Feminist Yearning, Imagining, and Organizing for Just Peace and Genuine Security

Virtual 7th South- South Forum

14 and 15 July 2020

Collaboration of PeaceWomen Across the Globe and

Various Participants and Organizations

The current moment—Corona Pandemic combined with global uprisings and state responses to both—demands us feminists around the world to stand in solidarity. T do so, must take the time to think together across regions and other “borders” in order understand the current conditions and political situation—including gender, race/ethnicity, class/caste, indigeneity, and sexuality, for example-- in more nuanced ways; to imagine feminist futures that will be able to secure livelihoods, sustain the natural environment and ensure the dignity and wellbeing of all living beings; and to organize transnationally as feminists.

We recognize that neo-liberal capitalism, Right-Wing populism and nationalism, religious fundamentalisms, militarism, colonialism, and imperialism form the foundations of the world in which we exist. Through and from these, region-specific forms of patriarchy and male dominance, Anti-Blackness and other forms of racism, ethnocentrism, class, and caste, heterosexist and trans-phobia, ecological violence, and other life-destroying, intertwined forces are made manifest.

Our workshops will be organized around the following concepts and questions.

Landscape

What is this moment telling you—societally—about what you should let go and change and what to hold onto and do differently and better?

Yearnings

What is one thing tugging at your heart/spirit in this particular moment, both personal and political?

Imaginings

What must a feminist future look like, include, and demand if you truly accepted what you learned from the answers to the two previous questions? What values would be the foundation of your vision?

Doing

What is being done now that supports realizing your vision? What else will you need to be doing?

Each Panel will last 3 hours and has six panels in this conference (as a part of the Virtual 7th South -South Forum 2020) covering topics from Ecology, Access to Land, Livelihood and Food Security to Violence against Women, State Repression, Building North South Partnership and more.

**Ecology Livelihood, Access to Land and Food Security.**

We are witnessing three major pandemics simultaneously, triggered by and exacerbated by one another. The first and the most obvious is the Covid 19 pandemic. The second is the hunger and food security pandemic. The third is pandemic of destruction of livelihoods. The second and third pandemic existed before as well but have been exponentially aggravated by the virus outbreak but.

The coronavirus pandemic has infected over 9.6 M + and killed 489,000 still counting. The World Food Program has warned the world community of the looming “hunger pandemic,” which has the potential to engulf over a quarter of a billion people whose lives and livelihoods will be plunged into immediate danger. According to them more than a million people are on the verge of starvation, and 300,000 could starve to death every single day for the next coming months.

In her latest essay, “The Pandemic Is a Portal” Arundhati Roy writes:

“What is this thing that has happened to us? It’s a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus. Some believe it’s God’s way of bringing us to our senses. Others that it’s a Chinese conspiracy to take over the world. Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to “normality,” trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.”

For this session we want to put in the center of the discussion to all this “equality” as an overarching goal and vision. This also means a critical debate of the dominant narratives of “sustainability”, as the driving force of patriarchal power as the mainstream definitions are being used for further marketing and green washing behavior in general. The power dynamics in defining sustainability and defining policies including financial flows; still is override by patriarchal extraction economic system rather than economy of care. Thus a feminist critique as well as imagination and reconstruction is imperative to address.

There is a need for critical monitoring of digitalization especially in the field of agricultural production, price policies, trading, access to markets etc. as well as for the impact on the labor market (labour rights), mainly focusing on shifts between informal and formal sectors and the impact on women. Thus exploring Sustainable Development as Feminist Praxis and sharing your critique of mainstream practices such Carbon Trading, use of Nano technology as answer to hunger and starvation, ignoring rights of indigenous people as well as vision for a inclusive, non-hierarchical, relational and decentralized feminist future in such a context is a global imperative.

We would like speakers to also share their best practices to inspire change to build a feminist future and also generate ideas to re-empower the word ‘sustainable development’ by creating a discourse on areas and systems where it has been co-opted in the mainstream.

**Detail of Session**

14 July 2020

Time and speakers:

Session 1 Ecology

1 am GMT

Costa Rica - 7:00 pm - **Lorena Aguila** -

Point of contact Annemarie

has held the position of Global Senior Gender Adviser and head of the Global Gender Office (GGO) since 2002, following more than a decade with IUCN. She has more than 30 years of experience providing assistance to international organizations, governments, and universities on gender policy, gender equality, and women’s empowerment, as well as on water, forests, environmental health, and disaster risk reduction. Lorena’s expertise serves hundreds of partner organizations and has transformed the institutional identity of IUCN itself. As of August 2016, in recognition of her outstanding record in the promotion of rights-based governance approaches, she has also been appointed the Global Director of the Economics and Social Science Programme for IUCN. After a long career at IUCN, Lorena now serves as the Vice Chancellor of Costa Rica.

Mexico - 8:00 pm - **Nuria Costa,**

point of contact Lai Seung

— Founder of Mexican Rural Women’s Network  
— Nominated as one of the 1000 PeaceWomen for Nobel Peace Prize 2005  
— Coordinator of Latin America and the Caribbean for Livelihood and Ecology Programme of PeaceWomen Across the Globe  
— Promotional Group of Solidarity Economy in Mexico  
— One of the Founding Member of Global University for Sustainability

Email : convalorural@gmail.com

Indonesia - 8:00 am -Dr Dewi Candraningrum

Dewi Candraningrum, is an artist, feminist activist, environmentalist, lecturer, work with indigenous groups of Central Java, founded Jejer Wadon Studio Boyolali ( a feminist artists studio) and editor of 3 ecofeminism in Indonesia books. She is one of the advocates for Kendeng mountain indigenous people advocacy against mining in that area. Graduated PhD, Universitaet Muenster Germany, she teaches Muslim Women Literature and Gender Studies at the English Department of the Teacher Training Faculty, Universitas Muhammmadiyah Surakarta and also in Yogyakarta. Her work and research in English literature deals with issues in women’s literature and educational innovation in the light of gender studies and sustainable development.

Contact person Olin. Email : dcandraningrum@gmail.com

Hawai- 6 pm - Khara Jabola-Carolus is the Executive Director Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. She is Filipina feminist with strong community roots a distinguished background in advocacy and community organizing, and diverse experience in working toward the good for all, including women, immigrants, and others whose voices need amplifying. Her leadership led to A Feminist Recovery Plan for COVID, which centers the needs of women, Native Hawai'ians, and other marginalized folks in the state.

(contact person Margo)

Session 2:

7 am GMT

India - 12:30 pm - Vandana Shiva

point of Contact Shreya

is an Indian scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, and anti-globalization author. **Shiva**, currently based in Delhi, has authored more than twenty books.

Email: vandana@vandanashiva.com

China - 3:00 pm Jianli Yun

point of contact Lai

Yun Jianli initiated the formation of Green Han River, an environmental protection organization, in 2002. She has put tremendous efforts into raising public awareness and concern in Hunan’s Xiangfan City. As a result, the water quality of the Han River, which is the source of China’s “South-North Water Transfer” (SNWT) project, has been improved.

Yun Jianli, once a high school teacher, retired in 1988 at the age of 55. At this turning point in her life, she decided to become a volunteer in environmental protection, which was a great surprise to her family and colleagues. In 2002 she initiated the formation of Green Han River, with virtually no resources whatsoever, and devoted herself wholeheartedly to environmental protection. “People who know me understand that it is because I care, while those who do not know me wonder what I am after,” Jianli says. When she first began her engagement with the green movement, people’s awareness of environmental issues was minimal.

Kenya - 10 am, Dr. TeclaNamachanjaWanjala, PhD.

(point of contact Rose)

T :+0728 604430 E :tnamachanja@gmail.com

Dr. Tecla NamachanjaWanjala is a globally recognized peace builder, human rights activist and trauma healing specialist. A Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow under Robert Bosch Academy and a recipient of the 2019 Peace Builder of the YearAward (offered by the Centre for Justice and Peace, Eastern Mennonite University, USA). Nominee for the 1,000 Women for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize and a formerVice and Acting Chairperson of the Kenya’s Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC). Travelled extensively across the world to offer courses, trainings and presentations/talks on matters related to peace/conflict, transitional justice and social/trauma healing. She holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies fromMasinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (2008-2013), an M.A in Conflict Transformation- Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg Virginia, USA (2001-2003), a Diploma in Social Development Workfrom Embu Development Institute, Kenya (1989-1991), and Certificates in Peace Keeping and Human Rights fromUnited Nations University based in Tokyo, Japan (2003).

Dr. Wanjala is currently a part time visiting lecturer at St. Lawrence University Kenya Semester Program teaching a course on Gender and Development for undergraduate Students from the United States of America. She is also a consultant with Green String Network.

Rundown

Opening

Welcome : Margo and Gaby

Presentation 5 speakers each 15 Minutes

Then Brief Comments from PWAG Regional Coordinator and or Boad Members of PWAG International

Contact Person Organiser /Co -Hosts Livelihood Ecology:

Shreya Jani : jani.shreya@gmail.com

Lai Seung : aylaiseung@gmail.com

Olin Monteiro : olinwork2017@gmail.com

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