

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 an international symposium, which will seek 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 the U.N. 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 (2023) 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 terms “Feminist Foreign Policy” or “Feminist diplomacy”, which are discussed especially in academic and feminist circles, are not yet based on a recognised definition. Moreover, these terms are subject to criticism and are often referred to as “inapplicable” and “meaningless”. Recent events seem to pose major challenges to putting the concept into practice – from the Russian invasion of Ukraine to the recent revolution in Iran and the abolition of such a foreign policy orientation in Sweden by the country’s new government.

This symposium will aim to bring together diplomats, researchers and civil society members and representatives from Germany and France to examine the concept of “Feminist Foreign Policy” and its practical implementation through panel discussions and workshops.

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

The conference will be translated simultaneously into French and English.

Programme

- 8h45-9h15 Reception of participants
- 9h15-9h30 Opening remarks by **Jessica Pennetier**, Secretary General of Women in International Security (WIIS) France and **Marc Berthold**, Director of the Paris Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation
- 9h30-9h45 Welcoming remark by His Excellency **Dr. 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?
- Speakers:*
- **Amy Baker**, Deputy Head of mission, Embassy of Canada in France
 - **Caroline Ferrari**, Deputy Secretary General of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
 - **Her Excellency Dra. Blanca Jiménez Cisneros**, Ambassador to France for Mexico
 - **Merle Spellerberg**, Member of the German Parliament, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Defence Committee, member of the Foreign Feminist Policy Group of the German Bundestag
- Moderation by **Heloise Fayet**, General Delegate, WIIS France
- 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?

Speakers:

- **Irene Fellin**, Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security at NATO
- **Dr. Ulrike Franke**, Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- **Dr. Renata Hessmann Dalaqua**, Head of the Gender and Disarmament Programme at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- **Dr. Marjorie Vanbaelinghem**, Director of the Institute for Strategic Research of the Ecole Militaire (IRSEM)

Moderation by **Dr. Johanna Möhring**, Research Associate at the Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), University of Bonn.

13h00-14h30

Lunch break (buffet on site)

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?

Speakers:

- **Camille Risler**, Program Manager at Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation
- **Dr. Dana Schirwon**, Research fellow, Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- **Charlotte Soulyard**, Feminist and environmental activist,

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?

Speakers:

- **Kristin Augsburg**, Commissioner for Gender Equity and Diversity at the German Federal Foreign Office
- **Rula Asad**, Journalist, Co-founder and Executive director of the Syrian Female Journalists Network (SFJN)
- **N.N.**

Moderation by **Nicolas Rainaud**, Head of Advocacy France and International at Equipop.

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 policy-making. What might be the concrete mechanisms for implementing such a policy? The development of such a policy also requires to listen to the people concerned. How do we ensure their participation and the participation of researchers, activists and campaigners is taken into account in the general debate?

Speakers:

- **Lubna Alkanawati**, Country Manager, Deputy executive director for Women Now for Development
- **Dr. Camille Boutron**, Researcher at the Institut pour la Paix
- **Aurore Pereira De Oliveira**, Gender Equality Advocacy Officer CARE France and **Léa Thuillier**, Communications & Advocacy Officer|Feminists in Action Trust Fund CARE France

Moderation by **Marc Berthold**, Director of the Paris Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

16h00-16h15

Coffee break

16h15-17h30

Delphine O, French Ambassador and Secretary General of the Generation Equality Forum and restitution of the workshops (in plenary)

17h30-17h35

Closing remarks by a video statement from **Dr. Hannah Neumann**,
Member of the European Parliament

17h35

Cocktail