

# How are Feminist Foreign Policies connected to Gender-Attentive Transitional Justice?

Countries with feminist foreign policies are more likely to have adopted gender-attentive transitional justice mechanisms. This relationship is most pronounced in the Americas.

Since the first country, Sweden, announced its Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) in 2014, FFPs have rapidly spread to at least fifteen countries: Canada, France, Luxembourg, Mexico, Spain, Scotland, Libya, the Netherlands, Liberia, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Slovenia, and Mongolia, with many others indicating plans to adopt such policies, including Tunisia, Bolivia, and Rwanda.

FFPs vary from country to country, but all are committed to the advancement of gender equality through their multi-lateral engagement. Canada, for example, takes a feminist approach primarily in relation to international assistance, focusing on increasing female participation in conflict prevention, ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, and improving access to sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian contexts. Colombia understands its FFP as an explicit incorporation into foreign policy of existing international and domestic commitments to promote gender equality, female empowerment, and increased female political participation.

The adoption of FFP has not been linear, and some countries have formally or informally retracted policies as domestic politics shift, most notably seen in Sweden, followed by Luxembourg, Germany, and Argentina. Some European states face increasing political pressure to reconsider earlier FFP commitments. Yet, amidst these shifts, some countries in the Global South have assumed prominent roles within the UN FFP+ group and advanced efforts to integrate gender considerations across policy areas, including in trade and climate. In 2024, Mexico became the first non-European country to host the [Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy](#), bringing together more than 50 countries to Mexico City. As some states reduce their emphasis on gender in foreign policy, it becomes increasingly important to examine how the adoption or promotion of FFP relates to gender-attentive transitional justice.

To analyze this relationship, we explore the ways in which countries with FFP have incorporated gender into their own

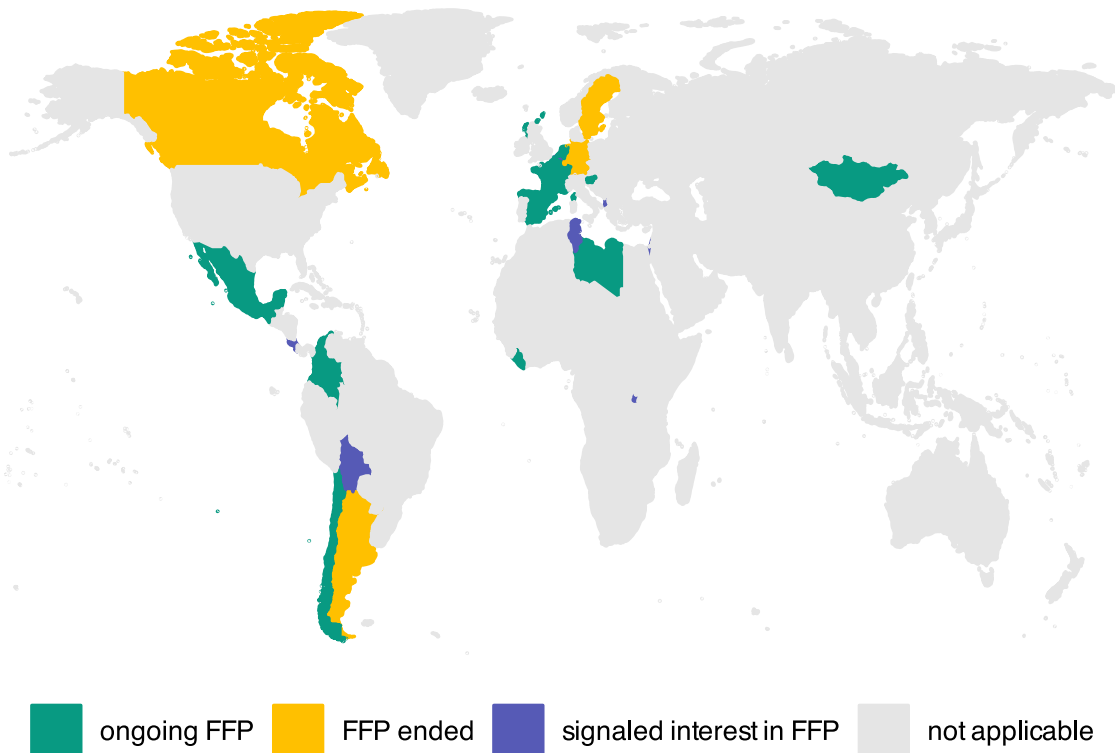
transitional justice (TJ) efforts, using our TJET data. Our research suggests that countries with FFP are more likely to have adopted gender-attentive TJ mechanisms.

In the Americas, this relationship is the most pronounced. The region has the greatest overlap globally between countries that have adopted or pledged to adopt feminist foreign policies and those that have implemented gender attentive TJ mechanisms. The region has emerged as a central actor in advancing FFP-related initiatives, as seen with Mexico's leading role, while institutions such as the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) promote the broader integration of gender equality into foreign policy agendas. Additionally, some countries like Colombia have emerged as both a global leader in building comprehensive gender-attentive TJ mechanisms as well as in promoting the adoption of FFP.

In Africa, Liberia exemplifies this relationship, becoming the first country on the continent to adopt a feminist foreign policy. The policy announcement followed the work of its Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which placed particular emphasis on women's experiences during conflict and the prevalence of gender-based violence. Liberia's post-conflict context has shaped the focus of its FFP, which prioritizes women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Our research on gender-attentive TJ helps provide support for FFPs. Gender-attentive TJ mechanisms are often proposed by the government or civil society domestically and diffused from regional neighbors. By establishing truth commissions or reparations programs that explicitly address gender-based harms, or by including gender charges in trials, these processes bring questions of gender equality, justice, and inclusion into the national dialogue. This visibility can normalize the consideration of gender across public institutions and policymaking. Based on our research, we suggest that a FFP often reflects a commitment to internal feminist policies, including gender-attentive TJ.

## Feminist Foreign Policy around the World



## Feminist Foreign Policy and Gender-Attentive Transitional Justice

| Country     | Year began | Year ended | Reparations policy created | Truth commission created | Domestic trial(s) began |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Argentina   | 2023       | 2024       | 2004                       |                          | 1991                    |
| Canada      | 2017       | 2025       | 1998                       | 2007                     | 2001                    |
| Chile       | 2023       |            | 2004                       | 2003                     | 1994                    |
| Colombia    | 2023       |            | 2005                       | 2017                     | 1987                    |
| France      | 2018       |            |                            |                          | 2003                    |
| Germany     | 2023       | 2025       |                            |                          | 2009                    |
| Liberia     | 2022       |            |                            | 2005                     | 2013                    |
| Libya       | 2021       |            |                            |                          | 2011                    |
| Luxembourg  | 2018       | 2023       |                            |                          |                         |
| Mexico      | 2020       |            | 2012                       | 2021                     | 1990                    |
| Mongolia    | 2023       |            |                            |                          |                         |
| Netherlands | 2022       |            | 2021                       |                          |                         |
| Scotland    | 2023       |            |                            |                          |                         |
| Slovenia    | 2023       |            |                            |                          |                         |
| Spain       | 2021       |            | 2007                       |                          | 1995                    |
| Sweden      | 2014       | 2022       | 1999                       |                          |                         |

## References

- Sikkink, Kathryn A., and Helen Clapp. 2024. "How Feminist Foreign Policy Enhances Gender Justice". *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, February. <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/02/18/how-feminist-foreign-policies-work-to-enhance-gender-justice/>.
- Towns, Ann, Katarzyna Jezierska, and Elin Bjarnegård. 2024. "Can a Feminist Foreign Policy Be Undone? Reflections from Sweden". *International Affairs* 100 (3): 1263–73. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiae079>.