

# WOMEN OF FAITH LEADING CHANGE: GOING FURTHER, FASTER, TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE AND GENDER JUSTICE UN CSW69 SIDE EVENT PROPOSAL

<b>Alternative Titles (TBC)</b>	<i>Faiths, Women, and Climate: Conflict or Common Ground?</i>
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 13th March 2025, 13:30 – 14:45, 75-minute event
<b>Location</b>	Tzu Chi Center, 229 E 60th St. New York
<b>Co-Sponsors</b>	Ireland (confirmed), Zimbabwe (confirmed), UNEP (confirmed)  Pakistan (TBC), Sierra Leone (TBC), The Gambia (TBC)
<b>Civil Society Organisers</b>	Coordinated by the <b>Women, Faith and Climate Network</b> [list of members can be shared on request], including Project Dandelion, and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Women, Faith and Climate Network Members:</b> Dr. Azza Karam: <a href="mailto:akaram@lead-integrity.com">akaram@lead-integrity.com</a> Dr. Rachel Tavernor: <a href="mailto:rachel.tavernor@actalliance.org">rachel.tavernor@actalliance.org</a> .

## Context

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which included ‘women and the environment’ as one of 12 critical areas of concern for greater gender equality, was the first time the links between gender and climate injustices were recognised on the international stage.<sup>1</sup> Thirty years later, women and girls continue to be as much as 14 times more likely to die because of disasters resulting from climate change than men and boys. Unequal participation in formal economies and decision-making processes, limited access to finance and information, and greater domestic responsibilities, compounds gender inequalities.

Women, youth and faith communities play a significant role in driving climate action, and are critical stakeholders to include in transformative action. This is why, thanks to the joint sponsorship by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom, together with support from UNEP, Project Dandelion, Islamic Relief, among others, women climate change activists from the global South, their counterparts from the North, young and older, from diverse faiths, faith-based NGOs, as well as secular organizations, together with male allies, came together in Frascati, Italy, in October of 2024.

Candid, fact-based and rich experiential narratives and discussions around policies, cultures, as well as climate change realities, took place, in an intense working process. The simple goal was to explore how to collaborate more and better, to go further and faster, in attempts to race against time and old vested interest, to achieve the climate goals.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/news/why-do-we-need-to-accelerate-the-mainstreaming-of-gender-into-climate-action/#:~:text=Gender%20in%20climate%20policy%20debates,concern%20for%20greater%20gender%20equality>.

The critical role of women of faith in realising development goals, serving humanitarian needs and leading policy making in intersectional ways that recognise the criticality of climate change efforts, to gender equality as key to the common good, was strongly emphasized. Participants via a survey undertaken ahead of the meeting confirmed the vast reach of these networks of women and their respective organisations, around the world; and how engaging on climate change was not an added on concern, but foundational to the entire development, human rights and peace and security agendas. Participants shared experiences related to all themes of intervention including reforestation, recycling, disaster preparedness, advocacy against fossil fuels, Indigenous women's wisdom and rights, and violence against women and earth.

A global Network - **Women, Faith and Climate Network (WFC)** – was agreed to, with its members committing to radical forms of collaboration, recognising the extent, depth, and creativity of women's myriad forms of leadership in intersectional climate change efforts, nationally, regionally and globally. Representatives from WFC currently include a former president of Ireland, religious leaders, locally-led faith-based and international organisations.

At this CSW side-event, WFC members and partners will present their perspectives and initiatives, and discuss concrete proposals for going further, faster, together.

### Expected Outcomes

1. A deeper understanding of the intersectional realities of gender, climate, and faith, including the importance of the full, meaningful and effective participation in climate policy spaces through showcasing concrete actions/initiatives.
2. An understanding of and commitment to the strategic necessity of scaling up partnerships between faith communities alongside other rights-based networks to strengthen gender-transformative climate action.
3. Discuss concrete efforts to work collaboratively for transformative climate-specific gender sensitive actions.

### Co-Moderators:

Dr. Azza Karam (Lead Integrity) and Rachel Tavernor (ACT Alliance), Founding Members of Women Faith and Climate Network

### Appendix:

- [Going Further, Faster: Towards Radical Collaboration among Multi-faith Women-led Climate Action Network](#), Frascati Report, Wilton Park
- [Women, Faith and Climate Network Video](#), produced by Wilton Park