

 **feminist communities**  
**for climate justice**



Does our Irish climate policy leave women and marginalised communities behind?

#MRCC24  
#FeministClimateJustice



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
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the project



partnership

# Research Report Team

Academic Partner



School of Applied Social Studies  
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Project Partners

  **feminist communities**  
  **for climate justice**



Government Funding



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



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

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

**Mobilise** communities to support and learn from one another, with the establishment of the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network

**Strengthen capacity & raise consciousness** of those working with or active within women's and marginalised communities through *Community Work in a Changing Ireland Certificate Programme* in partnership with the Department of Applied Social Studies at NUI Maynooth; and the development of toolkits for communities and community workers



## **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. In Ireland, women carry out twice as much caring work as men.

Women's voices must be central; their input is essential in ensuring that future climate action does not worsen existing gender inequality - those most impacted by the climate crisis need to be at the centre of decision-making spaces

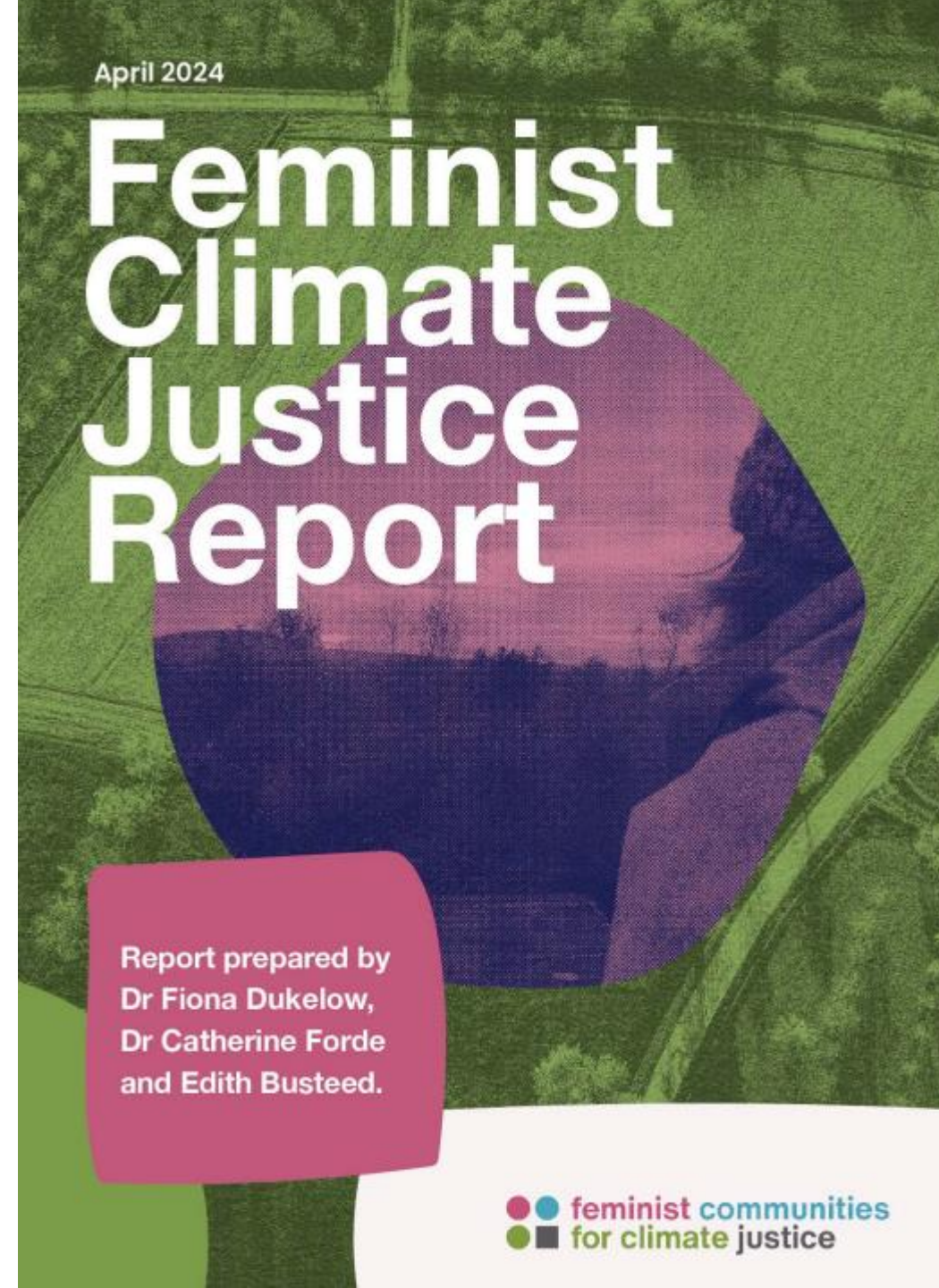


# Feminist Climate Justice Research



## Gaps explored

1. Just Transition
2. Care
3. Energy Poverty and Housing
4. Transport
5. Health
6. Food, Land-use, Agriculture & Biodiversity



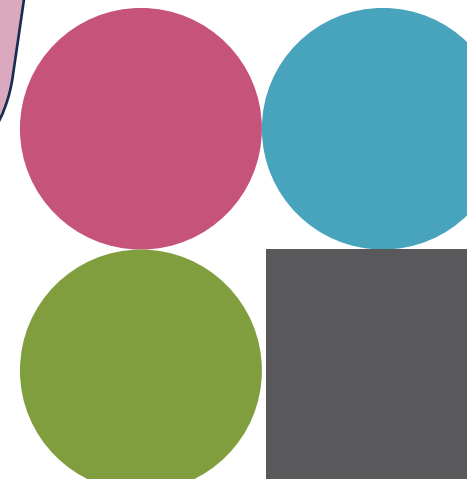
# Feminist Climate Justice

Feminist climate justice is about **paying attention to the gendered and intersectional characteristics** of all dimensions of climate justice.

*Voices of FCCJ*

*What would climate justice mean for you and your life?*

*Leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first. Listening, responding to communities who will have to adapt.*





# Just Transition

Irish climate policy must **go beyond place-specific analysis** to incorporate **identity-based analysis too**, including a **gender** and **intersectional lens** to the current and future impacts

Heavy focus on **mitigating the impacts on employment in the fossil-fuel industry** and other male dominated sectors of employment

The approach to a just transition both in Ireland and internationally appears to be **'framed narrowly around employment'**. (Middlemiss et al., 2023: 2)

In **the Climate Action Plan**, the people deemed most at risk of employment instability during the just transition to a greener economy **does not include marginalised groups** at risk such as the Traveller Community and the migrant community in Ireland.



# Care

Formal and informal care work is essential, low-carbon work – but it is hidden in all Irish climate policy and continues to be dominated by women.

Care services employment would fulfil **the triple roles** of improving employment and gender equality and meet climate change targets

Discourse and policy discussion on green jobs **ignores female-dominated caring work** in education, healthcare and social care

‘Trip chaining’, = a pattern of mobility that involves multiple small trips within a larger commute

‘Locked into using cars’ as a primary mode of transportation due to caring responsibilities, safety concerns, and lack of time availability



# Transport

**Mobility of care**= ‘acknowledges the need to quantify, assess and make visible the daily travel associated with care work’

(Sánchez de Madariaga, 2013: 33).

Transport is not gender neutral

Need for more public transport infrastructure in Ireland

Principle one of the Ireland’s National Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP) published in 2022 is ‘**safe and green mobility**’

The **principle of safety** as outlined by the **SMP** does not account for harassment based on **gender discrimination**

Policy that ignores gender issues risks merely ‘greening’ existing gender equality issues.



# Energy Poverty & Housing

‘energy poverty is defined as an inability to heat or power a home adequately’

**A lack of disaggregated data**

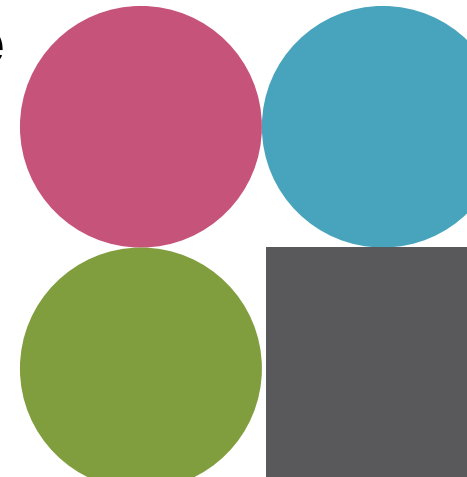
**Expenditure-based methods do not capture the intersecting inequalities** and barriers to accessing energy that marginalised communities are more exposed to

**Household as measurement excludes experiences outside of the traditional household** i.e. emergency accommodation, direct provision

Women are overrepresented in the numbers of lone parent households living in emergency accommodation

Data shows that **those most impacted by energy poverty are female lone parents renting private accommodation** in Ireland

**Traveller community disproportionately impacted by energy poverty:** Government schemes for retrofitting remain inaccessible to Travellers who live in trailers



# Food, Land-use, Agriculture & Biodiversity

The system of land use and ownership in Ireland is **highly patriarchal, market-led and ineffective**

Only **13% of farm holders are women** in Ireland

**Migrant women make up a large and often invisible portion of the agricultural and food production industries** in Ireland

Biodiversity loss has implications for production of food and medicine, as well as consequences for human health.

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.



# Health

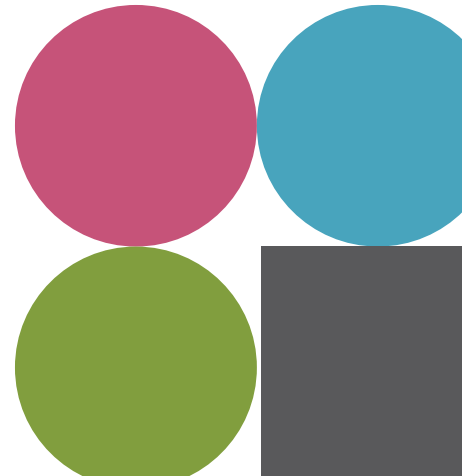
Communicating the climate crisis as a health crisis is an **effective messaging method**

There are **substantial policy gaps in Ireland** between the climate crisis and its implications for physical, maternal, reproductive, and mental health that women face

Ireland's mental health policy does **not acknowledge eco-anxiety**

The connectedness between **climate justice and women's health including reproductive justice is siloed** within Irish health and climate policy

Climate-related events have been associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes from factors such as increasing temperatures, air pollution, and flooding.



# Gender and Intersectionality in Irish Climate Policy

## Intersectional approaches to policy are limited

*How can we identify key areas and strategies for improving the proofing of policy from the perspective of women and marginalised communities?*

Irish climate policy has been mainly **gender-blind** to date. Need:

- **Recognition of diverse forms of knowledge to** include women and marginalised groups.
- Production of knowledge to progress **gender proofing and mainstreaming**
- Following the European Commission, a suite of actions for **progressing and embedding intersectional feminist climate justice** in Ireland



# Carol-Anne, BOLD





Yvonne Mefor, Women  
Aspire Empowerment  
Initiative (WAEI)



Questions?





Thank you!

### Follow up actions

- Share and discuss Feminist Climate Justice research report with others
- Join the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice National Network
- Join our mailing list - scan the QR code
- Invite the Project Team to speak with my local community / group / organisation
- Other ideas? Contact us!



Access the report with this QR Code



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