

# FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

From ambition to action



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG  
PARIS  
France | Italie

## Thursday, 6 April 2023

Maison des Métallos

94 Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 75011 Paris

Women in International Security (WIIS) France and the Paris Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation are pleased to invite you to a conference day, which aims to shed light on the concept of “Feminist Foreign Policy” from a Franco-German and European perspective.

**When?** Thursday, 6 April 2023, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Where?** Maison des Métallos (94 Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, 75011 Paris)

The concept of “Feminist diplomacy” or “Feminist Foreign Policy”, first introduced and implemented by Sweden in 2014, has spread to several countries, with its momentum shaped in particular by international organisations in the name of the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda and Resolution 1325 adopted by the United Nations in 2000.

Nevertheless, only a few countries explicitly profess a “Feminist Foreign Policy”; only Sweden, Canada (since 2015), France (2018), Luxembourg, Mexico (2020) and Germany (2021) officially apply the term. However, many states and organisations have integrated measures of so-called “Gender Mainstreaming” into their foreign policy, such as Australia and Germany or the European Union.

The conference day aims to bring together diplomatic actors, researchers and activists from Germany and France to examine the concept of “Feminist Foreign Policy” and its practical implementation in current foreign policy through panel discussions and workshops.

The plenary sessions are open to the public as long as places are available. The afternoon workshops, on the other hand, are reserved for a specialised audience.

The conference will be simultaneously translated into French and English.

## Programme

- 8h45-9h15 Reception of participants
- 9h15-9h30 Opening remarks by Jessica Pannetier (Secretary General of WIIS France) and Marc Berthold (Director of the Paris Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation)
- 9h30-9h45 Welcoming remark by The Honourable Hans-Dieter Lucas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to France and Monaco
- 9h45-10h15 Keynote address by Luise Amtsberg, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance at Germany's Federal Foreign Office
- 10h15-11h30 **Panel 1: "Feminist Foreign Policies: comparative approaches"**  
Sweden was the first country to implement a Feminist Foreign Policy in 2014 followed by Mexico, Canada, France and now Germany; each with their own agenda and definition of the concept. What are the lessons learned, the divergences, and how can we work towards a common definition of the concept of a Feminist Foreign Policy?
- Coffee break
- 11h45-13h00 **Panel 2: "Is a Feminist Defence Foreign Policy possible?"**  
Geopolitical events in 2022 have pointed out the determining role of women in the field of defence policy and the resolution of international conflicts. Moving forward, women are not just longer considered victims but are also players of defence, peace, and security. Feminist Foreign Policy intends to bring a different voice, focused on human security, by approaching current challenges in a comprehensive way and not as single and isolated issues. How can the gender component be better integrated into European defence policy-making and how can we rethink defence with a feminist lens?
- 13h00-14h30 Lunch break
- 14h30-16h00 **Workshops** (3 x 15 persons)  
The purpose of these small group workshops is to discuss a specific issue under the guidance of experts on the subject, before proposing concrete recommendations during a plenary feedback session.

- **Workshop 1: “How can a Feminist Foreign Policy help tackle climate change?”**

Climate change affects men and women differently as women are more vulnerable, especially in terms of resources. More and more studies are highlighting this clear divide and pushing for an inclusive approach to climate change that ensures women’s and minorities’ voices are heard. How can a Feminist Foreign Policy also contribute to the implementation of an ambitious climate policy?

- **Workshop 2: “Women and Foreign Policy: ensuring equal representation and rights”**

A Feminist Foreign Policy requires fair and equitable representation – including political representation – of women and people from diverse ethnocultural backgrounds. Yet, these categories of people remain underrepresented in many areas and spheres of governance, including foreign policy, defence, and diplomacy. What promotion mechanisms can work towards the effective implementation of an intersectional Feminist Foreign Policy?

- **Workshop 3: “Bringing civil society actors into the debate”**

The concept of feminist foreign policy is based on human security, including the security of marginalised groups. It is also based on a set of values, which should serve as a compass for foreign policymaking. What might be the concrete mechanisms for implementing such a policy? The development of such a policy also requires listening to the populations concerned, how to ensure their participation and the participation of researchers, activists and campaigners?

16h00-16h15	Coffee break
16h15-17h30	Discussion of the workshops in plenary
17h30-18h00	Closing remarks
18h00	Closing cocktail by Delphine O, French Ambassador and Secretary General of the Generation Equality Forum