

# US Women's Caucus at UN: Climate- Women and Gender Mainstreaming

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### Summary

Women's rights and climate change intersect at crucial points in policymaking, program planning and execution in deploying mitigation and adaptations strategies. Access to natural resources, environmental threats and environmental action have all emerged as having linkages with gender-based violence. Women and girls, for example, are more vulnerable to human trafficking during natural disaster displacement events. Conversely, women are on the frontlines of climate change resilience adapting agricultural practices through innovation and ingenuity to meet the challenges due to the ever-shifting ecosystem. Women's dual roles as those more at risk to climate change impacts, especially for those representing ethnic minority and indigenous communities, and agents of change are dismissed by gender neutral climate change policies.

Climate policies must, therefore, take men and women's differentiated roles into account to comprehensively address women's ambitions and priorities and ensure all genders benefit equally. Equitable access to financial resources and gender inclusive decision-making in public and private spheres need to be incorporated into local, national and global climate initiatives in order to fully advance a gender equitable and environmentally sustainable future. Recognizing the imperative to integrate gender mainstreaming to bolster climate change adaptation and mitigation, the UN and attending member states adopted a gender action plan under the UNFCCC framework. However, few countries have followed through on their commitment to develop gender climate action plans, including the United States.

### Fast Facts

- Of the estimated 26 million people who are forced to flee their homes during a climate change event (1), 20 million are women and girls (2)
- Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a natural disaster (3).
- Women suffer more than men in terms of physical and psychological health after experiencing flooding per a study of 30 such events in the UK (Tustall, et al. 2006).
- In 2015, women represented below 30% of national and global climate negotiators (4).
- According to a Richler study in 2019 of 91 countries, a strong correlation between the percentage of women in national parliaments and a prioritization of climate change policies.

## Recommendations

1. Build gender-responsive climate strategic capacity by developing a national climate change Gender Action Plan per COP23 and UNFCCC and Beijing Platform for Action commitments.
2. Ensure women's diverse participation by mandating gender parity and marginalized representation when composing delegations for national and global climate change negotiations.
3. Institute gender disaggregated data collection in climate response and mitigation planning, including disaster preparedness, environmental protections, agriculture and health.

## Suggested Reading

- [Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages - IUCN](https://genderandenvironment.org/agent-gbv-env/).  
<https://genderandenvironment.org/agent-gbv-env/>
- [UN Women Watch \(2009\) Women, Gender and Climate Change](https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf).  
[https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/downloads/Women\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf)
- [UNFCCC \(2017\) Gender and Climate Change \(Draft Conclusions\)](https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l29.pdf).  
<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l29.pdf>
- [CARE International UK \(2020\) Why Climate Justice is a Gender Justice issue – and what action is needed](https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/CARE-International-UK_Why-climate-justice-is-a-gender-justice-issue_March-2020.pdf).  
[https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/CARE-International-UK\\_Why-climate-justice-is-a-gender-justice-issue\\_March-2020.pdf](https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/CARE-International-UK_Why-climate-justice-is-a-gender-justice-issue_March-2020.pdf)

## Footnotes

1. B. Kamal 'Climate migrants might reach One Billion by 2050' on ReliefWeb, 21 August 2017. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-migrants-might-reach-one-billion-2050>
2. M. Halton 'Climate change impacts women more than men' on BBC, 15 July 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-43294221>
3. UNDP (2013) *Gender and disaster risk reduction* <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB3-AP-Gender-and-disaster>. Figure quoted in European Parliament (2015) *The gender dimension of climate -risk- reduction*.pdf
4. *justice* [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/536478/IPOL\\_IDA\(2015\)536478\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/536478/IPOL_IDA(2015)536478_EN.pdf)

