

**Changing Our Futures in Our Now Changed World:
Gender, Equalities, and Sustainability for All**

**International Women's Day Annual Conference,
Feminist Legal Studies and the
Faculty of Law, Queen's University
March 4-5, 2022**

CALL FOR PAPER and PANEL PROPOSALS

Feminist Legal Studies Queen's is calling for individual paper proposals and for complete panel proposals for presentation at its annual International Women's Day (IWD) conference on March 4-5, 2022. The United Nation's International Women's Day 2022 theme is **“Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”**.

In a world that is changed by environmental crises, a global pandemic, and the resulting impacts on food security, work, and development, this year's conference seeks to inject some measure of hope, promise, community, and collaboration in examining the role of women and gender equality in sustainability and solutions – as the UN proposes – to what seem to be some of the world's greatest intractable problems. The significant changes that both the COVID19 pandemic and climate changes have already wrought for individual and local conditions, as well as at national and international levels, have disparate impacts on the world's most marginalized and vulnerable communities, the poor, and those who live in more direct relation to the land and its resources. But it is these same communities who may help shift the direction of values as we navigate through and out of the thicket of existential thorns seeded through years of capital accumulation, neo-liberal market economies, politics of exclusion(s), extractions, exploitations, and colonial legacies.

Building on last year's FLSQ conference focused on leaving no one behind, we now look the future squarely in the face and ask at this critical inflection point, how might we ourselves seize this imposed opportunity to change our futures in our now changed world? How might we constitute and enact more equal relations, more just societies, more sustainable use, innovations, progress and development premised on expanded values and operating conceptions of care, compassion and community, while integrating, celebrating, and highlighting the significance of gender equality, diversity, Indigenous rights, and inclusion in the roles that women must play in politics, economies, technologies, developments, and decision making to set the agenda for sustainable futures? We look to seed today the future we want tomorrow, overcoming barriers, burdens, and disadvantages women confront every day in moving these initiatives forward.

We invite proposals that seek to address the elimination of all forms of structural barriers, intersectional inequalities, and individual harms perpetuated systemically and institutionally by laws, policies, politics, powerholders, myriad forms of discrimination, degradation of the biosphere, technological developments, and sustainable life, including future equal access for all to –

- land and property, life-nourishing food, clean water, human(e) governance capacities, and development actions that promote equality for all and protect the sustainability of the ecosphere;

- equality and empowerment in all walks of life to address intersectional, multiple, impoverishing, and discriminatory structures that undercut the attainment of equality;
- substantive implementation of all core human rights at all levels of local, national, and international governance, including those that match human aspirations and changes to universal needs for care for all individuals and for life itself in relation to the ecosphere, and
- elimination of distributional inequalities and extractions arising from and contributing to concentrations of wealth, governance power, political capture, and privilege.
- Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Secretary-General's report Our Common Agenda.

While we live in changed times, the list remains unchanged as the realities that are changing the future have yet to be realized. For the second year, FLSQ is adapting by holding its annual IWD Conference remotely, which has the advantage of expanded geographic accessibility. This conference focuses on the range of urgent changes called for by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, bringing together the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1981), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) implementing CEDAW, the Beijing+25 Generation Equality Campaign (2020), the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2018), the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 5 (gender equality, 2015), the Paris Climate Accord (2018), and the UNSDG Leaving No One Behind commitments (2019).

We invite proposals by those focusing on how to use the many forms of legal, constitutional, human rights, and statutory instruments – whether in legal contexts and/or in the contexts of civil society advocacy groups – to examine how best to eradicate specific intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination that disproportionately affect marginalized groups, be they racialized, Indigenous, low income, disabled, migrant, non-urban, or segregated persons in all walks of life.

This conference welcomes contributions that document how increasingly remedial CEDAW and Beijing Platform implementation outcomes are now being used to address any or all of the 17 SDGs, their indicators, and their targets -- particularly those that contain commitments to gender equality, poverty eradication, and sustainability commitments (e.g., SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 17), and that increase understanding of just what the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) calls for in relation to Indigenous communities and individuals.

We are delighted to confirm that Dr. Beverly Jacobs will deliver the keynote lecture on Friday March 4, at 11:00-12:30. Dr. Jacobs is Senior Advisor to the President on Indigenous Relations and Outreach at the University of Windsor where she is also Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Academic). She is former elected President of the Native Women's Association of Canada and is inducted as a member of the Order of Canada. She is recipient of numerous international and national awards and recognitions and practices law part-time in her community of Six Nations of the Grand River Territory (see: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/Beverly-Jacobs>)

We particularly encourage submissions that address Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and commitments to promote appropriate cultural competency, advance the study of Aboriginal peoples and the law, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties, and

Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, Aboriginal-Crown relations, and Indigenous knowledges, learnings, and truths.

Contributions that demonstrate how research and data gaps can be filled to ensure full analysis of the indicators being used to measure progress in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Accord are welcome. See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/> for the full detailed lists of the SDG Goals, targets, and indicators.

Dates:

Friday Mar. 4 from 11 am to late afternoon or early evening, and Saturday Mar. 5 from 10 am until mid to late afternoon (tbc).

Location and accessibility:

This conference will be conducted 'virtually' via secure Zoom links to be provided to conference participants and registrants.

Submitting proposals for individual presentations or for complete panels:

Email a one paragraph abstract and title to Bitá Amani amanib@queensu.ca and Kathleen Lahey, kal2@queensu.ca at your earliest convenience, and kindly copy our assistant Natalie Moniz-Henne natalie.henne@queensu.ca. Acceptances will be issued on a rolling basis.

Deadline for receipt of all abstract and bio submissions:

Friday, February 25, 2022

For further information, contact:

Prof. Bitá Amani, amanib@queensu.ca and Prof. Kathleen Lahey, kal2@queensu.ca, Co-Directors, Feminist Legal Studies Queen's, Faculty of Law, Queen's University.

Please check our conference website at <https://femlaw.queensu.ca/conferences/flsq-conference-2022> for registration details after February 25, 2022.

We look forward to having you join us in celebration of International Women's Day 2022!

Queen's University sits on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.