



POSITION PAPER

THE CLIMATE, GENDER AND CONFLICT NEXUS

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INTRODUCTION

Today's climate crisis is having a serious impact on the environment with disastrous consequences for health, food security, livelihoods, conflict and forced migration, as well as both the rights and daily lives of women. Efforts to build and sustain peace are increasingly difficult since climate change directly affects the dynamics of ongoing conflicts and also increases the likelihood of conflict.

The environmental and climate crisis (ECC) is unfolding in a world where gender inequality is already deeply rooted and disproportionately affects those who have contributed to it the least.¹ Unequal patriarchal power structures based on gender norms exacerbate the vulnerabilities of women, girls and LGBTQIA+ persons, and diminish people's ability to build resilience.

Climate mitigation initiatives are often led by men from Western countries and are built on emission patterns largely handled by men.² Short-term climate mitigation strategies are also often based on the behavioural patterns of these men. Take, for example, the case of electrical cars not being affordable for the majority of the world's population. It is therefore crucial to use an intersectional analysis when looking at mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as new and emerging forms of inequality. Recent research on climate actions financed by the Nordic countries shows that gender is seldom considered in mitigation projects, and

while it is more often considered in adaptation measures, the bulk of the money goes to mitigation.³

Climate change can lead to increased competition for resources, thus exacerbating community and ethnic tensions, and it may become a driving force for new conflict. As women and girls already face inequalities and barriers due to their gender, the consequences of climate change will expose these vulnerabilities and result in an increase of negative coping strategies (child marriage, girls leaving school, etc). The same goes for the negative environmental impacts of conflict (water supply, air quality, land availability, decrease in crop yield, deforestation, erosion, etc.).⁴ Marginalisation and poverty often mean that people are unable to make environmentally sustainable decisions. For instance, coal is cheaper than wood, which has a negative impact on the environment and causes respiratory diseases.

Women (especially those who are marginalised and lacking power) and LGBTQIA+ persons have been continuously underrepresented at all levels of decision-making on climate adaptation and mitigation, despite the body of evidence on the disproportionate gender-based effects.⁵ Women at a community level and those from indigenous populations are often leading the work on environmental and climate justice, yet they are seldom included in policy and decision-making processes.

¹ Sometimes referred to as MAPA Most Affected People and Areas by the climate justice movement.

² See, for example, Magnúsdóttir, G. Kronsell, A. Gender, Intersectionality and Climate Institutions in Industrialised States (2021).

³ ACT Alliance: [Climate_FromWordToAction-final.pdf](#) (actalliance.org)

⁴ <https://paxforpeace.nl/news/overview/iraqis-fear-conflict-pollution-will-not-be-cleaned-up> and <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/ukraine-s-war-torn-donbas-region-verge-environmental-disaster-n1266372>

⁵ [Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf](#) (un.org)

⁶ [Gender and climate change | IUCN, Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf](#) (un.org)

NEXUSES

The ECC is very much linked to The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation's current areas of work, and it is becoming increasingly evident to Kvinna till Kvinna and our partner organisations that it is affecting our operations and women's rights in general. These nexuses require much more attention, both in political discussions and in academia, as was highlighted by the UN Secretary General in the 2019 Report on Women, Peace and Security, calling for better analysis and concrete, immediate actions to address the linkages between climate change and conflict from a gender perspective: "The global threat of climate change and environ-

mental degradation is poised to exacerbate the already increasing number of complex emergencies, which disproportionately affect women and girls."⁷

We will briefly outline the links between the ECC and gender-based violence (GBV), movement building, participation, peacebuilding, economic gender justice and conflict sensitivity. Each of the nexuses can and should be analysed more in detail, but the aim here is to outline the main inter-linkages between the ECC and the work of Kvinna till Kvinna.

⁷ UN Security Council (2019), Report of the Secretary General: Women, Peace and Security; Doc.S/2019/800 of 9 October 2019, pp.1-38 at paragraph 118, p.35. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2019_800.pdf.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS



Research has shown the clear intersection between violence against women and climate change.^{8,9} When climate change, for example; causes drought and water scarcity, women and girls are often forced to travel longer distances to access these resources, and thus face increased security risks including sexual violence and other forms of gender based violence GBV.¹⁰ The same goes for land scarcity, such as when rising sea levels flood the land where the poorest (and often women-led) households reside. Since the climate crisis exacerbates poverty in many parts of the world, women and girls are also more vulnerable to trafficking and different forms of sexual exploitation. More girls will also be forced into child marriages.

In Malawi, it is estimated that 1.5 million girls are at risk of becoming child brides due to the impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change, making it harder for families to afford to feed and house their own children.¹¹ In Uganda, rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM) increased during periods of drought from 2014 to 2018.¹² In Myanmar, prostitution reportedly increased as a survival mechanism following Cyclone Nargis in 2008.¹³ In addition, changes to the climate and environment can lead to displacement, intensifying levels of insecurity and other risks linked to migration and conflict – including rape and sexual violence, as well as lack of access to SRHR. The issue of water resources also has a major impact on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights SRHR and menstrual hygiene. Around 40% of hospitals in low and middle-income countries lack access to clean water. The WHO estimates that 5.6 million women and new-born babies died in 2015 as a result of largely preventable complications, such as a lack of hygiene.¹⁴

In addition to this clear evidence of how climate change negatively affects SRHR and exacerbates GBV, it is also obvious that the realisation of SRHR can support both the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. By addressing unmet needs for family planning through a voluntary and rights-based approach, decision-makers can help prevent unwanted pregnancies, improve maternal and child health, and reduce global greenhouse

⁸ epl_2021_51-3_epl-51-3-epl210055_epl-51-epl210055.pdf (un.org)

⁹ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-002-En.pdf>

¹⁰ Mian, L.H., and M. Namasivayam. Sex, rights, gender in the age of climate change. Kuala Lumpur: Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women, 2017. <https://arrow.org.my/publication/sex-rights-gender-ageclimate-change/>

¹¹ Hurlbert, M., et al. Chapter 7: Risk management and decision making in relation to sustainable development. IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, edited by R. Rodrigues & B. L. Turner II. 2019. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/2i.-Chapter-7_FINAL.pdf

¹² Le Masson, V., et al. How violence against women and girls undermines resilience to climate risks in Chad. Disasters 43, no. S3 (2019): S245-S270. <https://doi.org/10.1111/disa.12343>

¹³ Le Masson, V. Gender and resilience: From theory to practice. London: BRACED, Overseas Development Institute, 2016. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/10224.pdf>

¹⁴ WHO/ UNICEF (2015)

gas emissions. At the same time, by supporting people's realisation of SRHR, individuals' resilience to climate-related shocks and stresses can be enhanced, and barriers for them to engage in climate action can be removed.¹⁵

Despite these clear linkages between GBV, SRHR and climate change, none of the three specific climate change treaties (1992 UNFCCC, 1997 Kyoto Protocol and 2015 Paris Agreement) address this issue.¹⁶

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acknowledge the interlinkages between GBV, conflict and the ECC, and make sure that this linkage is considered in programming and policies.
- In all dialogue on climate, SRHR and ECC discussions need to have a human rights-based approach. SRHR, including access to contraceptives and family planning, should be promoted, and women's bodies must never be seen as instruments to reduce emissions and combat climate change.
- More attention needs to be paid to SRHR in disaster risk management (DRM) processes. This includes addressing both the process of DRM planning and the practicalities of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.
- Ensure that women rights are at the centre of all responses to climate, peace, conflict and gender. Governments should also implement the recommendations set out in General Recommendation No. 37 (2018) of the CEDAW Committee, which provides member states with recommendations for action to address GBV in the context of disaster risk and climate change.

¹⁵ Women Deliver (2021), The link between climate change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – an evidence review.

¹⁶ Ibid.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Women in conflict-affected contexts face multiple layers of exclusion, since they are left out of local and national decision-making processes regarding the ECC, and conflict-affected countries have little influence over global climate policy. To address this, it is essential to ensure opportunities for political organising and civic space. Several of the subgoals of SDG 13 on climate action highlight the need for a more inclusive and intersectional approach to mitigation and adaptation, including improving education and awareness raising, and a focus on women, youth and marginalised communities.¹⁷

Women activists and those impacted by climate change need to be able to look up government regulations and policies to identify gender-sensitive responses.

There is also an imbalance between the countries historically responsible for most of the world's emissions and those facing the worst consequences of climate change, which include the conflict-affected societies where Kvinna till Kvinna operates. Women activists already dealing with climate change, including indigenous and rural women, need more support to actively participate in decision-making forums, and share their knowledge of the intersection between climate, gender, and conflict. Women with disabilities and low education, as well as those living in rural areas, are further cut off from decision-making, highlighting the need for an intersectional approach to mitigation and adaptation. Processes should be inclusive and must be developed based on rights-based principles. There is a need for safe spaces for women activists to come together and strategise, as well as more vocal demands for real and diversified participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate intersectional gender and power analysis into climate change, environmental and disaster risk mitigation, and adaptation programming. Strive for gender parity in consultation and planning processes to ensure effective and just programmes and strategies.
- Expand data and evidence-generation, particularly around the gendered impacts of climate change and disasters in relation to gender roles, peace and security, which is imperative to the development of initiatives on climate change, environmental and disaster risk.
- Decision-making processes need to be participatory, transparent and accountable. Ensure that the most affected and marginalised communities can influence decision-making and the creation of sustainable solutions. Women's expertise, experience and knowledge should be acknowledged in climate change, the environment and peacebuilding, and must be included in decision-making. Women's right to own land and access natural resources should be addressed in peace agreements.

PEACEBUILDING



The associated risks between conflict-affected and fragile states and the effects of climate change have been referred to as “climate security”. This term has grown on the international policy level in recent years, noting that many of the countries already dealing with peace and security threats have also already faced repercussions of the ECC, and are vulnerable to further climate change. Research has also shown that 40% of intrastate conflicts during the past 60 years have been linked to natural resources.¹⁸

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), establishing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, recognises women’s role in sustaining peace and security. There is a growing demand from the civil society for the WPS agenda to embrace environmental protection. The ECC is not completely excluded from the WPS agenda (Resolution 2242 mentions climate change), and there is increasing attention in discussions on the disproportionate impact that environmental degradation and the climate crisis has on women.¹⁹

Changes to the environment and climate can intensify group identities in conflict and may also increase the likelihood of conflict. This can occur in situations where resources are depleted, since there is then an increased reliance on traditional group identities for survival, which further exacerbates divisions and competition.

On the other hand, responding to environmental and climate change can be an opportunity for groups (or states) to work together on shared issues, leading to greater cooperation that benefits the whole community. This theory is often called “environmental peacebuilding”, which recognises the potential to work on peacebuilding and environmental issues concurrently.

¹⁸ conflict_peacebuilding.pdf (iisd.org)

¹⁹ Defending-the-Future.pdf (gaps-uk.org)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support peacebuilding efforts to become climate sensitive. Linking climate adaptation to human security and peacebuilding will increase resilience to climate-fragility risks. Ensure women's participation in peace-making processes and responses to climate change are inclusive and responsive to the needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of all.
- Ensure that all conflict and peacebuilding projects, programmes, policy and research are based on participatory, intersectional gender-conflict-environmental analysis that includes an analysis of root causes and power structures.
- Strengthen the link between the environment, climate and human security, underlining that the climate crisis poses the biggest security threat of our time, a threat that cannot be addressed by increased militarisation. Advocate for stronger commitments on the ECC and human security within the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and within the Paris Agreement.
- ECC programming needs to ensure it is not creating more harm and that positive results that emerge are further supported. "Maladaptation" of ECC strategies creates further social and gender inequalities. Avoiding this requires a fundamental change to the patriarchal system that leads to these inequalities.
- Research has already highlighted how climate mitigation measures can intensify conflict, resulting in further grievances and harmful consequences. In order to apply a conflict-sensitive approach, programmes need to have a risk assessment of the variables around climate change and environmental degradation. It is also important that programming activities do not inadvertently recreate and reproduce gender inequalities.
- National Action Plans on Women Peace and Security need to include an ECC focus, recognising that this is a security issue that impacts women's lives.
- Military actors must be held accountable for the environmental harm caused by their actions – including the gendered impacts thereof.

ECONOMIC GENDER JUSTICE



Climate change adds to women's multiple domestic burdens, including the collection of food, water, fuel, cooking, cleaning, and caring for children, the elderly and the sick.

Most often women carry the primary responsibility for resource management at the household and community level in society, despite seldom having ownership or control over such resources. The ECC

drastically affects resource management by decreasing livelihood opportunities and informal jobs (e.g. agricultural day labourers, petty food traders). At the same time, there is an increase in the number of women living in poverty in comparison to men, who have more freedom of movement and are therefore able to move to other labour markets.

Another consequence of the ECC is the rise in migration flows, with displacement and an increased number of people with refugee status due to climate change. Forced displacement often leads to a reduction in economic opportunities and rights.

As highlighted in various Kvinna till Kvinna reports, women's low economic power coupled with corruption is an underlying challenge to women's protection from violence, and inclusion in decision-making and political participation.²⁰ Corruption must be combatted to ensure that women enjoy full decision-making powers in society, including an exertion of influence on climate policy. As environmental and climate justice is often hindered by powerful economic interests (seeking to influence political institutions), work against corruption is intrinsically linked to the ability to achieve robust climate policy, legislation and mitigation measures.²¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support gender equality in land tenure, inheritance rights and access to resources, from a legal standpoint and via effective implementation and enforcement.
- Address the fact that lack of (control over) resources is one of the main reasons for women's increased vulnerability to the effects of the ECC, and make sure unequal economic structures are discussed and reformed.
- Address and combat corruption since it is an obstacle for the effective implementation of mitigation measures and programmes.

²⁰ <https://kvinna.tillkvinna.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/A-Right-Not-A-Gift.pdf>

²¹ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/tackle-climate-change-take-corruption>

FINANCING



The financing of mitigation and adaptation projects and programmes lacks intersectional power analysis, which results in women's specific needs (especially those with limited power and from marginalised groups) either being insufficiently included or completely excluded.

More investment is needed to allow women groups to fund organisation, analyse the gender perspective of government regulations and policies, as well as identify solutions. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), civil society partners noted how in the aftermath of devastating floods there was no government analysis of the impact on women, resulting in less specialised support. Women's organisations are crucial agents in raising awareness about the perspectives and needs of marginalised communities, and their efforts must be supported.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrating human rights norms and principles into climate action and financing will improve outcomes, ensure a holistic approach that addresses the economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions of climate change, and empower the most affected groups and peoples.
- Apply a clear gender perspective when developing and reviewing climate policies and positions. This includes strengthening the gender perspective in the EU's joint commitments to the Paris Agreement and advocating for stronger efforts to fulfil the promises made and the strategic objectives in the Beijing Platform for Action.
- All climate financing, including financing through global funds (e.g. the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)), need to be founded upon a human rights perspective that ensures that human rights, participation, non-discrimination, gender equality and a just transition are guiding principles. Financing needs to reach those mostly impacted by the ECC, including women and youth, in accordance with the overarching principle of Agenda 2030 of Leave No One Behind (LNOB).
- Ensure funding for environmental impact assessments of conflict and ensure that these impact assessments take an intersectional gendered perspective. Ensure that there is funding for early recovery and reconstruction activities that improve the environment and help to repair environmental damage and pollution caused by conflict. Ensure that such activities are informed by the perspectives and priorities of women.

FEMALE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

When challenging inequalities and injustice, women and girl environmental human rights defenders are exposed to gender-specific violence and threats. According to the 2021 Women, Peace and Security Agenda annual report, environmental activists are among the most threatened women human rights defenders. Working on the ECC also ranked highly in the Kvinna till Kvinna report entitled “Solidarity is Our Only Weapon” (2021), as being dangerous for women activists.²² The reduction of civic space has had a highly detrimental impact on ECC activism in many parts of the world.

The climate justice movement and the women’s rights movement share many common goals and challenges, but have not collaborated to any great extent and are often seen as having separate agendas. Nevertheless, there is a sense of needing to join forces, both to raise awareness on gendered aspects of the ECC, and because women’s organisations around the world are increasingly forced to take the ECC into account as it tangibly affects their work and their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address the shrinking space by supporting civil society organisations working for climate justice with a gender perspective.
- Acknowledge the threats to women human rights defenders (WHRDs), environmental defenders and women’s rights organisations working for peace, the environment and gender equality. Increase support to women’s rights organisations working on environmental issues and support networking between women’s organisations and environmental organisations.
- Support and fund protection mechanisms for WHRDs and environmental defenders based on their identified needs. Donors should allow funding applications to include budget lines for the safety and wellbeing of organisations operating in hostile environments.
- Make sure that the temporary legislation that was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, which restricts the space for civil society, is phased out and does not become permanent.
- Ensure that there is sufficient support for organisations and networks that promote women’s and girls’ rights, gender equality and climate justice in the context of the climate crisis. Support organisations and networks that transform destructive norms of masculinity, engaging more boys and men in gender equality and climate justice.
- Advance the international legal framework for the promotion and protection of women and girl environmental and climate justice activists, including binding provisions to increase their legal protection, building upon existing frameworks such as Human Rights Council Resolution 40/11 and the process of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

TERMINOLOGY

Climate mitigation

UNEP defines climate mitigation as “efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases”.

Climate adaption

Due to catastrophic levels of climate change, climate mitigation is not enough to combat climate change and environmental degradation. Climate adaption entails measures taken to adapt to this new reality.

Environmental peacebuilding

integrates **natural resource management** into peacebuilding concepts and activities (e.g. conflict prevention), and this term can also include environmental cooperation and protection as part of the definition of peace.

Environmental and climate crisis (ECC)

Kvinna till Kvinna prefers the use of the word “crisis” rather than “change”, as we believe it is a crisis of great magnitude and should be referred to as such.

Climate justice

Climate justice insists on a shift from a discourse on greenhouse gases and melting ice caps into a civil rights movement with the people and communities most vulnerable to impacts of climate change at the heart of the issue.²³

HOW KVINNA TILL KVINNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The consequences of climate change and environmental degradation will continue to exacerbate conflicts over resources, as well as spark new conflicts such as water wars. Kvinna till Kvinna supports women human rights defenders and women's rights organisations in conflict-affected countries, and upholds the need to respond to the impact that the ECC has on women, particularly the most vulnerable and those from marginalised groups. We also need to push for stronger participation of women in decisions on ECC mitigation and adaptation. Kvinna till Kvinna can, as a feminist donor, support capacity development through grant-making; provide training and technical support for women's rights organisations on the ECC and climate action; contribute to knowledge production through documentation and dissemination of local knowledge; and bring different women with different kinds of expertise together. Kvinna till Kvinna can also use networking to facilitate women's rights organisations' access to relevant platforms, and support sustainable and environmentally friendly economic gender justice transformation.

Kvinna till Kvinna has developed and adopted an ECC Action Plan for its internal activities and environmental footsteps, including the development of Green Offices, for example. Some programme offices maintain continuous dialogue with partner organisations on ECC-related issues. In Liberia, for example, each partner organisation includes an ECC focal point in such discussions. The Liberia team has also produced a desk study, based on a survey, to explore whether partner organisations reflect on the environmental impact of their project, and how they could integrate a climate change and environmental perspective into their projects. One of the key findings of the desk study was that partner organisation unanimously sought support for more networking with other organisation on the topic.

In Rwanda, Kvinna till Kvinna conducted a study on gender, women's rights, the environment and climate change, the first of its kind in the country. The primary purpose of this study was to understand the growing climate change crisis in Rwanda, and to shed light on

the gendered impacts on areas where Kvinna till Kvinna and its partners are engaged in programming, such as GBV, SRHR, and women's economic decision-making and effective participation. The study shows that Kvinna till Kvinna and its partners have a unique opportunity to address the impact of the ECC on women and girls' lives in Rwanda, to participate in ECC policy making, and to determine how our operations can be environmentally sustainable.

In the MENA region, Kvinna till Kvinna's Amman office has taken a leading role in developing processes and projects to discuss the nexus of the ECC, conflict and gender with partner organisations and other CSOs in the region. For the 2022 Commission on the Status of Women, which had climate change and environment disaster risk reduction as its main theme, the Kvinna till Kvinna Amman office developed and submitted a statement entitled "How to Advance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa Region to Leverage Action for Environmental Sustainability and Tackle Climate Change?". At the time of writing, they are developing a series of webinars on the triple crisis (socio-economic, political and ecological), targeting the women's movement and broader civil society in order to build capacity and awareness.

In 2020, the Kvinna till Kvinna office in Jerusalem initiated a series of discussions with women's rights organisations and other CSOs on the weak representation of women in environmental policy and programming. There were training sessions for interested partner organisations on climate change action. In 2021, Kvinna till Kvinna funded two projects by partner organisations on this topic.

Meanwhile, Kvinna till Kvinna's advocacy unit in Stockholm is collaborating with a network of development, environmental and climate justice organisations to influence Swedish policy, to include a stronger gender perspective in its environmental and climate actions and development aid, and to fully understand and act on the interlinkages between the ECC, conflict and gender.

²⁴ Environment, Climate Change and Women (2017): Desk study of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations and the environment and climate change.

HOW PARTNER ORGANISATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Women's Affairs Center in Palestine brings together university graduates and farmers. The graduates have academic knowledge of climate change, while the women farmers contribute with their practical knowledge and experience. This resulted in ten articles on good adaptation practices. The Women's Affairs Center also works with a committee of experts to support climate-friendly agricultural and agri-business projects owned by women entrepreneurs. The Palestinian Hydrology Group is a host for the newly formed Palestinian Women Water Practitioners Network, which brings together relevant governmental, non-governmental and academic institutions to support women in the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) sector, and includes addressing the climate crisis.

In Liberia, partner organisations are investigating in ways to implement climate-smart agriculture into their women's economic empowerment components. During 2022, for instance, Kvinna till Kvinna will work with a consultant to evaluate environmentally friendly agricultural production and processes that also mitigate challenges caused by the climate crisis.

In Rwanda, partners are integrating climate change awareness into their dialogue sessions with women, particularly rural women, and men. They are also providing fuel-efficient cooking stoves to lower the risk of GBV, by reducing the need for long walks to collect firewood, and to complement norm changes concerning unpaid domestic work.

In DRC, partner organisations have started to reflect on how climate change affects women's rights and lives. For example, huge river floods in 2021 destroyed schools and infrastructure in the country. Partner organisations commented on the general lack of a gendered perspective on local and international CSOs' rescue programmes for those affected, and there was no focus on the specific needs of women, such as SRHR, menstrual hygiene, etc. Moreover, the DRC Ministry of the Environment lacks gender policies and perspectives. There are increasing demands that women

should be heard, both at local and international levels, and included in climate policies, resolutions, conventions, and so on.

In the Western Balkans, partner organisations have, with the support of Kvinna till Kvinna, for many years been engaged in advocating for a stronger gender perspective in the EU accession process. Chapter 27 covers the environment and climate change, and partner organisations are advocating for the adoption of a gender equality perspective in environmental policies. During the yearly consultancy week in November 2021, this issue was discussed, and a partner analysis and policy brief was presented to EU stakeholders, linking social norms with access to control over natural resources. In North Macedonia, some partner organisations are working to empower women to engage in local policy and decision-making, with a focus on environmental issues as part of their advocacy towards local municipalities. In Serbia, there is a growing body of civic initiatives that focus on environmental protection, bringing together many female activists. ECC issues have the ability to gather various groups of activists around the common goals.





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