



Women's Human Rights and Gender Justice in the post-2015 era: the role of WIDE+ and feminist organizations

**Evening 17 June – Public Panel Discussion
18 June – WIDE+ Meeting**

Barcelona, Spain, 2015

2015 is an important year for the future of international development. States around the world plan to commit themselves to new development goals in several key development agendas. It could have also become the year in which governments realise new global commitments to respect, protect and enforce women's human rights, since it celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Declaration and Platform for Action Agenda agreed upon in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. After 20 years of reviewing the implementation of the BPfA and other agendas around women's rights, feminist networks and CSOs have to take their time to reflect on the concepts and strategies enshrined in the BPfA: the paradigm of women's human rights, of gender equality and state-CSO-partnership.

It remains an ongoing struggle to keep discourses, laws and policies that foster gender justice in place. In the post-2015 era, feminist groups and networks are confronted with a new configuration of dominant policies, discourses and alliances that undercut women's human rights. Not only that countries like Iran, the Holy See and Russia, among others, are successful at the UN pushing back any new global commitments to Sexual / Reproductive Health and Rights; neo-conservative parties at the EU parliament block progressive gender policies; and conservative forces and religious fundamentalist organisations from among the civil society challenge sexual orientations and gender identities. At the same time, neo-liberal policies that EU decision makers push forward, attack livelihood security through external trade and investment policies, land grabbing and resource extractivism, and they increase the unpaid care burden on mostly women by austerity policies and privatization. These are some illustrations of an underlying trend to slow down, stop, or even reverse progress in women's human rights.

Feminist networks and groups, such as WIDE+, are confronted with questions about the strategic viability of the Beijing-paradigm under changed power relations. If it is currently so difficult to advance the implementation and progress on commitments, should we opt for new strategic avenues and reformulate our feminist agendas? What are key issues we should focus on as feminists? And what can we concretely do to advocate for the future of the women's rights paradigm in the post-2015 agenda?

The public panel in the evening of 17 June and the full day WIDE+ meeting will give members and strategic allies a chance to deeply reflect and discuss these questions in a highly participatory manner. The success of the events depends on the active participation of those present. Interested members are encouraged to contribute ideas, and to be speakers, rapporteurs and facilitators, as explained in the application form.

Are you interested to take part? Please fill in the form and return it to conference@wide-network.org by 10 PM on 20 May. Note that a limited amount of financial support is available for those who need it. We look forward to hearing from you!

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17 June Public Panel Discussion

18:00 - 20:00	<p>Reviewing the Beijing-Paradigm</p> <p>2. Inputs by Christa Wichterich (WIDE+) and Priti Darooka (PWESCR, India)</p> <p>3. brief panel inputs by representatives of Spanish and other organisations/networks</p>	Facilitator: Silke Steinhilber (WIDE+)
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18 June WIDE+ Meeting

8.30-9.00	Welcome and introduction	
9.00-10.30	<p>Plenary Session 1: Deeper Reflection on the strategic value of the Beijing-Paradigm</p> <p>Potential and ambivalences of the Women's Human Rights and the Gender Equality Paradigm and the concept of state-CSO-partnership in times of neoliberal, neoconservative and fundamentalist threats, increased violence, militarisation & securitization of public space, and authoritarian regimes</p>	1 to 3 speakers + 1-2 facilitators
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12.00	<p>2. Plenary Session 2: Renewing the Feminist Agendas in the Post-2015 Era</p> <p>Introducing the workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Livelihood security, care work, social protection * Migration - linking the transnational and the local * Violence and sexual and reproductive rights * Feminist possibility of transforming the EU trade agenda * Aid effectiveness and financing for development 	
12.00-13.30	<p>3. Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Livelihood security, care work, social protection * Migration, situation of refugees and asylum seekers in the EU * EU trade agenda * Post-2015 development agenda 	Debates along 2 guiding questions
14:30- 15:15	Lunch	
15:15-16.00	Reports from Workshops	
16.00-17:30	<p>Plenary Session 3: The role of feminist networks and organisations: Which ways forward? <i>Establishing priorities, agreeing on strategies, advancing action proposals for the post-2015 era</i></p>	