Indigenous, Diversity, Inclusion, and Post-Covid Paths to Gender Equalities, Sustain/abilities, and Leaving No One Behind

International Women’s Day Annual Conference,
Feminist Legal Studies and the Faculty of Law, Queen’s University, Kingston Ont.
March 12-13, 2021

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 12-13, 2021. The United Nation's International Women's Day 2021 theme is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world."

This theme celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping more equal futures – including while enduring and working toward recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has undercut many important gains made by Indigenous, racialized, marginalized, and impoverished women and girls even as they heroically struggle to keep themselves, their families, their workplaces, and their communities safe and well, with fewer resources available to them, and while unavoidably facing greater risks in daily living. The UN's call is for nothing less than full substantive equalities among all peoples in all contexts in all countries and in the entire world – the elimination of all forms of structural barriers, intersectional inequalities perpetuated systemically and institutionally by laws, policies, politics, powerholders, multiple forms of discrimination, degradation of the biosphere, and of sustainable life.

Despite decades of work to attain substantive gender and multifaceted equalities, women and marginalized groups have been disparately impacted by the global pandemic as their status has declined in many foreseeable and unforeseeable ways. Essential to this call for proposals on paths to post-pandemic recoveries, equality, and sustain/abilities that leave no one behind are equal access for all to –

• land and property, life-nourishing food, clean water, human(e) governance capacities, and development actions that promote equality 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 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.

These are challenging times. 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 (eg, SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 17).

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. 12 from 1 pm to early late afternoon or early evening, and Saturday Mar. 13 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 Kathleen Lahey, kal2@queensu.ca and Bita Amani, amanib@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:**
Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

**For further information, contact:**
Prof. Bita Amani, amanib@queensu.ca and Prof. Kathleen Lahey, kal2@queensu.ca, Co-Directors, Feminist Legal Studies Queen’s, Faculty of Law, Queen’s University.


We look forward to having you join us in celebration of International Women’s Day 2021!

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