



# Feminist Communities for Climate Justice Introductory Webinar



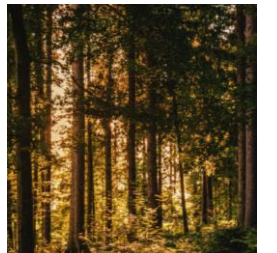
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## prompts to consider

1. What would climate justice mean for you and your community?
2. What skills, knowledge and/or experience do you / your community have to help achieve climate justice? This could be in your community, county or country!
3. Name some opportunities and/or challenges in achieving climate justice. Who should be responsible for addressing what you have listed?

And feel free to put questions in the chat, we'll come to them at the end!



## running order

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1pm    | Welcome   |
| 1:05pm | Collette McEntee and Vanessa Conroy, 'Feminist Communities for Climate Justice' Project Team, introduce and present the project |
| 1:25pm | Claire Kenny, Policy Assistant at Independent Living Movement Ireland, contributes  |
| 1:30pm | Mary Brigid Collins, Coordinator of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre Primary Health Care Project, contributes              |
| 1:35pm | Questions and Answers   |
| 1.45pm | Webinar close   |



introducing  
the project



# national women's council of ireland

Leading national representative organisation for women and women's groups



Membership organisation representing over 190 organisations from a diversity of backgrounds, sectors and locations across Ireland

Ultimate aim: an Ireland where every woman enjoys true equality and no woman is left behind through mobilising, influencing, and building solidarity

Championing feminist and just climate action is a core strategic goal of NWC, including it in its current Strategic Plan and Pre-Budget Submission





community work ireland

Leading national organisation promoting and supporting community work and community development as a means of addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality and promoting human rights

Membership organisation: over 800 individuals and organisations who support community work and community development

Advancing policy and programmes that meet the real and pressing needs of disadvantaged communities throughout Ireland

A long-established track record in climate justice



## climate justice

while reducing carbon emissions, we are also reducing social inequalities

**The climate crisis is an everything crisis**

Climate justice recognises that the effects of climate breakdown are not felt equally

‘those that cause the least of the climate crisis are the most affected, with the least resources to respond’



## why a feminist approach?

tackling the root causes of inequality and climate injustice – System change, not climate change

valuing care work, as inherently green low-carbon work while advocating for better pay and working conditions for women in care work

focus on the issue of women's representation

gender impact assessments and gender proofing

better public services for all improve women's equality and are better for the planet. we should all have access to better, greener services - not only those who can afford to make those changes





# why a community work approach?

beyond consultation to participation; beyond capacity building to consciousness raising and empowerment

recognising structural inequalities and promoting positive change to benefit those who are marginalised under existing socioeconomic systems

collective focus rather than response to individual crisis – for the many, not the few

social justice and sustainable development are core values informing community work; part of the All-Ireland Standards for Community Work



# feminist communities for climate justice

Feminist Communities for Climate Justice will

**Amplify** the voices of women and marginalised communities most impacted by climate crisis

**Advocate:** with women and marginalised communities; influence policy

**Mobilise:** *Communities for Climate Justice National Network*, supporting and learning from one another

**Train:** Certificate Programme with NUI Maynooth; toolkits



why now?



# all policy is climate policy

Ireland's legally binding emissions targets:

- 50% reduction by 2030
- Net-zero emissions by 2050

All future policy decisions will be impacted by these targets. Our housing, energy, transport, agriculture and more will all be affected by the climate crisis.

There is no policy area or crisis that we are currently experiencing that does not have a link to climate breakdown. **All policy is climate policy.** And **all policy needs to be gender, poverty and equality proofed.**



## **Women are more likely to be hardest hit by the impacts of climate emergency, in Ireland and globally:**

They are socioeconomically disadvantaged compared to men

Care work is key to how women experience and are impacted by the climate crisis.

Their voices must be central; their input is essential in ensuring that future climate action does not worsen existing gender inequality



pillars



## just transition: nobody left behind

Rural communities – consultation and support, not blame

The scaling down, or transformation of industries like peat production and agriculture must be done in conversation with the communities who rely on them for their livelihoods.

Accessibility must be part of the planning process, not an afterthought, for disabled people to be able to fully participate.

A truly just transition means that **nobody is left behind** in our net-zero future – justice must be mandatory to the transition!



## energy and housing

The unstable nature of fossil fuel energy costs impacts on rising energy bills – secure green energy, not choosing between heating and eating.

**Ties into our housing crisis** – energy inefficient Irish homes are more expensive to run.

Traveller community spends five to six times the national average to keep trailers warm; private renters have no say in whether retrofitting occurs for the property they call home.

The upfront cost of retrofitting, even with government subsidies, remains out of reach for the majority of the population.

**Women are at greater risk of energy poverty**





## care

Care work: essential and low-carbon, but undervalued, underpaid or taken for granted – and largely carried out by women.

Caring jobs like teaching, community work and healthcare are **26 times greener than manufacturing jobs** but are seldom part of the green jobs discourse.

Education often touted as crucial for our green transition, yet our teachers are being priced out of their homes and jobs.

**Care work should be recognised as the essential green work that it is.** Better pay, better hours and better working conditions to allow for women to fully participate in economic, political and social life.



## transport

Climate Action Plan 2023 goal – half of all journeys to be active travel journeys by 2030. But 69% of all trips in Ireland are still taken by car.

Rural areas in particular lacking alternative transport infrastructure, locked into car dependency.

Upfront cost of electric vehicles is still out of reach for many, and adequate charging infrastructure will be needed to make them viable.

Transport is not a gender-neutral issue – women's transport needs are different to men's.



## biodiversity, food & agriculture

Citizens Assembly: the State has comprehensively failed in implementing laws to protect our native flora and fauna.

Once a species is extinct, we can never get it back.

Bee and bird species endangerment has serious implications for production of food by our farmers – resistance to pests and changing weather relies on biodiversity.

Farmers are the custodians of our land with rich knowledge and understanding of it – they must be supported and encouraged to conserve and restore biodiversity.

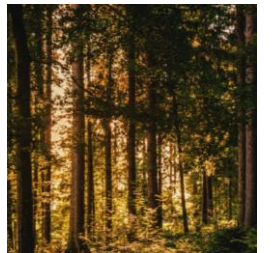


The communities of Ireland themselves should have the knowledge, tools and capacity for the green transition.

Community workers have always been at the forefront of identifying issues that risk disrupting or unfairly impacting the areas they work in.

Our project is aimed at helping the people who will be most impacted.

Nobody knows a community better than the people who call it home!





Our climate policy needs to be gender, poverty and equality proofed – we cannot risk creating sustainable futures where inequality and discrimination are also sustained!

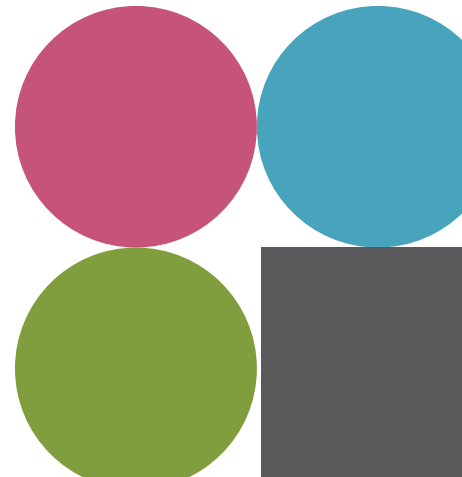
We don't want 'green' sexism.

We don't want 'zero emissions' poverty or homelessness.

A net-zero future for some should not come at the expense of others.

We want everyone to enjoy our green future on equal footing.

**We have a chance to create a world which is fairer to our environment and marginalised groups in our society, and we need to take it!**



Keep in touch with our project!

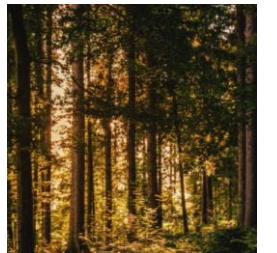


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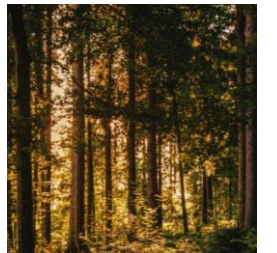
guest speaker:

Claire Kenny,  
Independent Living  
Movement Ireland



guest speaker:

Mary Brigid Collins  
Pavee Point Traveller and Roma  
Centre





questions and  
answers



thank you!





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