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Beijing+30 conference

30 Years After Beijing: Gender Equality and Climate Justice in a Changing World

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This report has been written by
Allis Millegård and Sara Erlandsson

Revised by Lisa Sutton and Nancy Contreras

Report layout Nancy Contreras



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GADIP 2025
www.gadip.se
info@gadip.se
Gothenburg, Sweden



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List of abbreviations and organisations

ABF - Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (Workers' Educational Association) provides popular education for adults.

EM - Ecological Modernisation

Fair sorgen! - An Austrian organisation and network advocating for a fair and equal distribution of care work (unpaid and paid) between genders and in society, aiming to increase recognition and resources for care professions.

GADIP - Gender and Development in Practice is a Swedish network for feminists within academia and civil society who promote mutual knowledge exchange.

GBV - Gender Based Violence

GU - Gothenburg University

Kvinnofolkhögskolan - The Women's College provides high popular education for women.

Lex Femme - A non-profit women's shelter that works for a society free from men's violence against women.

Our House - International Centre for Civil Initiatives is a Belarusian NGO (registered in Lithuania) that promotes human rights.

SGS - School of Global Studies

SRHR - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UN Women - UN Women is the UN organisation delivering programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.

Wide+ - A European network of associations and activists that fights for women's rights, as part of a larger struggle for social justice, sustainable livelihoods and human rights.

Wide Austria - A network of NGOs and individuals advocating for women's rights, gender justice, and feminist perspectives in development and humanitarian aid policies within Austria and Europe.

WRO - Women's Rights Organisations



2. Introduction

GADIP is a network for feminists within academia and civil society who are interested and engaged in mutual knowledge and best practice exchange, based in Gothenburg, Sweden. GADIP unites academic knowledge with development in practice. The organisation hosts online, face to face, national and international seminars, workshops and film screenings that highlight various current social issues from a gender perspective. Anyone interested in these issues can join GADIP and participate in our activities.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. To highlight this milestone, on the 16th and 17th of May, GADIP held a conference on the theme 30 Years After Beijing: Gender Equality and Climate Justice in a Changing World. The main focus subjects were Gendered Climate Policies and Governance, Gender Based Violence, Migration and Conflicts, Women in the Economy: Progress and Backlashes. During the conference, you could attend workshops and a series of interesting lectures with both Swedish and international guest speakers.

We held the conference between the 16th of May (13.00-18.00) and the 17th of May (09.00-16.00) at Världskulturmuseet in Gothenburg, Södra Vägen 54, and it was free and open to all. The whole conference was also broadcast on Zoom and recorded. The entire conference has been published and can be viewed via our Facebook page (published on the 16th and 17th of May 2025) or [Youtube](#).

The conference was partly financed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency, through the project COPGENDERED - Gender and Climate Justice: Knowledge for Empowerment. The project aims to increase knowledge about the connection between gender issues and the climate crisis. It is a three-year project, running from 2022 to 2025. The COPGendered project is a collaboration between the following organisations: WIDE+ (Europe), LIFE Bildung Umwelt Chancengleichheit (formerly known as GenderCC) in Germany, WIDE in Austria, GADIP in Sweden, KULU Women and Development Denmark, Mundubat in Spain and CSCD in Bulgaria.

2.1 About GADIP

GADIP was established in 2007 in Gothenburg to promote dialogue on gender issues among academia, practitioners, and feminist activists, and was formally registered as a nonprofit organisation in 2012. As an independent organisation, it fosters dialogue and knowledge exchange on gender and development issues both within Sweden and globally, through organising conferences, webinars, seminars, and workshops on women's rights and socio-economic issues.

GADIP collaborates closely with the European network WIDE+, connecting with over 60 practitioners and researchers across Europe. GADIP is engaged in two key EU-supported projects: WE-EMPOWER, focused on overcoming barriers to migrant women's participation in democratic life, and COPGendered, centred on gender and climate justice.



2.2 Challenges and Lessons Learned from Organising the Conference

The Beijing+30 conference was organised by a working group formed by members of GADIP's board. Marking the 30th anniversary of the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference, we wanted to reflect on both progress and setbacks during the past three decades. Given the urgency of climate change and its evident connections to gender, this issue was given a central role.

When planning the conference, we carefully considered date and location. Based on previous experience, we knew that while some prefer attending during working hours, others are more available during the weekend. We therefore chose to host the event on a Friday and Saturday at Världskulturmuseet, a venue whose reputation may have contributed to higher interest. However, we also learned that it is not enough to only avoid holidays; it is equally important to check for other major events. On the second day of our conference (17th of May), a famous half-marathon in Gothenburg may have affected participation as well as hotel and transport costs. Attendance was somewhat lower than expected: of the 57 people registered for day one and 46 for day two, around 34 participants on day one and 23 participants on day two were present. Our conclusion is that it is important to know the preferences of the audience and to plan accordingly.

Food was provided to all participants. This proved to be both necessary to maintain energy levels and may have been effective in increasing participation, especially among students and others with limited financial means. Free food can be a way to attract a broader and more diverse audience, thereby also enriching discussions.

The conference gathered a diverse group of participants and speakers in terms of ethnicity and age, but very few men – only three in total – attended. Having international speakers increased the cost of the conference, yet also brought greater interest and valuable knowledge exchange both during lectures and workshops. Our key takeaway is that inviting lecturers to participate throughout the event, not only in their own sessions, strengthens discussions and interaction.

Another important decision concerned language. We chose to host the entire conference in English to reach an international audience. With Zoom and collaboration with WIDE+ in promoting the event, we were able to reach beyond Sweden, and the uploaded recordings continue to be accessible. Still, some participants expressed that following complex lectures in English for so many hours was challenging, reminding us to evaluate language choice for future events.

The conference was promoted through Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Mailchimp and posters placed at universities, libraries and other relevant institutions. We also invited civil society organisations and study associations. Despite these efforts, registrations remained low until only weeks before the event, which led us to buy a paid Facebook advertisement. This proved highly cost-effective and is something we recommend for future organisers. We also see the value of reaching out beyond the "usual" gender-focused audience, since organisations working with climate, peace or country-specific issues (like Palestine) may also be interested.

A number of practical aspects supported the event's success. We hired a technician from our partner ABF Väst, which ensured high-quality video material for both live streaming and recordings. The conference was live-streamed on Zoom and uploaded to Facebook, increasing our reach nationally and internationally. At the same time, our voluntary board members contributed substantially by handling design (using the free tool Canva), dissemination and other tasks, which helped keep costs down.



Finally, one challenge we faced was communication with registered participants. We did not send personal reminders due to GDPR concerns, as we had not stated that email addresses would be used for this purpose. This may partly explain the gap between registrations and actual attendance. Nevertheless, we reached our initial target of around 30 participants per day, many of which represented organisations and are expected to further disseminate the information. We also managed to engage a wide audience online, and continue to do so with the recordings of the conference posted on various social media platforms.

3. Summary of Lectures From the First Day

Lectures from the first day (16th of May):

- **Eva Warberg and Nasrin Pakkho, Kvinnofolkshögskolan and Edmé Domínguez, GADIP**
Personal experiences from participants in the 1995 NGO forum, followed by a film screening
- **Ulrika Grandin, General Secretary at UN Women Sverige**
Feminist Foreign Policy - a Swedish Initiative: What has happened?
- **Annica Kronsell, Professor at the University of Gothenburg**
Introduction to gender and climate
- **Wilma Henning, Department of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg**
Gendered Norms and Practices in Nordic and Baltic Climate Policy Institutions
- **Nanna Rask, Department of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg**
Climate Governance in Gothenburg Municipality

3.1 In Retrospect: Beijing 1995 by Warberg, Pakkho and Domínguez

Eva Warberg and Nasrin Pakkho from Kvinnofolkshögskolan and Edmé Domínguez - professor, activist and president of GADIP - talked about personal experiences from participants in the 1995 NGO forum. Domínguez explained; They thought we were dangerous feminists, and did not want us in the same city as the main conference, so they put us in a small village called Huairou, outside of Beijing.

Representatives from Peace and Development studies at the University of Gothenburg, the leading group at Kvinnofolkshögskolan (Women's College), and the Swedish Church, were all very excited to take part in this global experience and meet feminists from all over the world. They participated in several seminars in the different tents of each continent and in thematic seminars, as well as in the final demonstration.

The themes at the forum were; Women and poverty, Education and training of women, Women and health, Violence against women, Women and armed conflict, Women and the economy, Women in power and decision-making, Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women, Human rights of women, Women and the media, Women and the environment, and The Girl-child.





Photo from the Beijing Forum by Edmé Domínguez.

By 1995, the themes of equality, development and peace had merged and gone beyond narrow definitions. It was immersed in all global issues such as; population, environment, human rights etc. Women of the Global South found recognition and legitimacy for their own demands. Women's issues became recognised as a legitimate part of globalisation's themes and challenges. The "Platform for Action" was the most important document of the International Women's Movement, serving as a blueprint for reforming national legislation on women's rights worldwide and endorsed by most governments.

This was the fourth, and last, UN Women conference. Before, they had been held in 1975 in Mexico City, 1980 in Copenhagen, and 1985 in Nairobi. Why weren't there any more conferences? One reason was the risks of a backlash: renegotiating advances already achieved. Instead there were limited women meetings: Beijing plus five, plus ten, plus 15, plus 20, plus 25 - while the fight for Women's Rights and Gender Equality continued in several forums regionally and globally.

In 2025, we have seen both progress and setbacks across gender and global justice issues. While the feminist foreign policy, pioneered by Sweden, has spread to other countries, challenges remain. The environmental crisis is intensifying, and though a gender perspective is emerging in climate discussions, it is still limited. Gender-based violence is increasing, yet it is more visible and publicly condemned. Women's participation in the economy has increased, but women continue to face major barriers, and austerity measures hit them the hardest. The themes of the conference reflect these contrasting developments: progress in some areas, resistance and inequality in others.

Quote from the Film:

"Over the course of nine days, more than 26,000 women from NGOs around the world gathered in Huairo, 60 km outside Beijing, to discuss the most pressing issues of the 21st century."

Following Domínguez's introduction, Eva Warberg and Nasrin Pakkho presented their documentary from the 1995 feminist conference held in Huairo. The film featured interviews with participants from the global feminist forum. Among them was Monica Erwér, now working with Kvinna till Kvinna, who spoke about the challenges of communication and the importance of collectively shaping our understanding of power. Gunilla Hollander, Gender Equality Officer at the University of Gothenburg, expressed her concern about the country's strong shift toward a growth-driven economy, especially in areas where women are most active.

The documentary showcased not only the discussions, but also the many powerful demonstrations for women's rights that took place during the conference. Eva Warberg and Nasrin Pakkho explained that this, as far as they know, is the only Swedish film documenting the event. They also shared the story behind its creation - the challenges of not being able to afford a camera, the limitations of the technology at the time, and how they had to transport a 12-kilo camera in a stroller. Reflecting on the experiences from the conference, Warberg and Pakkho emphasised the importance of continuing the fight for women's rights.

3.2 Feminist Foreign Policy by Grandin

Ulrika Grandin is the Director of UN Women, and has a background in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Grandin held her presentation about Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP), which she contributed to developing. FFP is a strategy integrated into the policies and practices of a state to promote gender equality and to help improve women's access to resources, basic human rights, and political participation. Grandin explained that the primary goal was to reach global gender equality, ensure all women and girls fully enjoy their human rights, and integrate a gender perspective across all areas of foreign policy, including security, development, and trade.



Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy was built on the "Three R's": Rights, Representation, and Resources. A framework for advancing gender equality globally. Ulrika Grandin emphasised the importance of being "smart and context-specific" when applying FFP, allowing it to adapt to different situations. She also shared the key factors that made the policy successful. It had strong leadership that ensured women's rights were never left out, clear ownership, and a direction where gender equality guided the work. Further, it had solid support from a network dedicated to implementing feminist policy. These elements helped translate feminist values into real diplomatic and development outcomes, making Sweden a global leader in this space.

Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) puts emphasis on gender equality in international relations, sparking global interest and have inspired other countries to adopt similar approaches. The policy amplified the voices of women human rights defenders and prioritised issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and women's participation in peace and security efforts. It also integrated feminist values into trade and diplomacy. Internally, it led to new tools, practices, and embassy-level engagement. Key lessons included the need for broader political support, stronger follow-up, and closer collaboration with women's organisations. As Ulrika Grandin noted, FFP was more transformative than traditional gender mainstreaming because it brought renewed energy and action to equality work.

When you combine words, for example, feminist and foreign policy, you create a new way of thinking. FFP was an interesting way of reframing gender equality issues. However, she emphasised that, to her, Feminism is more transformative, and more action oriented, than simply integrating gender equality.

Are you curious about the Beijing 1995 forum? Watch the film "De reste till Kina" by Nasrin Pakkho & Eva Warberg on [Youtube](#)

3.3 Introduction to Gender and Climate by Kronsell

Annica Kronsell, a professor at the University of Gothenburg, started with giving us a short introduction of her research project, conducted with Wilma Henning and others, which explores the deep injustices in climate governance. She highlighted how climate change is closely linked to class, gender, race, place, age, and ability - yet these dimensions are often ignored in climate policymaking. The research critiques how institutions, from the global to the local, fail to address these structural inequalities.



Kronsell went on to discuss her forthcoming book, *Ecological Feminist Perspectives on Climate Change Governance*, in which she critically examines the concept of Ecological Modernisation (EM) - the idea that economic growth and environmental protection can go hand in hand. Although Sweden is often seen as a leader in environmental progress, she argues that this model is less effective than it appears. Key environmental goals are still being missed, biodiversity is declining, and low-carbon sectors, such as care work, are being overlooked.

Annica Kronsell argues that EM relies too heavily on technical solutions and market-based approaches, without addressing deeper structural issues. This approach leaves little space for justice, care, or meaningful change. Rather than challenging the root causes of the climate crisis, EM tends to reinforce the status quo.

In her book she will also explore representation, agency and the politics of inclusion. Although more women and marginalised groups are being included, they remain underrepresented and often with limited influence. Her research, focused primarily on Sweden, has shown that even high formal inclusion can coexist with business-as-usual policy. Representation without real influence risks becoming mere tokenism.

Kronsell also noted that current governance systems prioritise technical and economic expertise, which sidelines other ways of knowing like care-based or place-based knowledge. She calls for rethinking agency through feminist ecological citizenship - an approach rooted in lived experience, accountable to future generations, and inclusive of non-human life. Her upcoming chapters will explore alternatives, focusing on eco-care ethics, empathic governance, and a vision for an inclusive green welfare state.

3.4 Gendered Norms and Practices in Climate Policy Institutions by Henning

Wilma Henning, research assistant at Gothenburg University, presented her research project on the intersection of gender and climate policy, conducted in collaboration with a partner organisation in Finland. She opened her lecture by telling us about why it is important to talk about climate and gender. First, she emphasised that climate change has gender-specific impacts and that gender-aware policymaking is necessary for an equal and just climate transition. Second, she argued that climate policies also often lack gender sensitivity.



Previous research shows that despite their progressive gender profiles, Nordic countries have been slow to address the connection between gender and climate change in their climate institutions. Gender equality in the climate transition requires more than simply increasing the number of women in policymaking institutions. It also demands the need to examine the practices of climate institutions to uncover barriers to implementing gender-aware policies. Henning concluded that a better recognition of gender in climate policy will strengthen the climate transition by enabling new ways of framing climate change, beyond that of a purely techno-scientific framework.



The project explores how gender equality is understood and implemented within Nordic and Baltic climate institutions. The goal is to contribute to increased knowledge of how to create gender-sensitive climate policies by examining the climate institutions' practices and challenges in integrating gender aspects, in line with national and international commitments. Data has been collected from employees at climate institutions in Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland and Lithuania, representing diverse educational backgrounds in STEM, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Economics.

Wilma Henning revealed some early results from the mapping. She found that key climate institutions are, in general, either gender balanced or over-represented by female experts. However, this pattern is less consistent at the leadership level, though many countries have equal amounts or over-representation of women. She noted that it was particularly interesting that the studied institutions are female-dominated, whereas these policy areas are globally male-dominated.

So far, the project has broadened the understanding of climate issues, the nature of a climate transition, its scope, and the stakeholders involved. It has encouraged institutions to integrate social, health, and equality considerations as essential components of climate policy-making. Additionally, the project has provided comparative knowledge into institutional practices and possible obstacles to achieving an equal and just climate transition. It has also enhanced understanding of how individual policy makers perceive the importance of gender in climate policy, their role in shaping the transition, and how their attitudes influence the advancement of an inclusive, gender-sensitive climate transition.

3.5 Climate Governance in Gothenburg Municipality by Rask

Nanna Rask, a PhD student at the Department of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg, presented her research on climate governance in Gothenburg Municipality. She highlighted the role of intersectionality in climate policy, emphasising that gender cannot be studied in isolation but must be understood as intersecting with other social categories such as race, class, and ability.



What is intersectionality? As the image below demonstrates, gender cannot be separated into one analytical category as it intersects with other social differences; however, the image does not include all possible categories. Beyond examining how individual identities and social categories intersect, intersectionality can also be used to analyse on a system level, such as how social structures interact.

Rask highlighted the importance of addressing structural inequalities in both environmental and social contexts with a quote from Audre Lorde -“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issued lives”.

More recently, climate activists and environmentalists have become interested in intersectionality, highlighting how earlier research neglected the systemic imbalance of the oppression of humans and nature. She noted that recent environmental discourse increasingly highlights how climate change disproportionately affects marginalised communities and how structural power relations, such as patriarchy and economic inequality are deeply intertwined with environmental degradation.



For example, male elites are disproportionately represented not only among those contributing most to emissions and climate denial, but also in decision-making positions within climate governance. In sectors such as transport, masculine and technology-driven norms dominate; however, research indicates that if women's transport habits were the norm, emissions from personal transport could be reduced by up to 29%.

Rask's research examined the role of key state institutions such as the Swedish Transport Agency, Energy Agency, Environmental Protection Agency and the city of Gothenburg in shaping climate governance. She argued that these institutions can either reproduce existing power structures or challenge them by influencing norms, allocating resources, and determining who is included or excluded in policy-making processes.

Her findings showed that the dominant discourse in climate governance is Ecological Modernisation, which focuses on innovation and technological solutions, often sidelining social justice and systemic change. She said that there is a persistent “silo thinking” in which climate change is treated primarily as a technical issue, rather than a social one. This results in a lack of leadership, coordination, and integration of justice perspectives. Technological solutions are often seen as neutral or apolitical, whereas justice is framed as inherently political and therefore frequently sidelined.

In her ongoing research, Nanna Rask aims to explore how intersectionality can not only be used to critique existing systems but also as a framework for creating more just and inclusive approaches to climate governance.

4. Summary of Lectures From the Second Day

Lectures from the second day (17th of May):

- **Hida Salmend and Sara Mosaddegh, Lex Femme**
Intimate Partner Violence within the Framework of the Swedish migration law
- **Cristina Reyna, Wide+**
Migration, Citizens' Rights and Interlinkages with Sexual Violence and Climate Change
- **Olga Karach, Our House**
Women in the Shadow of War in Ukraine: Beijing+30 Analysis and Reflections
- **Elisabeth Klatzer, Fair sorgen! and Wide Austria**
Beyond Austerity, Crises and Militarisation: Towards Human Security and a Good Life for All
- **Edmé Domínguez, GADIP**
Backlashes 30 years after the Beijing platform
- **Swati Parashar, Professor at the University of Gothenburg**
Women and Conflicts: The case of India Pakistan

4.1 Gender Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence by Lex Femme

Hida Salmend and Sara Mosaddegh from Lex Femme offered both legal and humanitarian perspectives on double vulnerability and how women face violence and its effects within the migration system.

Lex Femme is a non-political, non-religious women's aid organisation that works for a society free from men's violence against women. The organisation provides legal aid, counselling, and lectures to schools, agencies, and other organisations. With expertise in supporting women of foreign descent in more than 45 languages, they are able to help women in the language they feel most comfortable using.



Lex Femme supports women with temporary or family-based residence permits, those living under honor-related norms, and women with protected personal data. Their services are particularly crucial for women with limited language skills and limited knowledge of Swedish laws and regulations, or those hesitant to approach authorities out of fear of deportation, losing custody of their children, or reprisals from family or a spouse. In their work, they encounter many women whose residency in Sweden depends on their relationship with a partner - frequently the very person abusing them.

In order to understand why some migrant women experience Gender-Based Violence (GBV) differently, it is important to consider the legal context. In Sweden, the so-called four-year rule requires migrants to live in the country for four years before they can apply for permanent residency. Lex Femme notes that previously, eligibility came after only two years. Extending the period to four years effectively means two additional years of vulnerability for migrant women dependent on their Swedish partner. Women who leave a partner within four years risk deportation unless they prove severe abuse. However, only 'serious' or repeated physical violence is recognised, while mental, emotional, or financial abuse is rarely deemed sufficient. Victims are also often required to prove they left the relationship because of the violence, which can be difficult to demonstrate when cultural norms, misinformation, and fear delay reporting. Furthermore, returning to the abusive partner, for whatever reason, can be held against her.

"If anyone works within health care or within the authorities and meets people, especially migrant women, we always understate the importance of making sure to meet the woman alone or with an interpreter or someone that is not part of the family so they do have a real option to speak up."

Hilda Salmend

Lex Femme highlighted recent legal changes in Sweden that have heightened insecurity for migrant women. They are particularly concerned with the abolishment of track change (spårbyte), which previously allowed rejected asylum seekers to apply for a work permit from within Sweden. Under the new rules, such applications must now be made from abroad - often from the very countries women fled due to threats. In addition, work permits previously obtained through spårbyte can no longer be renewed. Another change extends the waiting period for reapplying for asylum after a deportation order: from four years to five, even if conditions in the home country deteriorate during that time.

Another concern raised was the systemic failure of institutions to ensure impartial interpretation during official appointments. Many women are accompanied by their abuser or abuser's family, who then act as interpreters during medical or immigration meetings. This makes it nearly impossible for them to disclose abuse. In one case, a woman's claim was dismissed because she hadn't disclosed abuse earlier, despite all her prior interactions being mediated by her husband.

Finally, Lex Femme reflected on society's progress 30 years after the Women's Convention. They concluded that migrant women remain systematically marginalised and that protection systems often fail to recognise the intersection of violence and migration. In particular, the current legal framework neglects the cultural and linguistic barriers that hinder access to support for migrant women.



During the Q&A session following the presentation, one attendee shared her own experience as a migrant woman exposed to domestic violence. She emphasised that when we speak about “the Swedish partner”, we must remember that this also includes men with an immigrant background. Participants also raised concerns about how to reach vulnerable women at the grassroots level. The presenters acknowledged the difficulty of this task and described their methods: distributing multilingual flyers, holding lectures, and conducting targeted outreach in migrant-dense areas. They also highlighted that their support is anonymous and that they do not report clients to social services - an important assurance for women who fear losing custody of their children.

4.2 Migrant Rights, GBV and Climate Change by Reyna

Christina Reyna, who comes from a migrant background, explored the intersections of migration, citizens' rights, gender-based violence (GBV), and climate change. She works with issues related to the sexual exploitation of children, especially in Asian countries affected by sex tourism. Her lecture drew on both her extensive experience addressing gender and migration issues and her current professional work.



Reyna emphasised the crucial roles that migrant women play in their new communities. She explained that citizenship goes beyond legal status - “au-delà de la citoyenneté sur papier” (“beyond citizenship on paper”) - encompassing real access to opportunities, information, and the ability to claim space and exercise rights in the country where one lives. It also means having real access to opportunities, information, and the chance to claim space and rights in the country where they live. Migrant women often face challenges not only with their legal status but also with understanding and asserting their rights, which can limit their full participation in society.

She also highlighted that migration often increases vulnerability, particularly to gender-based violence. She stressed the importance of looking at children's rights through a gender perspective. Children need safe support networks within their families and communities. Moreover, they should have access to education and the opportunity to pursue the futures they dream of. Reyna further stressed that boys, as well as girls, are increasingly affected by sexual and labor exploitation.

Regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), Reyna discussed how harmful behaviours become normalised in many societies. This makes it hard for children to understand their rights over their own bodies - including what consent means and how to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate touch. She stressed the importance of breaking taboos and helping children speak about these issues openly, without shame or stigma. The rise of online platforms since COVID-19 has made sexual exploitation more prevalent, making digital literacy and awareness essential for both children and adults.

Reyna then connected climate change to migration, explaining that droughts, floods, and other natural disasters can destroy rural livelihoods, forcing families to relocate - often to urban areas. These communities are typically among the most marginalised, lacking the resources to advocate for their protection and “often at the back of the line for governmental attention.”



In such challenging circumstances, parents may expect girls to contribute financially, sometimes by sending them to the capital city. Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities, using online tools and social media to target and manipulate affected individuals.

She also presented research showing that the poorest people displaced by natural disasters are at higher risk of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour, child marriage, and dropping out of school. These harmful coping strategies are expected to intensify as the impact of climate change worsens. In some cases, child marriage is used to circumvent legal protections and facilitate trafficking, as observed in countries like China and among migrant communities in Europe.

Reyna pointed out that there is no international legal framework specifically addressing the link between climate change and gender-based violence. She raised the question of whether new laws or agreements are needed to fill this gap. In the meantime, she emphasised that prevention through education, digital literacy, and stronger legal protections for migrants and victims is essential.

“As migrant women, we learn about the rights that we have here, also on sexual and reproductive rights, and we can also be able to teach that to the children. And the children will learn that also at the school, but then you will have the support at home also to be able to cross this information.”
Cristina Reyna

In conclusion, Christina Reyna stressed that informing migrant women about their rights helps entire families and communities. This awareness fosters strength and provides at least some protection against violence and exploitation. Her lecture advocated for integrated approaches that combine human rights, climate justice, and gender equality to more effectively support migrant women and children facing these challenges.

4.3 Women in the Shadow of the War in Ukraine by Karach

While the war in Ukraine dominates headlines, Olga Karach - a Belarusian peacebuilder, journalist, and 2024 Nobel Peace Prize nominee from the International Centre for Civil Initiatives “Our House” emphasised the need to also address the wider regional collapse. She described Eastern Europe as “a region in crisis,” where war, authoritarianism, and militarisation are unravelling decades of progress toward gender equality. Over two million people have been displaced, and the Beijing+30 goals for gender equality are being reversed by trauma, militarism, and repressive regimes. Wartime reality, she argued, has exposed the gap between feminist policy commitments and the lived experiences of women on the ground.



All twelve critical areas of concern under the Beijing+30 platform are regressing in the region:

- Poverty, education, and health have collapsed due to war and exile.
- Violence is normalised in homes and refugee shelters.
- Governance and media are militarised and hostile to feminism.
- Girls face early marriage, trauma, and school dropout.

The cumulative effect is the collapse of gender equality across conflict zones



She also highlighted the gendered roles imposed on women during wartime, in which they become symbolic, silenced, and sacrificed. Across Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, and neighbouring countries, women are pushed into roles that serve militarised agendas. They are hailed as “Mothers of the Nation,” expected to raise or support soldiers, act as emotional caretakers to traumatised veterans, and volunteer in war logistics. Yet those who resist war or advocate for peace are marginalised or punished - their voices suppressed and their labour rendered invisible.

Karach emphasised how both men and women are manipulated in wartime: men are coerced into becoming soldiers, while women are expected to encourage this or remain silent. Domestic violence is rising, particularly in households where men are celebrated as “heroes” of war, and women often lack access to support or shelters. Even in Lithuania, no shelters exist for refugee women experiencing partner violence from ex-combatants. She also criticised the EU and Western states for treating refugees - especially undocumented women and girls with disabilities - as disposable. Many Belarusian professionals, such as doctors, are blocked from contributing economically due to bureaucratic restrictions, deepening marginalisation and dependency.

“We have unbelievable increasing numbers of domestic violence, especially in the families of ‘heros’, or families where men are recognised as heroes. These are common soldiers or former political prisoners. And for the women it's very, very complicated to say something against because the society sees that, okay, we use the men as soldiers now, this is your task to integrate the men to peace life, but women cannot because the men have very, very deep post-traumatic syndrome and the women cannot do anything.”
Olga Karach

Karach further explained how militarism reinforces patriarchal power structures: male conscientious objectors are criminalised, and their female partners suffer in silence. LGBTQ+ and feminist voices are excluded from public discourse. Women peacebuilders, once vital grassroots actors, now face burnout, underfunding, and increasing hostility. Despite their central role in sustaining families and communities, women remain largely excluded from political power and peace processes. She also highlighted the alarming militarisation of children, including through state programs in Belarus and Lithuania - a stark indication of how deeply war infiltrates society and shapes its future.

Finally, she urged everyone to resist dividing the world into nations and instead think in terms of values: the camp of peace versus the camp of war. Building a sustainable future requires courage, truth-telling, and feminist solidarity across all borders. Olga emphasised that militarised regimes fear women’s grassroots movements because they recognise their transformative power. Since militarism deepens gender injustices, we need a feminist response to war.

Moving forward, Olga Karach recommends several actions:

- Implement UN Resolution 1325 - include women in peace decisions
- Stop glorifying war in schools and the media
- Protect refugee women and girls from deportation
- Fund feminist peace networks
- Support men who refuse to fight

4.4 Beyond Austerity, Crises and Militarisation by Klatzer



Elisabeth Klatzer delivered a lecture on human security and the pursuit of a good life for all, challenging the widespread misconception that militarisation and neoliberalism are the only paths forward. A renowned economist, Klatzer offered sharp critiques of the neoliberal capitalist system, arguing that it has created unbearable human and ecological costs while eroding democracy and social cohesion. She explained how our current system governs through insecurity and noted that for decades, neoliberalism has been a major driver of instability.

This “attack on the public sector” has weakened security frameworks, dismantled social services and public transfers, and shifted public responsibilities to the private sector. Deregulation, privatisation, and politically manufactured precarious labour markets have deepened insecurity for the majority, while enriching a small elite - often extremely wealthy men - who hold disproportionate influence over politics and media.

Klatzer noted the dramatic increase in inequality over recent decades, using Warren Buffett as an example of an individual whose fortune has grown enormously through speculation rather than labour. This extreme concentration of wealth has gone hand in hand with declining trust in institutions and deepening social divisions, providing fertile ground for right-wing populism and authoritarianism. The widespread economic insecurity felt by the majority is often exploited through scapegoating of refugees and marginalised groups, while the underlying structural causes remain largely unaddressed.

“Our neoliberal capitalist system is making the world worse, not only today but since decades. And still as humanity we are not able to face it and change it quickly enough before the disasters add up even more.”
Elisabeth Klatzer

She argued that militarisation is never the answer to people’s insecurity. Instead, it fuels a vicious cycle in which vast public resources are invested into the arms industry while social needs remain underfunded. This dynamic not only entrenches hierarchical, patriarchal institutions but also obstructs progress toward building an economy that serves everyone. She also challenged the frequent claim that “there are not enough resources” for public services and welfare, pointing out the contradiction that ample funds are consistently available for military spending.

Klatzer presented alternative, feminist economic visions grounded in gender, social, economic, and cultural justice. She emphasised the need for caring economies that prioritise people’s needs and environmental sustainability, alongside progressive taxation to ensure fair contributions from the wealthy. Public budgets, she argued, must be reclaimed for life-enhancing investments such as education, healthcare, and climate action. Equally important is reclaiming democracy from corporate capture, ending the “revolving door” between politics and business, and strengthening local initiatives like “caring cities.”

Ultimately, Elisabeth Klatzer called for moving beyond a militarised view of security and reimagining it as human security - encompassing economic, social, and cultural security. She concluded that true security is built through solidarity, community networks, and systems of care, not through militarisation or neoliberalism. Feminist movements, she argued, are uniquely positioned to challenge the failures of the current system and to lead the way in building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

4.5 Women in Economics by Domínguez

Edmé Domínguez, the president of GADIP, provided an overview of the economic progress and setbacks for women, since the conference was held, until today. While global poverty has declined from 36% in 1990 to 10% in 2015, women remain disproportionately affected. According to the Development Programme, women account for 70% of the world's poor, a figure that has faced criticism but still reflects many ongoing realities. More recent estimates indicate that approximately 10.3% of women worldwide live in extreme poverty.



Crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and armed conflicts have intensified women's vulnerability, particularly through job losses, increased unpaid care work, displacement, and exposure to violence. The COVID-19 pandemic alone is estimated to have pushed 47 million women and girls into extreme poverty.

Globally, women still earn about 20% less than men, with the gap especially pronounced in high-income sectors such as technology and finance. According to The United Nations reports, closing the gender pay gap could increase global GDP by up to \$12 trillion by 2025. Yet, austerity measures and economic crises continue to disproportionately affect women, especially in the Global South.

"The only strategy to unite is going beyond nationalisms, class differences, traditions, sexual identities and beyond generations,"
Edmé Domínguez

There has been significant progress in women's political participation. Since 1995, the share of women in parliaments has risen from 11.3% to 27.2% in 2025, with countries implementing gender quotas seeing the most significant gains. Seven nations - Rwanda, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Bolivia, and Andorra - have now achieved or surpassed gender parity. The European Union has also witnessed growth, reaching an average of 33.4% female parliamentary representation in 2024. Notably, Finland, Sweden, and Spain have exceeded 40%, largely thanks to legislative quotas, while Mexico elected its first female president in 2024. In Latin America, Argentina's quota law, enacted in the 1990s, significantly boosted women's political participation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Rwanda leads globally, with women holding 61% of parliamentary seats, highlighting the transformative potential of gender-focused policies.

Despite these advances, progress has slowed, and women currently lead only 25 countries worldwide. Persistent structural barriers - including political violence, limited funding, and entrenched cultural norms - continue to hinder full gender equality in political leadership.

Far-right movements, economic crises, climate disasters, and rising violence are eroding hard-won social and political gains. In several countries, extremist political forces are actively trying to reverse feminist and LGBTQIA+ rights, promoting conservative agendas that threaten inclusion, equality, and human rights.

Edmé Domínguez emphasised that history does not move in a straight line, and progress often comes with setbacks. Yet, women have consistently demonstrated resilience and agency. She called on feminist movements to reorganise, unify, and look beyond divisions - whether national, generational, or ideological. According to her, only through solidarity and collective action can we push back against regressions and continue advancing toward the vision laid out in the Beijing Platform for Action.

4.6 Women and Conflicts: The Case of India-Pakistan by Parashar



Swati Parashar's lecture examined the complex and often overlooked intersections of gender and conflict. She highlighted how militarism reshapes gender norms, disproportionately affecting women and marginalised communities, while also emphasising their political agency and role in peacebuilding. She calls for intersectional, feminist approaches in conflict resolution and policy design.

Parashar began her talk by reflecting on feminist community and her decision to speak at the conference: "When feminists call you, you feel like you belong to a community," she said. Her lecture centred on women in conflict, with particular attention to the ongoing India–Pakistan tensions.

Parashar provided context on the conflict, citing the terrorist attack in Kashmir on April 22 2025, where 27 tourists, all Hindu men, were killed in front of their wives. She highlighted the gendered dimensions of this violence: the women were left alive to carry a message to the Indian government. In response, India launched a precision air strike called "Operation Sindoor," after the red powder traditionally worn by married Hindu women. Parashar noted that the operation's name symbolically links militarism with femininity, illustrating how gendered and cultural symbols are embedded in acts of violence and nationalist narratives.

She also observed how the Indian military response was led by two women - one a Muslim army officer, the other an air force pilot. While these women were celebrated in the media, Parashar questioned what this says about gendered performance of war. She challenged the audience to consider: What do these women actually tell us about the realities of the conflict, the suffering, and the loss experienced by families?

Throughout the presentation, Swati Parashar challenged dominant gender myths in conflict - namely, that men "make war" while women "make peace". She argued that this binary obscures the reality: women are not only victims but also participants in militarised systems, and some men are active peacebuilders. A feminist analysis must recognise women as both affected populations and political actors, as central figures in both violence and peace.

"Gendered myths about wars are very comforting. [...] If you dismantle these stories, if you for example start talking about how this 'protector protected narrative' does not work - women are also protectors, women are also protected. Men have kind of not wanted to fight in wars, right? Women have wanted to fight in wars. When you mess up this war story from bottom up, then war looks really grotesque and then you start questioning the the whole idea of why - why war?"
Swati Parashar

Parashar concluded her lecture with a historical reminder, emphasising the need for feminist perspectives. Feminist researchers revealed that more than 300,000 women were raped during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 - figures made visible through testimony and feminist documentation. She stressed that such feminist interventions are crucial for challenging dominant war narratives and exposing structural violence.

5. Workshops with Contreras and Millegård



GADIP's board members Nancy Contreras and Allis Millegård held two workshops during the conference. On Friday, they led a Climate Justice Bingo, designed to promote discussions about how the climate crisis affects people differently, while also encouraging participants to reflect on their own habits and those of others. This workshop had a strong focus on intersectionality and especially the experiences of LGBTIQ people and women. The workshop drew on study materials developed by GADIP within the COPGendered project.

In the activity, participants received bingo cards filled with statements related to climate change and climate justice. Working in small groups, they discussed the statements while marking their bingo bricks with coffee beans. The format proved engaging and effective, leading to lively exchanges and meaningful reflections on topics that are often overlooked. While participants offered some suggestions for improvement, the workshop was considered a success in fostering dialogue and awareness.

On Saturday, the workshop focused on human rights, with a particular emphasis on women's rights. For this workshop, Contreras and Millegård used cards from the UN Women's card game "My human rights". Each card features a specific right along with complementary text for reflection. Participants were divided into smaller groups, where they discussed their thoughts and experiences based on the cards.

For more information about the connection between LGBTIQ people and climate justice we recommend the [COPGendered e-module](#) which offers interactive ways of learning about these issues.



Example pictures of cards from GADIPs Climate Bingo Game

We noticed that mixing the groups - bringing together attendees from Sweden with those from other countries, as well as Swedes with experiences in different cultural contexts - enriched the discussions. Participants exchanged perspectives on how human rights are upheld in different settings, while older attendees shared how these experiences have changed over time. The diversity of backgrounds also added depth - some participants were professors, others worked with NGOs, and some joined simply as interested members of the public. This division was not intentional; it came about by chance when we assigned group numbers (from one to four) to ensure participants did not sit with their immediate neighbours.



6. Key Takeaways

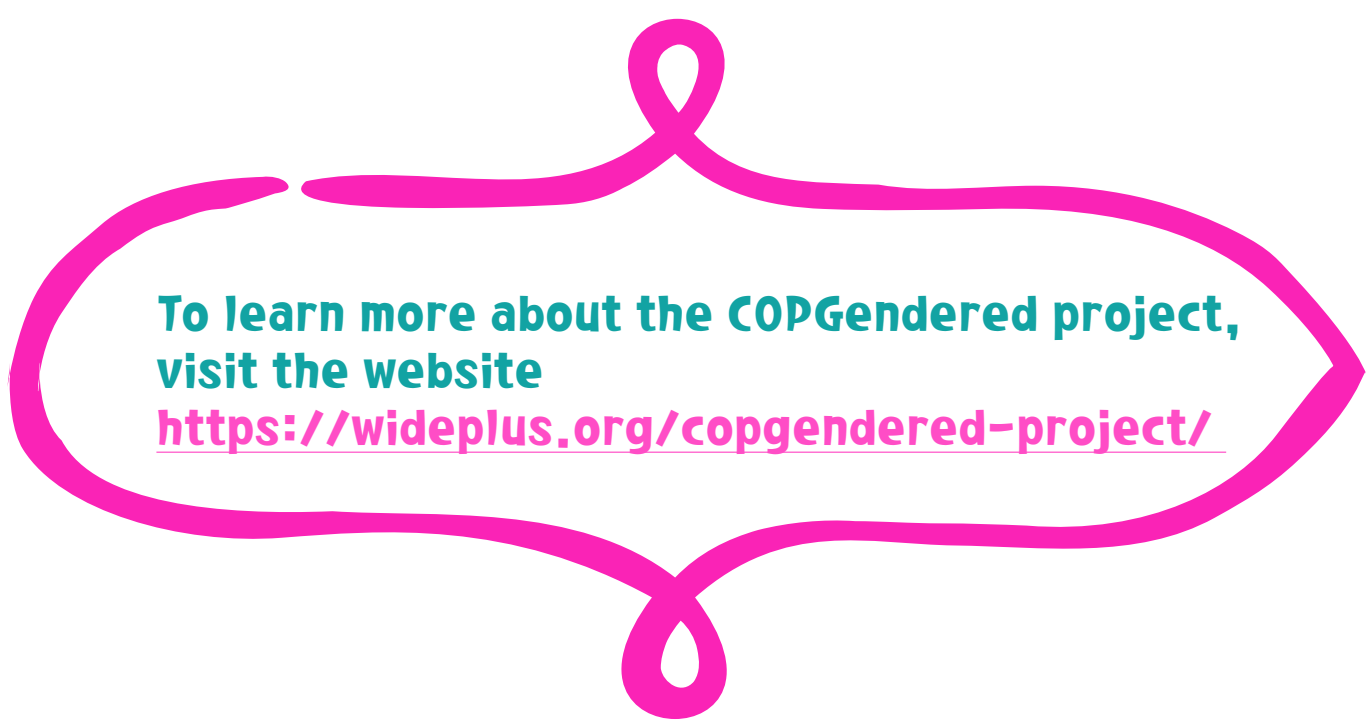
To summarise, we believe that the Beijing+30 conference was a successful event with a good participation rate, and we were able to invite a wide range of lecturers from different countries with expertise in different subjects connected to the Beijing conference and climate. The participants have learned about many interesting topics from women and economics and feminist foreign policy, to gender based violence and gender in climate governance. We ended each day with an interactive workshop, which was very appreciated and a good, engaging complement to the lectures, which resulted in lively and interesting conversations. We can see that the conference has led to a knowledge exchange between organisations from different countries, and that both GADIP and the participants were able to make new important connections.

We have gathered some of the main takeaways from each lecture. From Elisabeth Klatzer, we learned that we must first recognise the root problem - our economic system - and acknowledge that alternatives exist which can ensure a good quality of life for everyone. Lex Femme emphasised that civil society must better support migrant women facing partner violence or honor-related oppression - for example, by ensuring partners or relatives are never used as translators. Cristina Reyna's lecture showed us that when a migrant woman learns about her rights and how to exercise them in a new society, she will be able to teach her children and her entire family.

Olga Karach argued that because militarism reinforces gendered injustices - pressuring men into combat roles and expecting women to comply silently - we need a feminist response to war. Swati Parashar declared that we must challenge the gender myths of conflict - that men "make war" and women "make peace" - because both women and men can play central roles in violence and peace, and women are not automatically victims. Ulrika Grandin concluded; Be strategic and context-specific, and you can effectively implement a Feminist Foreign Policy.

Annica Kronsell's lecture revealed that more female representation does not automatically lead to transformative governance, which remains a complex challenge. Wilma Henning pointed out that a greater recognition of gender in climate policy will strengthen the climate transition by enabling new perspectives on climate change beyond a purely techno-scientific approach. Nanna Rask's research shows us that the dominant discourse in climate governance is ecomodernism, which focuses on innovation and technological solutions, and often sidelines social justice and systemic change. Technical solutions are seen as neutral, while social justice is seen as political.

KVFH drew attention to the years of preparation in different countries long before the Beijing forum even started, a thorough and difficult work that deserves more credit. Edmé Domínguez closed the conference by proposing a strategy for moving forward; the only way to achieve unity is to move beyond nationalisms, class differences, traditions, sexual identities and generations.



To learn more about the COPGendered project,
visit the website
<https://wideplus.org/copgendered-project/>

Welcome to our Beijing+30 conference

1st day	Friday 16th of May
13.00-14.00	Introduction to Beijing+30: Personal experiences from participants in the 1995 NGO forum followed by a film screening Edmé Dominguez, GADIP Eva Warberg and Nasrin Pakkho, Kvinnofolkhögskolan
14.00-14.40	Feminist Foreign Policy - a Swedish Initiative: What has happened? by Ulrika Grandin
14.45-15.45	COPGendered - a GADIP & WIDE+ Project Workshop: Climate Justice Bingo by Nancy Contreras and Allis Millegård, GADIP
15.45-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-16.30	Introduction to Gender and Climate by Annica Kronsell
16.35-17.10	Gendered Norms and Practices in Nordic and Baltic Climate Policy Institutions by Wilma Henning
17.10-17.40	Climate Governance in Gothenburg Municipality by Nanna Rask
17.40-17.50	Rounding up and presenting Saturday's schedule



You can also participate on Zoom.
Register here for the first day:



Beijing+30 conference

2nd day	Saturday 17th of May
09.00-09.15	Introduction to Gender Based Violence, Migration and Conflicts by Regina Mattsson, GADIP
09.15-09.45	Intimate Partner Violence Within the Framework of the Swedish migration Law by Hida Salmend, Lex Femme
09.45-10.15	Migration, Citizens' Rights and Interlinkages with Sexual Violence and Climate Change by Cristina Reyna, Wide+
10.15-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-11.10	Women in the Shadow of War in Ukraine: Beijing+30 Analysis and Reflections by Olga Karach, Our House
11.10-11.40	COPGendered Workshop: Women's Rights Card Game by Nancy Contreras and Allis Millegård, GADIP
11.50-13.00	Lunch
13.00-13.15	Introduction to Women in the Economy by Edmé Dominguez, GADIP
13.15-14.00	Beyond Austerity, Crises and Militarization: Towards Human Security and a Good Life for All by Elisabeth Klatzer, Fair sorgen! and Wide Austria
14.00-14.30	Backlashes 30 Years After the Beijing Platform by Edmé Dominguez, GADIP
14.30-14.50	Coffee break
15.00-15.45	Women and conflicts: The case of India-Pakistan Swati Parashar
15.45-16.00	Rounding up and looking forward



You can also participate on Zoom.
Register here for the second day:



Pictures of the schedule for the conference, these posters were
used to promote the event



GADIP Board members and guests at the Conference Beijin+ 30
16-17 May, 2025