



Feminist municipalism: empowering women local leaders as a pathway for the achievement of the SDGs

Local and Regional Governments Day

March 18th 14:00-19:00 CET

66th Commission on the Status of Women

The 66th Commission on the Status of Women plays an important role in putting a spotlight on **gender equality and inclusion in relation to the climate emergency**. Within this context, **UCLG is mobilising the constituency gathered in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments**, around the Local and Regional Governments Day on **“Feminist municipalism: empowering women local leaders as a pathway for the achievement of the SDGs”**.

These sessions will bring together local and regional governments, as well as partners and civil society representatives, to discuss the relationship between care and the protection of our planet, and highlight the crucial importance of empowering women, girls and feminist leadership as an effective pathway towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Local and Regional Governments Day will be divided into four segments based on key issues related to the main theme of the CSW. **Particular attention will be paid to the role of women and culture in mitigating the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction as well as in fostering peace in communities as well as to the statement of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments presented to the 66th session of the CSW**. These issues will further be considered together with the Review theme of the CSW: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.



Agenda Overview



Feminist Municipalism and the Global Agendas

14:00-15:00 CET



SDG5 in review: the role of local and regional governments

15:00-16:00 CET

(Co-organized with CLGF)

Break (16:00-17:00 CET)



Empowering women and girls for caring & resilient cities and territories

17:00-18:00 CET

(held within the context of the NGO CSW Forum)



Fostering gender equality and climate action through sustainable urban mobility

18:00-19:00 CET

(Co-organized with UITP and held within the context of the NGO CSW Forum)

Sessions are open and you can contact us to [Register here](#)

The Perspectives of the Local and Regional Government Movement

All people and living things have the **right to care, dignity and the opportunity to thrive**. Yet in times of crisis, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, women and children, the LGBTQI+ community, older persons, those with disabilities, migrant populations, ethnic minorities, as well as ecological systems, are **disproportionately impacted**. An increase in gender-based violence, or the deepening divides between Global North and South as a result of vaccine inequalities are just some of many examples.

As the institutions closest to the people, local and regional governments have worked at the forefront of the pandemic response, to maintain and improve local public service



provision, and ensure that people and the planet are duly protected. In particular, the current crises have shed light on the nature of **feminist leadership, rooted in solidarity rather than competition, and nurturing** rather than productivity. **With international peace and our multilateral system under threat, such leadership is increasingly relevant.**

The participation of women and feminist leaders in decision-making is not only core to the democratic process, it is key to enabling governance with empathy and to prioritizing the public in direct response to the diverse needs and aspirations of communities. Yet, **the value of women in public life remains overlooked** and challenged every day through discrimination, disinformation, violence, and social norms.

One such area in which women remain invisibilized is through the disproportionate burden of care work, both paid and unpaid. For example, while local and global agendas aim to tackle the gendered impact of migration, migrant workers are commonly further disproportionately impacted, and outdated integration policies in host countries often neglect the gendered reality and the different needs of migrant women and their cultural and religious preferences.

At the local and territorial level, **care and the provision of caring services is an essential dimension of leaving no one and no place behind.** Not only is this a commitment to ensuring all residents' socio-political, cultural and ecological rights are met, but also means the providers of care work must be cared for.

Culture is key to the sustainability of our cities, towns and territories. It permeates all aspects of human life and can be a driver of climate action through fostering changes in production and consumption, and a change in our relationship with nature. This change can be brought about through the inclusion of all in decision making and by empowering women and girls to enhance their key role in communities. Shifts in cultural norms, and celebrating the important role of women in the shaping of our cities and territories can work as an antidote to this culture of aggression and misogyny as well as discrimination to LGBTBI community.

The active participation of women and girls in all levels, as equal stakeholders in our societies, needs to be a pillar upon which to build a new social contract to safeguard our livelihoods, protect our global commons, and mitigate the climate crisis.