What is Feminist Foreign Policy?

Feminist Foreign Policy is a political framework focused on rebalancing power inequalities in which meeting the needs of the most marginalised in a society becomes the primary goal of foreign and security policies. In doing so, a Feminist Foreign Policy firstly acknowledges that injustices and inequalities (gender inequality being one of the most prominent examples) exist interconnectedly across both the local and the global. Secondly, a Feminist Foreign Policy demands that all foreign and security policy tools are used to reduce those inequalities. Each and every one of us has the right to have our needs taken seriously by policymakers regardless of sex, race, gender, ability, or class.

Moreover, research shows that the most significant factor that indicates whether a country will remain peaceful and stable is its level of gender equality. But this is not about simply giving women and political minorities a place at the decision making table. Instead, Feminist Foreign Policy demands a new table built by all to ensure freedom and human rights for everyone. To do this, foreign policy priorities must change and security policies across the globe must focus on the needs of people instead of states.

What is the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy?

The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) is a research and advocacy organisation promoting a feminist approach to foreign and security policy. We believe foreign policy can be a mechanism for equality, justice, solidarity, and peace. But there can’t be peace without feminism. So we use advocacy, research, and community-building to change how foreign and security policy is being practised so that it creates a safer world for everyone, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Founded in 2016, we were the world’s first organisation explicitly dedicated to Feminist Foreign Policy. In the spring of 2019, we were recognised on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for our work. CFFP was co-founded by Marissa Conway and Kristina Lunz and soon after Nina Bernarding joined. Marissa oversees CFFP’s work in the UK as a not-for-profit (limited by guarantee), and Kristina and Nina co-direct the operations of the gemeinnützige GmbH (charitable LLC) in Germany as Geschäftsführerinnen (Managing Directors).
What does CFFP do?

A Feminist Foreign Policy encompasses all areas of foreign policy and requires new structures and new priorities which should be informed by civil society. From trade, migration, development cooperation, security, climate change, healthcare, and human rights, every aspect of foreign policy must be invested in protecting the vulnerable and marginalised.

We encourage states to implement feminist values in their policymaking processes as well as develop strategies for how to best implement a Feminist Foreign Policy on a national and European level. We are working with the governments of Mexico, Sweden, France, Luxembourg, and Canada to advance Feminist Foreign Policy globally, as well as with feminist activists from around the world. We also work with influential forums like the Munich Security Conference to diversify foreign policy events, and are part of networks committed to disarmament and arms control, like the “Campaign to Stop Killer Robots”.

Here are some concrete examples of our work:

Research

- We produced the first ever ‘Feminist Foreign Policy for the EU’ study including concrete policy recommendations, commissioned by The Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.
- Funded by the Ploughshares Fund, we are producing a report on how P5 states might legislate nuclear policy differently as Feminist Foreign Policy becomes more mainstream.
- In partnership with Greenpeace, we are researching the impacts of German arms exports on women and other political minorities, in particular with regard to gender-based violence.
- In collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, we produce the Feminist Foreign Policy Web Dossier, highlighting feminist visions to change foreign policy from across the world.

Advocacy

- We organised and hosted the first ever official side event on Feminist Foreign Policy at the Munich Security Conference.
- We developed the Women Experts’ (WoX) Network, which saw more than 500 registrations by women experts within the first four weeks of its soft launch.
- We are part of the Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) Network which works closely with the UK Government to ensure its strong commitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
- As an advisor to the German Foreign Ministry, we built the German Foreign Minister’s feminist network between Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany, called Unidas.

Community

- More than 200 people are registered as members of CFFP.
- We regularly organise events that allow our communities in Germany and the UK to rethink foreign policy, including our Fireside Chats, which we have been hosting in collaboration with the British Embassy in Berlin over the last 18 months.
- We produce our own print journal called ‘Disrupted’ as well as publish online think pieces from rising and established activists and academics.
- We publish briefings on hot-button issues like Brexit and the climate crisis.
**Who does CFFP work with?**

We have been fortunate enough to work with a variety of partners ranging from governments, foundations, civil society, and activists including the German Foreign Ministry, the Finnish Foreign Ministry, the British Embassy in Berlin, the German Embassy in London, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Greenpeace, Open Society Foundations, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Ploughshares Fund, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, Friends of Europe, UNA-UK, Article 36 and many more.

**Where does CFFP receive its funds from?**

As an organisation with a clear feminist mission and vision founded by women, we are aware that structurally, women founders only receive a single-digit percentage of funding (2.2 % of venture capital in the for profit sector) compared to male founders. On top of this, hardly any funding goes to feminist work, which means sourcing funding is our biggest struggle to sustainability. We are trying to diversify our funding as much as possible to ensure our political independence. We receive funds from our own membership programme, our CFFP Visionaries (a group of individuals with the financial means to support us), grants from governments and foundations, fees for speaking and running workshops, as well as through collaborations with the partners mentioned above.

**Who is on CFFP’s Advisory Council?**

We are very proud of our Advisory Council, through which feminist trailblazers support us. Our Advisors include Madeleine Rees, Director at Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom; Sanam Anderlini, Director at the LSE ‘Women, Peace and Security Centre’ and the International Civil Society Action Network; Michelle Müntefering, State Minister at the German Federal Foreign Office; Rose McGowan, actress and #metoo activist, and many more. See them all [here](#).