Multiple Gendered Humanitarian Crises, and Women, Peace and Security

*With 12 governments already having adopted or committed to adopting various forms of feminist foreign policies, we believe that a radical shift in global foreign policy is in order. A feminist foreign policy is an intersectional, human-rights based approach that prioritizes peace, gender equality, and environmental integrity. It promotes co-creation with feminist activists, groups and movements—at home and abroad—and addresses inequalities and underlying power structures. It calls for states to engage with and remain accountable to feminist civil society. The G7 countries have a unique opportunity to lay a firmer foundation for robust, resilient peace and security by centering a feminist foreign policy approach.*

Calling on all G7 countries to:

1. Work toward **adopting and implementing feminist foreign policies that are coherent across all foreign policy areas**, including diplomacy, security and defense, trade, humanitarian assistance and development, and to ensure that their implementation remains accountable to feminist civil society. Such feminist foreign policies must be built on the basis of existing commitments, which include full and effective implementation of UN human rights treaties inter alia CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, the Women Peace and Security Agenda, Youth Peace and Security Agenda, and the Global Compact for Migration. They should affirm commitments to the four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact and increase funding across all elements of the Agenda.
2. **Reduce military expenditure and spend 100% of bilateral allocable Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding on programmes targeting or integrating gender equality.** Ensure at least 20% of ODA funding is channeled into programmes with gender equality as the principal objective and at least 10% directed at feminist and women-led NGOs, including locally-led organizations.
3. **Address the rising backlash from the anti-gender movement and backlash against women human rights defenders (WHRDs), as well as the shrinking space for civil society** by ensuring long-term, flexible, and sustainable funding for feminist action and organizations, with a focus on local activists, WHRDSs and women's rights organizations, as a crucial foreign policy tool.
4. **Champion the equitable and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity** across all foreign policy institutions and mechanisms to ensure transformative change with due acknowledgement of intersectionality and multiplicity of inequality and discrimination.
5. Increase long-term, accessible, and flexible **funding to prioritize and address climate justice, especially the gendered impact of climate change**, with a focus on inter- and intra-generational equity, sustainable consumption, and conservation of resources.

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

*Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for sustainable, peaceful, and inclusive societies. And yet, progress remains slow, and no country (the G7 included) has reached gender equality - with some even regressing in recent years. Greater political will, stronger transparency and accountability, closer collaboration with feminist organizations and the W7, alignment with feminist foreign and development policies and international commitments, and increased funding can accelerate progress toward equality for women, girls and LGBTIQ+ persons in all their diversity.*

We, the W7, call on the G7 Leaders to:

1. **Mainstream gender perspectives as a cross-cutting principle in all stages of policy development and implementation.**
  - **Apply** recognized instruments including, but not limited to, gender impact assessments, gender analyses, and gender equality marker systems.
  - **Invest in and advocate for** the collection and financing of intersectional, gender-disaggregated data to inform evidence-based policies that promote gender equality globally.
2. **Adopt and strengthen** accountability frameworks to assess and adjust the gendered impacts of public policies and multilateral commitments, in collaboration with feminist organizations and the W7. Ensure that these frameworks are part of the standing G7 communiqué agenda.
  - **Continue** monitoring domestic progress toward gender equality with the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps. Work closely with feminist organizations and the W7 to update the Dashboard methodology and indicators, and complement the data with in-depth reflection on progress and persistent challenges.
  - **Ensure** that commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ persons in all their diversity are actionable, measurable, and time-bound.
  - **Develop** an accountability mechanism to track past and current gender equality commitments at the G7 level in a comprehensive and timely manner, expanding the scope beyond development activities in current accountability progress reports.
3. **Engage** feminist civil society –including organizations in the Global South and the W7–in G7 decision-making, implementation, and monitoring processes through regular consultations with feminist activists and committing resources for a meaningful W7 process.
4. **Ensure** long-term, flexible, and sustainable funding both domestically and as part of international assistance for feminist action and organizations, focusing on local activists and movements as crucial agents of change to achieve gender equality.
5. **Ensure** that 100% of ODA commitments consider gender equality and that 20% of these funds promote gender equality as a primary objective.
6. **Commit** sufficient financing for the goals outlined throughout this communiqué through both domestic budgets and international assistance investments, and provide regular and transparent reporting on the implementation of financial commitments.





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