



"NAVIGATING GENDER EQUALITY AND WELL-BEING: CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"

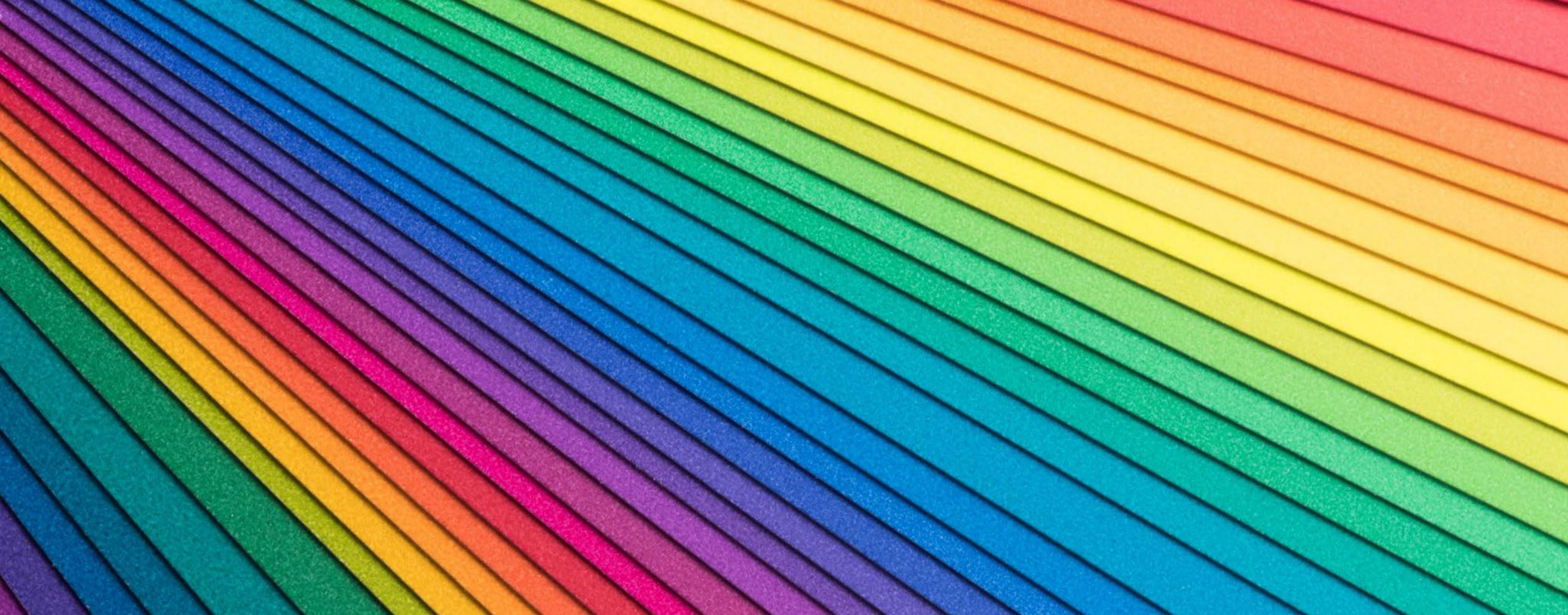
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The importance of a gender-transformative approach to climate change

Ronni Alexander
Kobe University UNESCO Chair

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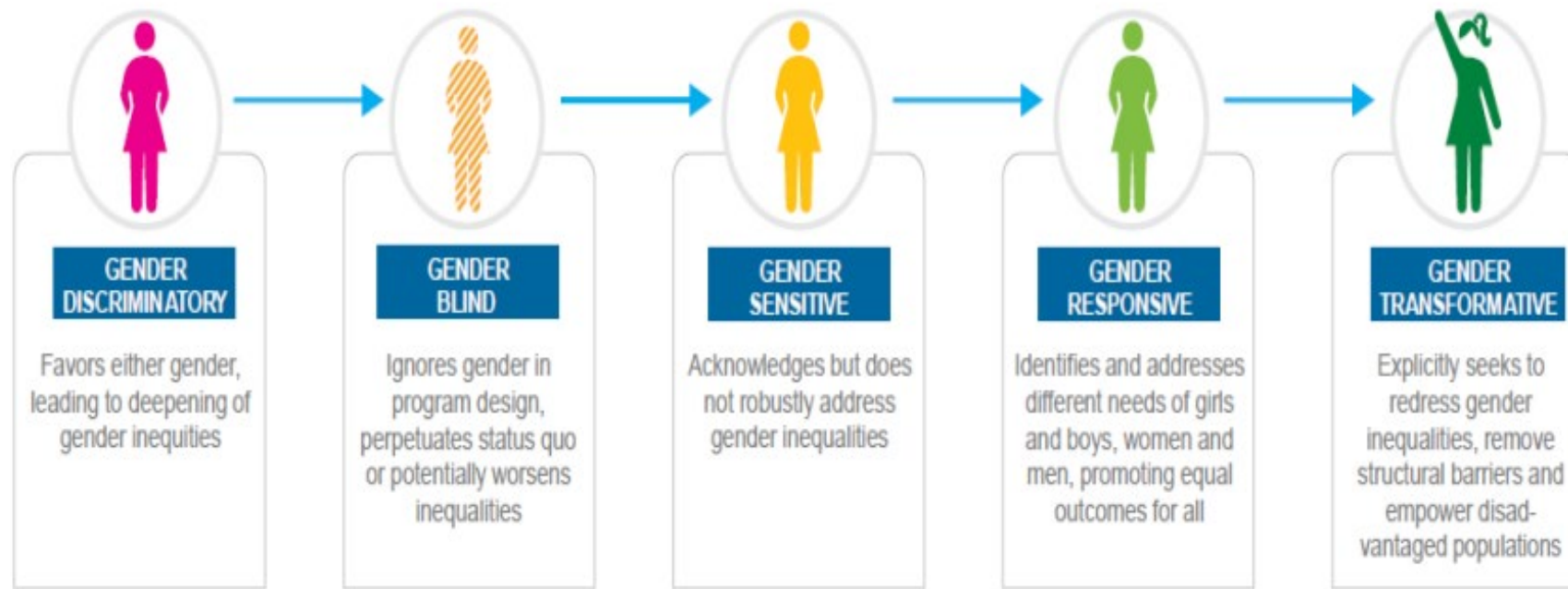
***GENDER INEQUALITY EXACERBATES THE EFFECTS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE AND SLOWS RECOVERY
BUT FULL GENDER PARITY IS 286 YEARS AWAY***



THE COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED ARE THOSE THAT ARE LEAST RESPONSIBLE – WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THEM?



***FOCUSING ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND MARGINALIZED GENDERS CAN
TRANSFORM VULNERABILITY INTO STRENGTH
-FIRST RESPONDERS, CARE GIVERS, COMMUNITY ORIENTED-***



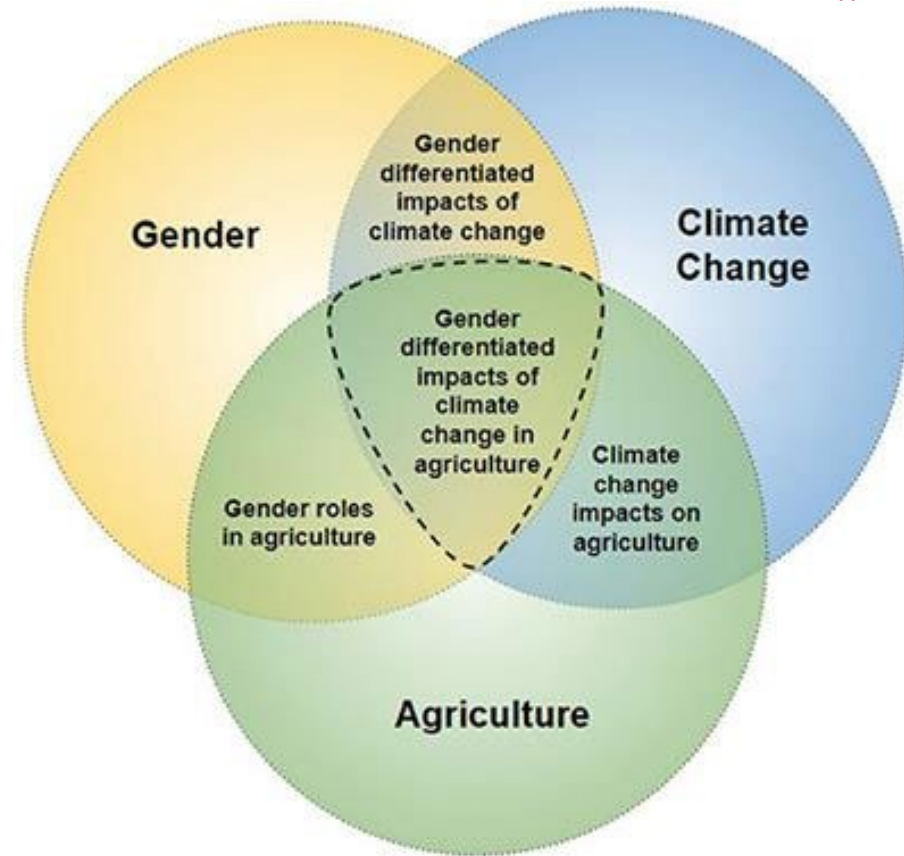
GENDER SENSITIVITY IS NOT ENOUGH – IT IS TIME FOR GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES -ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES IS ESSENTIAL-

Five uniting principles of gender transformative approach (MacArthur, 2022)



1. Gender Matters!

- Gender inequality increases risk
 - Marginalized people become more marginalized
 - Burden on women, marginalized genders grows
 - Access to resources is reduced
- Climate change/climate events affect security:
 - Food, water, habitat/living spaces, safety, education, livelihoods, health
 - Armed conflict
- Climate change/climate events
 - Increase care work, gender-based violence, child marriage
 - Interrupt education, reduce access to reproductive rights/health resources
 - Lead to migration & further marginalization



2. Transforming vulnerabilities, saving lives

Limited access to social resources increases vulnerability

- Indigenous, colonized people
- Women and marginalized genders
- Migrants
- Intersectional – multiple vulnerabilities

Low-lying islands

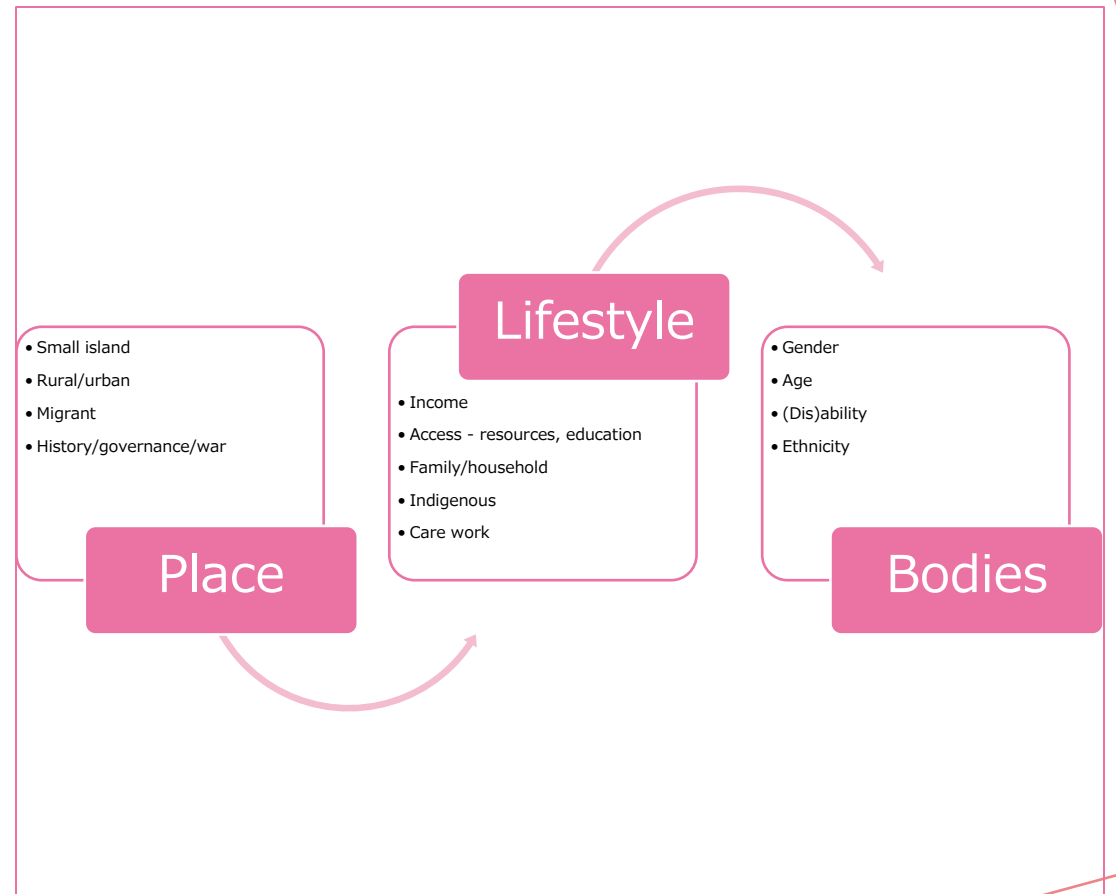
- More vulnerable to climate events
- Fewer places to relocate

Not all women are vulnerable

- Indigenous knowledge as power

2. Recognizing and transforming intersecting vulnerabilities

- Place
 - Is relocation possible?
 - Government/international intervention?
- Lifestyle
 - Equal access to resources for all genders?
 - Recognition of diverse lifestyles?
 - Respect for alternative knowledge, practices?
 - Support for unpaid care work?
- Bodies
 - Recognition, support for women, other genders?
 - Address intersectional vulnerabilities – age, (dis)ability, ethnicity, etc.?
- Changing vulnerability to agency
 - Equality
 - Community




3. Transforming climate governance - climate leadership for all genders

- Criticism of climate approaches
 - Women, marginalized genders are under-represented in climate decision making
 - Mitigation focuses on technology rather than human suffering
 - Emphasis on loans exacerbates the debt crisis, increases climate vulnerability of poor countries
 - Widespread lack of understanding of gender issues & gender-responsive implementation
 - Lack of gender-responsive approaches (The Feminist Action Network)



Photo: World leaders gathered at the UN Climate Summit in Egypt, but there was a notable absence of women
https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/800/cpsprodpb/12632/production/_127641357_c514cb45567c397e30c28194c852693b1a306eed.jpg.webp



*“We can see it with our own eyes, I’m afraid,” said Maria, 13.
“The sea is eating the ground.” (Carteret islander, UNICEF)*

*Tulele Peisa (sailing the waves on
our own) working to relocate
Carteret islanders (PNG) as
governments failed to respond to
their calls for help*

Recommendations

- Women and marginalized genders must be involved at all levels of climate negotiations and strategies
- Start a serious conversation about:
 - Changing top-down 'bring in women' approaches to bottom-up 'we are here' approaches
 - Defining gender and gender transformation in concrete terms for all stakeholders
 - Particulars of gender relations during crises in different situations
 - How gender inequality can be addressed and transformation achieved
- For UNESCO Chair guidelines
 - Determine our mutual understandings of gender and what needs to be addressed
 - Determine our mutual understanding of well-being and address tensions between change and 'normal' relations
 - Identify specific strategies to be implemented and others to be avoided
 - Look for hidden voices and identify them as important
 - Identify strategies already in place but being ignored



Conclusion

- We need to ask new questions, hear new voices, implement new ideas
- Changing our methods, changing our knowledge, changing our lives
- “For people living in Oceania, climate change is the fight of our lives, and we need more than science to win. We need stories” (Aguon, 2021).



THANK YOU



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