

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



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



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Feminist Communities for Climate Justice

GGU44978 - Finance & Climate Justice

#FeministClimateJustice

Monday 30th September



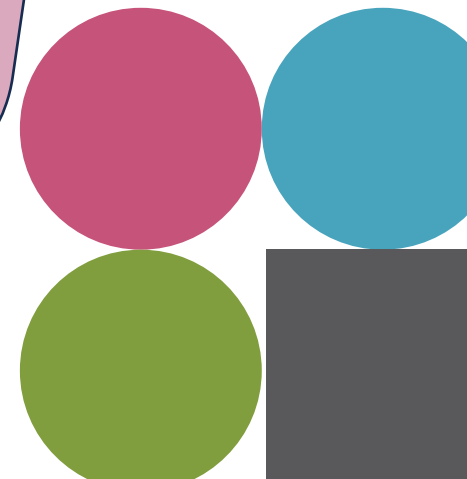
# Feminist Climate Justice

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

*Voices of Feminist Communities  
for Climate Justice*

*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.*



**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



## why this project?

**Responding to community workers** – climate impacts coming, but a need for more information, guidance and tools

**Responding to data and policy gaps** – existing climate policy does not adequately pay attention to the domestic gendered impacts of the climate crisis

**For a feminist analysis** of climate justice

**Response to National Women's Council members** who wanted climate justice integrated in the Council's work





**Impacts of the climate emergency worsen existing social and economic inequalities – including gender inequalities**

Gender Pay Gap: **9.6%**

Gender Pension Gap: **35%**

Women do **twice** as much unpaid care work

care work is key to how women experience & are impacted by the climate crisis

caring roles are linked to food, energy, transport choices & security

most Irish women consider car ownership a necessity to carry out caring duties and to alleviate safety concerns with public transport



# why women?

excluded from the economy and work in unpaid caring or domestic roles which impact transport, energy, food use and vulnerability to poverty and injustice

Women face huge barriers in access to employment, key resources and public services including housing and health

disproportionately represented in deaths related to air pollution

Care and support work - vital and inherently low-emissions work, must be a key part of the just transition

Marginalised women are particularly affected

Women's voices must be central – those most impacted by the climate crisis need to be at the centre of decision-making spaces.



# why a feminist community work approach?

Addresses and tackles the root causes of inequality and climate injustice – **system change, not climate change**

Cares – it champions caring work, paid and unpaid, and calls for it to be appropriately valued and recognised as green work

Transforms consultation into meaningful, non-tokenistic participation in decision-making

Focuses on the issue of women's representation in decision-making as well as other marginalised groups – those most impacted by the climate crisis need to be at the centre of decision-making spaces

Champions a collective focus – we must fight for the many, not the few

Means better public services which benefit both people and planet!



# Feminist Climate Justice: Gaps explored, what does the research tell us?

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

April 2024

# Feminist Climate Justice Report

Report prepared by  
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Dr Catherine Forde  
and Edith Busteed.



# 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

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

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

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 women or marginalised groups** such as the Traveller Community and the migrant community in Ireland



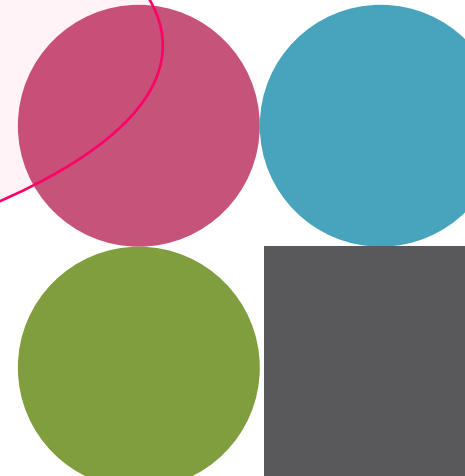
# three dimensions for Ireland's just transition

**Place/geography-based analysis:** Midlands are particularly impacted by move from high-carbon to green jobs, poor public transport links in this area; areas particularly at-risk of sea level rise; places already impacted by flooding. Will communities need to be moved inland? What are the financial implications? Who is responsible?

**Employment-based analysis:** jobs in agriculture, peatlands, transport, mining and other extractive industries will be impacted – need to ensure workers are upskilled, fairly compensated, and that new jobs have good employment benefits, etc.

**Identity-based analysis:** Travellers who live in trailers/caravans are not eligible for retrofitting despite being vulnerable to energy poverty; many modes of public and active transport are inaccessible for disabled people; impacts of socioeconomic disadvantage on women's ability to participate in green transition

**Irish discussion on just transition does NOT include this analysis sufficiently!**



## 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 can 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

*Voices of FCCJ*

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

*Childcare - affordable and reliable  
Care work - green work (paid and unpaid)*



# transport

**Transport is not gender neutral**, with women and men using transport very differently

**Communities residing in certain areas are 'locked-in' to car ownership** due to lack of public transportation infrastructure, particularly those in rural areas

Instances of **harassment on public transport are heightened toward women** who are from marginalised groups

Access to Bus Éireann buses is an ongoing issue for disabled people. A lack of accessibility and requirements to book in advance to access public transportation if you use a wheelchair can result in social exclusion and isolation for disabled people.

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

(Sánchez de Madariaga, 2013: 33).





# energy poverty & housing

## A lack of disaggregated data

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

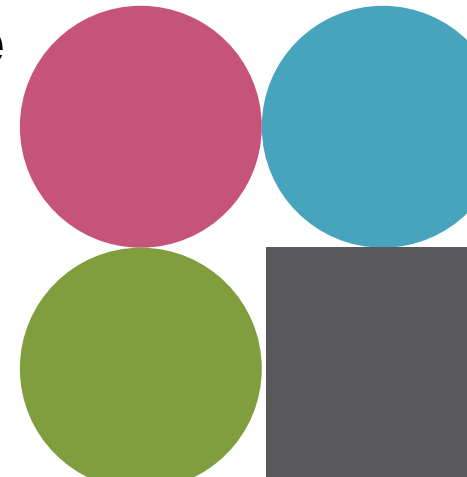
**Expenditure-based methods do not capture the intersecting inequalities** and barriers to accessing energy that marginalised communities are more exposed to

**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

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.

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



Any questions /  
thoughts / ideas  
so far?





*“Growth means more throughput. More throughput means more impact. More impact means less planet. Eternal growth precipitates the destruction of everything.”*

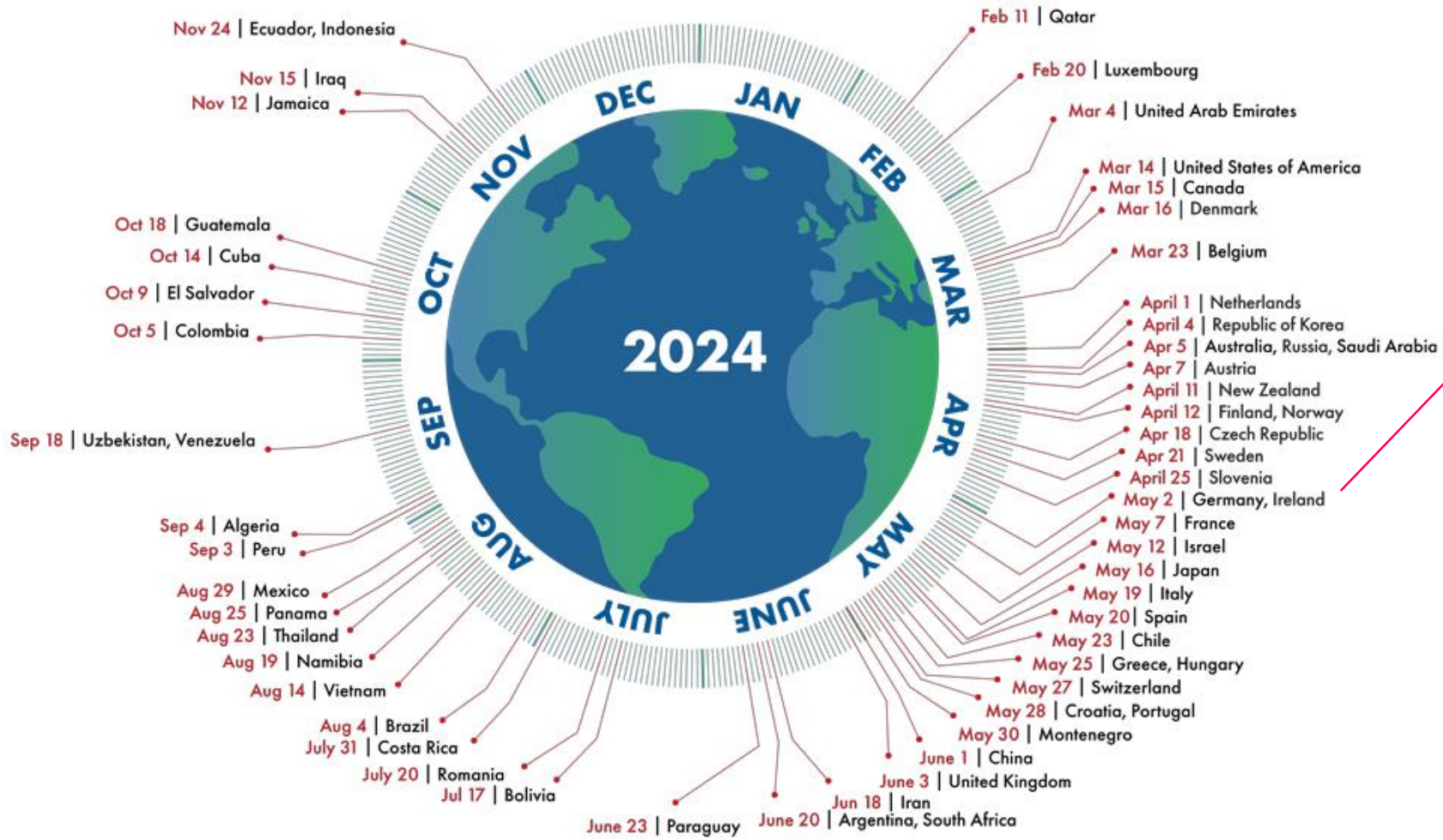
- Tim Jackson

- Our current economic system is clearly not compatible with ensuring a liveable planet – but we must be careful about the ‘green growth’ narratives being pushed.
- **Green growth, even if it does carry lower carbon emissions, is still growth.** Growth still means consumption of the Earth’s resources, and retention of the existing inequalities that come with a growth-dominated system.
- Extractive, endless growth capitalism is bad for the planet, perpetuates inequality and has created a hierarchy which deems some workers and people more exploitable and expendable than others.
- It relies on expropriated resources and labour, devaluing nature and care work – as well as twisting the interests of our democracies to serve the free market above social need – in order to survive.



# Country Overshoot Days 2024

When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...



Ireland's overshoot day for 2024 was May 2<sup>nd</sup>

The reality: there are not many economies where the Earth's resources are not consumed before the end of the calendar year!

We need new systems and to live very differently to meet needs within planetary limits.

For a full list of countries, visit [overshootday.org/country-overshoot-days](https://overshootday.org/country-overshoot-days).



Source: National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts, 2023 Edition  
[data.footprintnetwork.org](https://data.footprintnetwork.org)



# Green Energy's Dirty Secret: Its Hunger for African Resources

The scramble for battery metals threatens to replicate one of the most destructive dynamics in global economic history.

**The entire logic of the battery metals race is to secure national prosperity at home—not in Africa.**

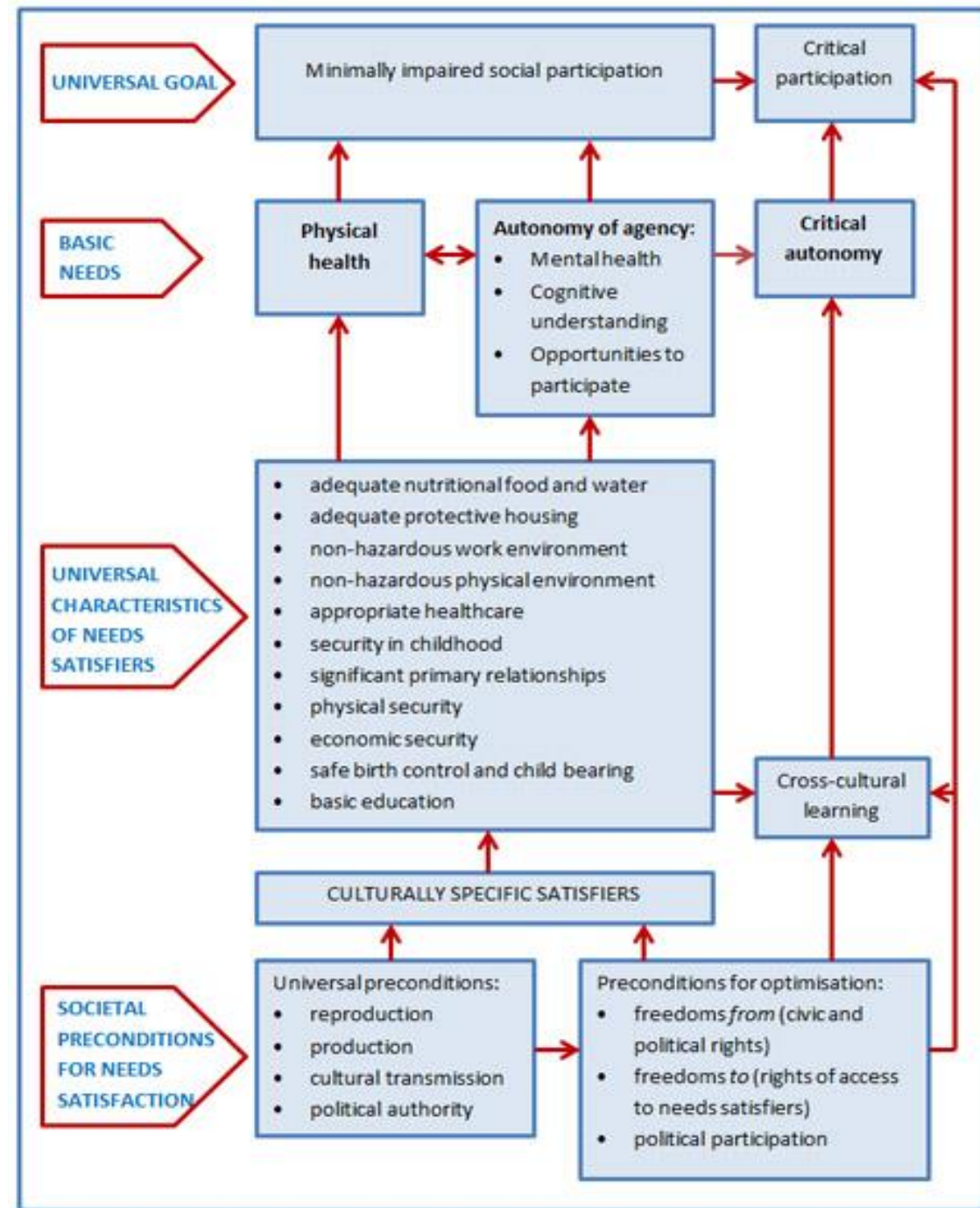
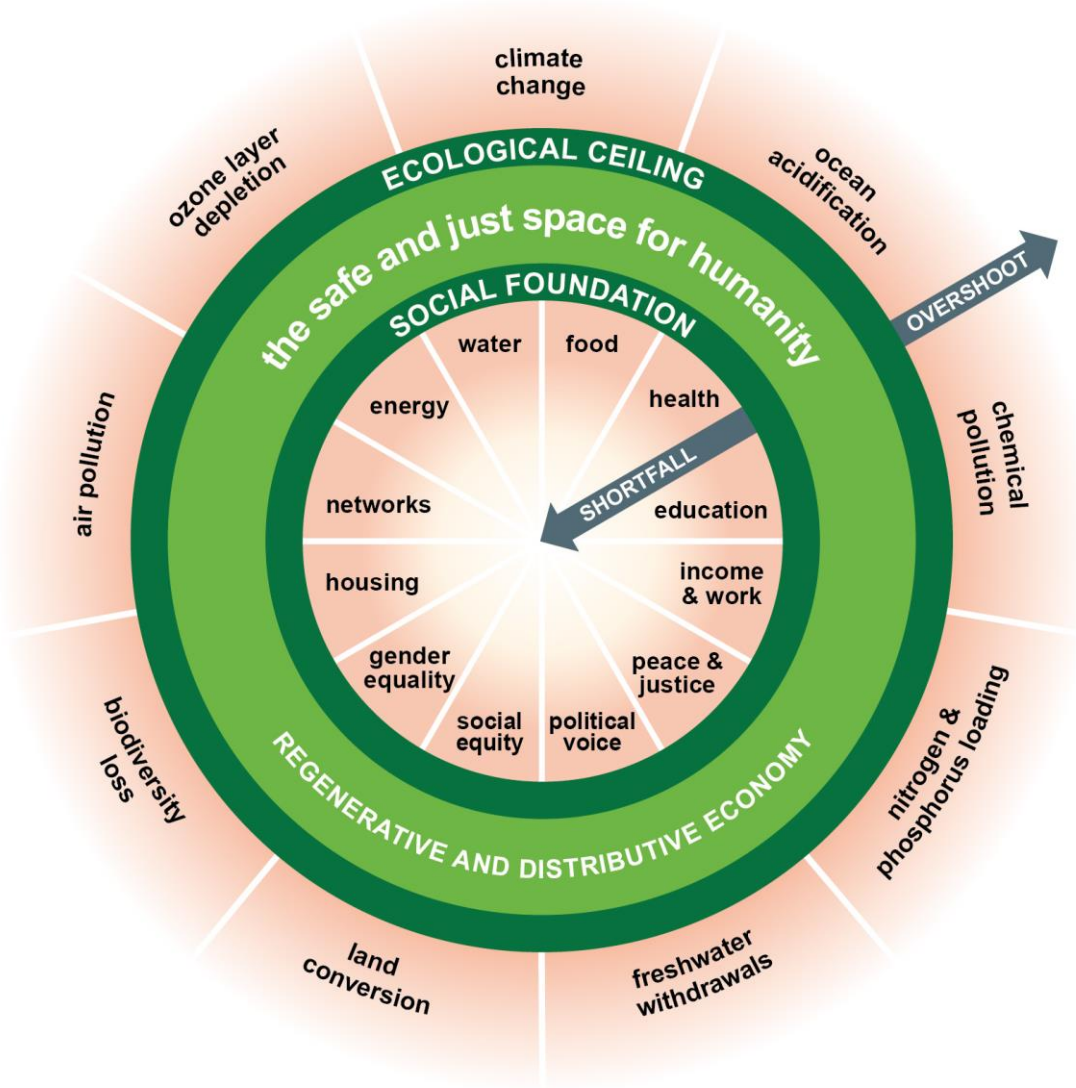
**How 'modern-day slavery' in the Congo powers the rechargeable battery economy**

green growth –  
at what cost?

**In pictures: South America's 'lithium fields' reveal the dark side of our electric future**



# what are the alternatives?







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

