A Call for a Purple, Green, Public-Sector-Led Transformation for Climate Justice

We – women, feminists, LGBTI+ people, environmental movements, local communities, trade unions, villagers, farmers, young people, scientists, rights defenders and all those who defend life—have been fighting for many years by resisting, building networks of solidarity and amplifying our voices against the destruction wrought upon women and ecological life by the capitalist system's mechanisms of neo-colonialism, its insatiable greed for production and growth, and wars and militarism.

We are being forced to pay the price for crises for which we are not responsible. The climate crisis is intensifying in tandem with the economic, social, political and ecological crises deepened by patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism, racism, speciesism and militarism. Whilst those responsible for the crisis increase their wealth and power, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, workers, LGBTI+ people, migrants, the poor and local communities bear ever-heavier burdens every day just to protect their lives.

As ecological destruction deepens, oppression, poverty and violence are on the rise; care work is increasing, and women are being turned into an insecure and cheap labour force. The struggle for survival stands as an obstacle in the way of our struggle for equality and freedom. We refuse to accept the constant postponement of our lives. We will not give up defending life and one another.

We demand that the space opened up by the Belém Gender Action Plan, adopted at COP30, be translated into concrete policies, resources and decision-making power. Our demands cannot simply be written into international texts and left there. COP31 must make gender equality a fundamental principle of climate governance.

We are agents who generate political solutions through our experiences of knowledge, organisation, care and solidarity. Before our 'resilience' is praised, an account must be given of why we are constantly forced to bear the burden of crises. Our knowledge and labour, which sustain life, cannot be excluded from decision-making. We speak for ourselves; we demand equal voice, decision-making power and the power to determine outcomes in climate policies.

Our Shared Principles

We bring together the legacy of the purple movement—equality, freedom and feminist struggle—with the green movement's demand for ecological living and harmony with nature, and the public sector's vision of rights-based, free, accessible and high-quality public services.

At the heart of this transformation:

Feminist climate justice and intersectionality,

The reproduction of life, care justice and ecological integrity,

Gender equality, freedom and a life free from violence,

Fair, democratic, participatory and accountable climate governance,

The fair sharing of the burdens, resources and decision-making power of the crisis,

The protection of peace, human rights, animal rights and the commons,

Recognition of women's local, everyday, traditional and experiential knowledge,

Anti-colonialism, intergenerational and interspecies justice.

The Crisis and Inequalities Enveloping Life

The treatment of women and nature as unlimited, free and expendable resources is the foundation of patriarchy and the capitalist system. The domination over our bodies and our labour, alongside the plundering of the land, water, forests and other living beings, is fuelled by the same relations of exploitation and ownership. The climate crisis is experienced not only in melting glaciers, parched soils and rising waters, but also in deepening poverty, the growing burden of care and the decision-making power taken from us.

The burden of this destruction is not borne equally. Gender intersects with class, age, disability, ethnic origin, migrant status and citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity and place of residence. Monolithic definitions of 'women' or 'vulnerable groups' obscure diverse experiences and render multiple forms of discrimination invisible. The fact that those who contribute least to the crisis suffer the heaviest losses is a clear indication of climate injustice.

When access to water, food, healthcare and public services becomes difficult, it is once again women's unpaid labour that fills the gap. In disasters, migration, droughts and service disruptions, the responsibility for sustaining life falls on women's shoulders. Care work is the invisible infrastructure of climate resilience. Whilst the care work that sustains society is rendered invisible, women's economic independence and freedom are eroded. When this burden is passed on to girls, the risks of dropping out of education, child labour, early marriage, violence and exploitation increase. The impacts on the physical, mental and social health of young women and girls, however, remain insufficiently researched. The cost of crises cannot be borne by the time, labour and future of women and girls.

Being present at decision-making tables does not equate to holding decision-making power. If, whilst the views of women and LGBTI+ people are being heard, the agenda, the budget and the implementation are determined by others, there can be no talk of equal participation. Quotas and numerical representation are a starting point; they cannot be the limit of our voice and our will.

Budgets also reflect these power dynamics: whilst the needs of women and local communities go unmet, resources are channelled to corporations, fossil fuels and structures that exacerbate inequality. Feminists defending life, women's rights defenders and environmental activists, meanwhile, are silenced through threats, violence, discrediting, criminalisation and judicial harassment.

Climate-induced migration and displacement exacerbate existing inequalities. Women, girls and LGBTI+ people, who lack equal access to property, income and freedom of movement, face greater obstacles in accessing safety. Whilst the risks of violence, exploitation and human trafficking increase, the burden of rebuilding lives after destruction is once again placed on women. Discrimination and hate policies faced by LGBTI+ people in housing, employment, healthcare, social services and disaster relief deepen this insecurity; their failure to be recognised as agents who generate knowledge and solidarity, coupled with a lack of data, reinforces their invisibility.

Gender equality in disasters cannot be achieved simply by distributing hygiene kits to women. The real questions must be asked before a disaster strikes: Who creates the risks? Who draws up the plans? What information is taken into account? Who manages the resources? Where are women's organisations in the decision-making process? Why is the care infrastructure not factored in? When these questions remain unanswered, disaster management merely reproduces inequalities.

Women who continue to farm in the fields have limited access to land, means of production, finance and decision-making. Whilst their labour remains unrecorded and invisible, corporatisation, indebtedness, de-agrarisation and industrial agriculture weaken small-scale producers and ecosystems. The knowledge that women have passed down through generations regarding land, water, seeds, food, health and production is also devalued or commodified. Yet this knowledge is a living body of knowledge that evolves through women's present-day experiences, safeguarding and regenerating life. This knowledge, which reminds us that we are not the rulers of nature but part of it alongside other living beings, is one of the resources for building our future.

When the transition away from fossil fuels is planned without regard for the lives of women, workers and local communities, the burden of that transition falls once again on these very same groups. The measure of justice lies in who has access to so-called 'green' jobs, what the pay and working conditions are like, and whether care services, trade union rights and social protection are provided. A just transition must also ensure the security of labour and livelihoods.

Wars and militarism destroy living spaces, agricultural land, water resources and ecosystems, whilst consuming fossil fuels and public resources. Alongside patriarchy, they reinforce oppression, domination and aggressive masculinity. Women of all gender identities and sexual orientations are subjected to physical, sexual and economic violence; the burden of care and reproduction is imposed upon them. Forced marriage at a young age, trafficking in women, forced displacement and exploitation are on the rise. Peace is an indispensable condition for climate justice.

The full extent of the losses incurred in the climate crisis cannot be measured in monetary terms. Along with lives, health, homes and livelihoods, cultures, community ties, ways of life, knowledge and solidarity networks are also destroyed. No policy that renders these losses invisible can deliver justice.

The common ground for all our demands is the equal right to a voice, decision-making and agency for women and marginalised social groups. Women, young women and girls, LGBTI+ people, people with disabilities, workers, local communities and rights organisations must have the right to equal, full and effective participation at every stage – from the drafting of climate and disaster policies through to their budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This right must also encompass processes of resettlement, just transition, peace, ecological restoration, and loss and damage. Beyond quotas and numerical representation, we must speak for ourselves and jointly determine the agenda and decisions. Participation must be guaranteed through accessibility, care support, security, access to information and financial resources.

All policies must be formulated using an intersectional approach. The intersecting effects of gender with class, age, disability, ethnic origin, migration and citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity and place of residence must be taken into account; diverse experiences and needs must be made visible. The rights and needs of those subjected to the most severe and multiple forms of discrimination must be prioritised; the relationships that perpetuate inequality must be transformed.

Public resources and climate finance must be channelled directly, fairly and accessibly to women, girls, LGBTI+ people, those living in poverty, and communities hardest hit by crises and in need of support. Women's organisations and local rights organisations must be able to access adequate and sustainable funding without bureaucratic obstacles. In the allocation of resources, care, social protection, women's economic autonomy, local production and disaster preparedness must be prioritised; women farmers, cooperatives, small-scale producers and local grassroots movements must be supported.

These principles of participation, intersectionality and resource justice are an integral part of all the demands set out below.

In line with these shared principles and experiences, we are setting out our demands across 13 areas to transform the inequalities that permeate our lives. We are amplifying our call for a Purple, Green, Public-Sector-Led Transition for climate justice.

What sort of Purple-Green Public-Sector Transformation?

1. The Link Between Patriarchy and Ecological Destruction

- Climate policies must aim to establish gender equality and climate justice.
- Life, the cyclical nature of the natural world and ecological integrity must be placed at the centre, rather than unlimited growth and capital accumulation.
- The relationship between patriarchy and ecological destruction must be made visible through education, the media and public policies.
- Rather than approaches that view the climate crisis as a problem that can be solved solely through technology, transformative, gender-equal, 'purple', 'green' and public-sector policies should be adopted.

2. The Care Economy, Unpaid Care Labour and the Climate Crisis

- Unpaid care labour must be recognised as visible, acknowledged and economically valuable work.
- Care must be removed from being a duty imposed on women; it must be shared equally as a public and social responsibility.
- Active living centres providing free, accessible, high-quality and climate-resilient childcare, elderly care and care for people with disabilities should be established.
- Sufficient and sustained funding must be allocated from public budgets to the care infrastructure.
- Labour, social security and public policies that ensure the equal sharing of domestic labour must be adopted.
- The extent to which climate and disaster policies increase the burden of care must be regularly assessed.
- We must put an end to the practice of offsetting crises with women's invisible labour.
- Care ethics must be the fundamental principle not only of relationships between people but also of our relationship with nature and other living beings.

3. Gender-Sensitive Budgeting and Resource Allocation in Climate Finance

- A gender impact assessment must be carried out in all public budgets and in climate finance.
- Budgets and the outcomes of funding must be transparent, traceable, accountable and subject to independent audit.
- Institutions and companies providing funding must be held accountable for their impacts on gender and the environment.
- A financing approach that is not merely 'green' in appearance, but 'purple-green', public-oriented, fair and life-restoring, must be adopted.
- Policies that prevent poverty, such as a universal basic income and universal basic services, must be structured on the basis of gender equality.

4. Protection of Women's Human Rights Defenders and Environmental Activists

- The right to life and the freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and participation of defenders and activists must be safeguarded.
- Independent mechanisms must be established to monitor and prevent violence and violations, and to impose effective sanctions.
- Free and accessible legal, economic, psychosocial and security support must be provided.
- National and international solidarity networks must be strengthened.
- States and companies must be held accountable for violations; impunity must end.

5. Climate-Induced Migration, Displacement and Resettlement

- Access to property, housing, security, healthcare, education, employment and social services must be guaranteed.
- Pre-displacement livelihoods, work, culture and community ties must be protected.
- Food, water, hygiene, sexual and reproductive health, safe housing and care services must be publicly guaranteed.
- Rights-based and publicly funded mechanisms must be established to compensate for damages and losses.

6. Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and the Empowerment of Women Farmers

- Women's rights to own and use land and means of production must be strengthened.
- Women's agricultural labour must be recognised and recorded, and women farmers must be provided with social security.
- The destructive subsidisation of industrial agriculture and livestock farming must be brought to an end; a just transition towards ecosystem-restorative, agroecological and plant-based systems must be adopted.
- The protection of heirloom and local seeds and biodiversity must be prioritised.
- The right to water must be safeguarded against the commercialisation of water.
- Agricultural policies must be based on the food sovereignty of producers, women and society, rather than on corporate interests.
- Women's participation in agricultural production must not once again become a form of unpaid labour.

7. Gender Equality in the Just Transition Process

- A just transition must be planned not merely as a technical shift in energy sources, but as a social and economic transformation.
- Women's access to green jobs, education, technology and opportunities for professional retraining must be guaranteed.
- We want decent, secure jobs with equal pay, trade union representation, and free from violence and harassment.
- Childcare, care services, parental rights and social protection must be an integral part of transition plans.
- The transition must be planned with due regard for regional and local needs and ecological limits.

- We do not want the reproduction of existing capital, exploitation and property relations under the guise of ‘green transition’ and ‘sustainability’. No transition that commodifies nature and labour, and concentrates wealth and decision-making power in the hands of a few, can be fair or sustainable.

8. Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Governance

- We want a feminist approach to disaster governance that transforms the urban development, land use and public policies that generate disaster risks.
- We want systems based on the rights and needs of the individual, rather than assistance centred on the head of the household or the household unit.
- Water, hygiene and menstrual products, healthcare, sexual and reproductive health, safe shelter, protection from violence and care services must be fundamental disaster services.
- We want inclusive, accessible and safe disaster services.

9. Women’s Local, Everyday and Experiential Knowledge

- Women’s local, everyday, traditional and experiential knowledge must be recognised as a legitimate and valuable source of knowledge.
- We call for the creation of mechanisms that will enable this knowledge to be documented, archived and passed on across generations, under the leadership of women and their local communities.
- The necessary research must be carried out to ensure that local and traditional knowledge is reliable and applicable, and to update and make it available for use; resources must be allocated to this research.
- Women who are bearers of this knowledge must be empowered as researchers, guides and educators.
- Fair and equitable benefit-sharing must be ensured to prevent the appropriation and commodification of local knowledge by institutions and companies.
- Accessible technologies developed in conjunction with local knowledge should be supported, rather than expensive solutions imposed from outside.

10. The Climate Crisis, Young Women and Girls

- Girls and young women must be recognised as independent rights-holders and policy-makers.
- The right to education must be guaranteed without interruption, even in situations of disaster, displacement and poverty.
- The practice of shifting the burden of care onto girls and passing it down from one generation to the next must be brought to an end.
- Social protection policies that prevent child marriage, child labour and gender-based violence must be implemented.
- All health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, must be free of charge and accessible.
- The physical, mental and social impacts of the climate crisis on young women and girls must be researched, and the findings must inform policy.

11. LGBTI+ Rights and the Climate Crisis

- LGBTI+ rights must be integrated into all areas of climate policy.

- Housing, healthcare, food, employment, economic rights, social protection and disaster response services must be inclusive and safe.
- Service providers must receive training on LGBTI+ rights and be held accountable for discrimination.
- Different forms of family, household and solidarity must be recognised.
- Barriers to property ownership, housing and access to public services for trans people and all LGBTI+ people must be removed.
- The lack of data on LGBTI+ people must be addressed through rights-based, safe and consent-based methods.
- The LGBTI+ movement's experience of organisation and solidarity must converge with the climate movement.

12. Militarism, Wars, Conflicts and the Climate Crisis

- Policies centred on life, peace, nature and non-violence must be adopted in opposition to armament, war and militarism.
- The ecological destruction and ecocide caused by the war economy must not be excluded from climate policies.
- Military expenditure must be assessed alongside budgets for climate action, care, health, social protection and a just transition.
- Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from military activities and war must be fully accounted for and included in states' emissions reports.
- The links between the fossil fuel, energy, mining and arms economies must be exposed.
- Ecocide must be recognised as a crime under national and international law, and those responsible must be held to account.
- Conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict ecological restoration processes must be carried out on the basis of gender equality.
- The rights of women, children, LGBTI+ people and displaced persons affected by war and conflict must be safeguarded.

13. Gender Equality in Loss and Damage Mechanisms

- Loss and damage mechanisms must be established on the basis of anti-colonialism and intergenerational justice.
- In addition to economic losses, cultural, social, ecological and health-related losses must be recognised.
- States and companies that have historically contributed more to the climate crisis must take responsibility.
- Gender-sensitive and transformative budgeting must be implemented in compensation and reparation processes.
- Multinational companies profiting from the climate crisis and the impoverishment of peoples must be taxed; the resources generated must be used for a just transition and social justice.
- Climate policies must be formulated that recognise the link between today's inequalities and colonialism and neo-colonialism, and are based on decolonisation.

Final Word: Not Adaptation to the Crisis, but a Purple, Green, Public-Sector Transformation

We demand to be recognised not as victims of the climate crisis, but as equal and free agents who establish climate justice. We do not want our voices merely to be heard; we want our decisions to be decisive. We do not want to be forced to adapt to crises; we want the system that produces these crises to be transformed. We demand a Purple, Green, Public-Sector Transformation.