

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice

National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland partnership

INVITATION TO TENDER

Introduction

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice campaigns for climate justice that reflects feminist and community work values. We mobilise communities, ensuring social inclusion and equality are central to climate policies and programmes.

This partnership between the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland amplifies the voices of women and marginalised communities that are most impacted by climate change, building momentum in communities to engage, understand and influence climate policies.

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice will develop a feminist and community work analysis, deliver an accredited training programme, establish a Communities for Climate Justice National Network, and develop resources and campaigns.

Background

Climate change is a threat to the entire world, but all of us are and will be affected in different ways. The Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that the impacts of climate change will be felt by all, but that these impacts will be uneven. Vulnerable communities and people around the world – particularly women and girls – face devastating impacts to their livelihoods and greater challenges in adapting to the long-term effects of climate breakdown.¹

At COP 27 in November 2022, UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous noted that; *'Climate change and gender inequality are interwoven challenges. We will not meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal, or any other goal, without gender equality and the full contribution of women and girls.'*² This basic truth, she said, is demonstrated time and again. Countries with more women in leadership, in the labour force, in peace making and more, do better. The full participation of women brings better management of conflicts, humanitarian responses, pandemics, economic matters, climate solutions, and much more.

¹ Changing Ireland for the Better. Climate Action Plan 2023

² www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/speech/2022/11/speech-focus-on-gender-equality-as-central-to-climate-action-with-concrete-solutions

In 2022, the UN Commission on the Status of women, considered for the first time questions of gender equality and climate change. They noted that women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impacts than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources, which climate change threatens the most. However, despite increasing evidence, there is still hesitancy in making the vital connections between gender, social equity and climate change.³

To date, climate policy has not addressed the different ways in which climate change affects women and marginalised communities. As outlined in *A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making*, "Effective and meaningful participatory planning depends on the involvement of those whose voices are most marginalised. These are the people who experience a severe impact from decisions that fail to consider their experiences and concerns" (p. 9).⁴ Notwithstanding the Climate Conversations initiative, climate policy in Ireland needs to take far greater consideration of the experiences of women and marginalised communities.

The Project Team produced a Project Literature Review that collated Community Work Ireland and the National Women's Council's existing work and positions on climate issues; explored and summarised the current work of other NGOs, Government and other relevant organisations in areas of climate policy and advocacy that might relate to work CWI/NWC are undertaking/could undertake; and made policy focussed recommendations for the *Feminist Communities for Climate Justice* project.

The lack of analysis of the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on women is a policy and campaigning gap that the project can seek to address. To shape this work, there are five key pillars of focus grounding for analysis and campaigning;

1. Just Transition
2. Energy Poverty (broadened out to include Housing)
3. Care
4. Transport
5. Food, Land Use, Agriculture and Biodiversity

³www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/03/in-focus-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-csw66

⁴www.gov.ie/en/collection/bcc24-a-guide-for-inclusive-community-engagement-in-local-planning-and-decision-making

The Baseline Research

This Baseline Research project will build on the review of literature and policy already undertaken by the Project Team, by;

- Examining Irish climate and environment policy from the perspective of women and marginalised communities, detailing;
 - how climate change impacts differently on women and marginalised communities and;
 - highlighting where these impacts have been a consideration and identifying where they have not.
- Identifying key areas and strategies for improving the proofing of policy from this perspective.
- Referencing relevant case studies, internationally and or nationally where this analysis does exist or where policy is reflective, as applicable.

The analysis of the gaps will help better understand the aspects of climate justice that need additional attention to support the needs of women and marginalised communities in Ireland.

Methodology

This research will follow a mixed-method approach, including;

- Desk-based research and analysis
- Working with the Project Team as they initiate community outreach and information collection that can feed into the Baseline Research

The Project Advisory Group will support this research and provide input at different stages

Output

An accessible report written in clear and succinct language for a lay audience, complete with an executive summary. The editing and proofing work is the responsibility of the researcher, and the final report must be print ready.

Profile of Researcher

Experienced qualitative researcher with a background in social science, social policy, climate, environment, and community development.

Management

The project will be managed by the Feminist for Climate Justice Project Coordinator. The researcher will participate in monthly review meetings with the Project Team.

Background to NWC and CWI's climate work

Both the National Women's Council and Community Work Ireland have incorporated aspects of climate justice into their previous work.

For NWC this has manifested as including a climate and environment section in significant policy docs, particularly Pre-Budget Submissions since about 2020 and the submission to the National Reform Programme, and a small number of more focused thematic/sectoral documents (such as women and transport, and women and energy). Most of the policy calls contained within these documents are linked to public investment – the need for greater investment in caring infrastructure, more and better (green) physical infrastructure such as public and active transport, tax and investment reform to move away from fossil fuel investment and to put the burden of paying for increased investment on polluters rather than the general public, access to new and well-paid and conditioned employment opportunities for women in the context of a just transition, and increased participation by women in decision-making on climate at all levels of policy development and implementation.

For CWI this has manifested in a broad range of documentation and collaborations going back to at least 2012. Alongside briefing papers on general issues of climate justice, there have been specific analyses on COPs and on the Climate Action Plan. The primary themes that flow through this work as it relates to community work and development include climate engagement, governance and accountability, participation and inclusive processes, just transition, climate consciousness-raising, and tackling energy poverty. The development of strategic alliances has also been highlighted, and CWI submitted a motion (which passed) to last year's NWC AGM calling on the organisation to mainstream just transition and climate justice into their work.

TENDERING PROCESS

Tender requirements

Tender proposals should include the following;

- A statement or narrative demonstrating understanding of the research aim and goals
- A demonstrated understanding and track record in the research area
- A demonstrated understanding and awareness of the requirements of the project
- An outline of skills, qualifications, and experience in the area
- A work plan with provisional timeline identifying the approaches and methodologies to be used in carrying out the review demonstrating the scope of the review
- Demonstration of the arrangements for effective communication with designated personnel so as to ensure that the objectives of the project are being achieved, that the project does not overrun on time or cost and that any other problems that arise can be resolved
- Costs
 - Set out any issues which may impact on the cost
 - All costs must be inclusive of VAT and expenses
 - Demonstrate value for money
 - Breakdown of costs showing the number of days required to complete the task and total cost per day.
 - The fee quoted should include travel and subsistence costs
- A list of recent clients who may be contracted for references in relation to this tender
- Confirmation of ability to meet the timeframe of the project

Timeframe

Tender to be submitted to NWC and CWI by **Friday 8th September 2023.**

Draft report to be returned for review by **Friday 20th October 2023.**

Final report for publication by **Friday 27th October 2023.**

Project Budget

The total budget for the Project is **€9,820 inclusive** of VAT and all expenses.

Conditions of Tender

- a) NWC and CWI reserve the right not to award a contract if no proposal is deemed to be suitable.
- b) NWC and CWI require that researchers treat all information provided pursuant to this Invitation to tender in strict confidence.
- c) Information supplied by tenderers will be treated as contractually binding. However, NWC and CWI reserve the right to seek clarification of any such information.
- d) All material gathered and all outputs arising out of the proposed contract will remain the sole property of NWC and CWI. Tenderers must agree to this condition in their proposals. All information and knowledge acquired during the research will be treated as confidential and should not be divulged to any unauthorized person or used for any purpose whatsoever without the prior approval of NWC and CWI. NWC and CWI will ensure that the final report gives due credit to the consultants for research, textual and editorial work undertaken in its preparation. Any subsequent use of the material shall also give due credit.
- e) Contractors must retain records of tax reference numbers for any subcontractors whose payments exceed €9,820 including VAT.
- f) Tenders that are delivered late will not be considered.
- g) Any conflicts of interest involving a contractor (or contractors in the event of a group or consortium bid) must be fully disclosed to NWC and CWI, particularly where there is a conflict of interest in relation to any recommendations or proposals put forward by the tenderer.
- h) NWC and CWI will not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of the tender.
- i) Payment for all services covered by this Invitation to tender will be on foot of appropriate invoices. Invoicing arrangements will be agreed with the successful supplier(s), subject to the terms of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act (27 of 1997).
- j) Payment of all services covered by this invitation to tender will be based on the agreed contract price, completion of agreed stages of the work plan and upon the submission of the appropriate invoices.

NWC and CWI will own the completed research and will retain copyright.

NWC and CWI will retain the right to publish as deemed appropriate.

Evaluation of Tenders

Tenders will be evaluated initially with reference to the following qualification criteria:

- Completeness of tender documentation
- Stated ability of tenderer to meet the requirements of the Invitation to Tender

Only those tenders, who meet both qualifying criteria, will be eligible for inclusion in the award process.

The contract will be awarded from the qualifying tenders based on the most economically advantageous tender applying the following award criteria, not necessarily in this order:

- Understanding of the project
- Cost Effectiveness
- Relevant experience of the designated personnel
- Timeframe for completion

Tenderers are advised that they may be required to make a formal presentation of their proposal.

The proposals should be emailed to Collette collettemce@nwci.ie, marked '*Feminist Communities for Climate Justice – Baseline Research*'

To arrive no later than midnight on Friday 8th September 2023

All information provided to NWC and CWI in response to this request will be treated in strict confidence.

This project is funded under Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2) by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Environment Climate and Communications.