

Gender and Environmental Law. Challenges and opportunities for promoting the role of gender in environmental justice

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PANEL 2: Climate change and gender, a feminist approach: adaptation strategies, gender environmental justice, migration and displacement, Climate Action Plan under the UNFCCC, gender dimensions of national climate laws and National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Feminist proposals to reduce risk of Gender Based Violence incidence in disaster and climate change context and to address its consequences, supporting victims and ensuring justice.

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Climate change induces and increases the magnitude and frequency of natural disasters, causing human and material losses, accentuate existing gender inequalities and the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) especially against women, girls and LGBTI population. Research reveals that disasters and climate change reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality and gender violence. These forms of gender violence—including intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence, forced and/or coerced prostitution, child and/or forced marriage, survival sex, and trafficking for sexual exploitation and/or forced/domestic labour—must be considered in GBV prevention and mitigation efforts by international organizations according to the standards and the needs identified in a given setting.

In addition to that, considering the environmental justice, poor women and girls are more seriously affected by climate change-induced environmental degradation and natural disasters. The environmental consequences of climate change affect men and women differently. This paper tries to explore the condition of gender during disaster and climate change, the special vulnerabilities for women, girls and LGTBI population. Also, taken into account that Gender Based Violence is under-reported worldwide, due to fears of stigma or retaliation, limited availability or accessibility of trusted service providers, impunity for perpetrators, and lack of awareness of the benefits of seeking care.

This study presents Minimum Standard Commitments to gender and diversity, coping strategies by humanitarian organizations in a feminist, multi-sectorial and transformative way, the use of digital technologies, the promotion of code of conduct and gender policies, exemplary and dissuasive sanctions against sexual exploitation and abuse in order to prevent gender violence and discrimination caused by humanitarian crises and climate change.