40 YEARS OF BALANCING THE SCALES
FIJI WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT
1986 - 2026

Revitalizing Feminist Knowledge: 10 Climate Demands

↘ SUMMARY

We are young Pacific feminists, and we refuse to accept a future built on inequality. The climate crisis is not gender neutral. We see it in our homes, our communities, our oceans, and our livelihoods. We see it in the increasing burdens placed on women and girls, in threats to our safety and health, and in the loss of land, culture and futures.

But we refuse to be defined only by vulnerability. We are organizers, leaders, knowledge holders, caregivers, activists, innovators, and decisionmakers. We are already creating solutions in our communities. What is missing is not our leadership—it is the power, resources, and political space to shape the decisions that affect us. Feminist climate justice means changing that.

We demand climate action that redistributes power, resources and decision-making; protects our rights and dignity; values Indigenous and feminist knowledge; and places young women at the center of decisions about our collective future. There are our demands:

↘ DEMANDS

1. **DEMAND GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND INTERSECTIONAL DISASTER PLANNING**

We demand disaster planning that recognizes that climate disasters do not affect everyone equally. Governments must embed gender-responsive and intersectional approaches across national and local disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response plans. These plans must be grounded in the lived realities, knowledge and priorities of women, girls and people of diverse identities, including persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, rural and remote communities, and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of inequality.

2. **DEMAND SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND DIGNIFIED EVACUATION CENTRES**

We demand evacuation centers that protect safety, dignity, privacy, and human rights, not merely provide a place to shelter. Governments must ensure accessible facilities, adequate water and sanitation, menstrual health and hygiene provisions, private spaces for breastfeeding and childcare, protection from gender-based violence, confidential reporting and referral pathways, and services that are inclusive of persons with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC. No one should be forced to choose between safety and dignity during a disaster.

3. **DEMAND THE PROTECTION OF SRHR AND BODILY AUTONOMY IN EVERY CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We demand that sexual and reproductive health and rights be recognized as essential to climate resilience, preparedness, and humanitarian response. Governments and climate actors must guarantee uninterrupted access to contraception, maternal and newborn healthcare, menstrual health and hygiene supplies, abortion-related care where legally available, GBV prevention and response, and other essential SRHR services before, during and after climate emergencies. Our bodies, our health, and our autonomy cannot be treated as secondary during a crisis.

4. **DEMAND LONG-TERM, DIRECT AND ACCESSIBLE INVESTMENT IN YOUNG WOMEN'S FEMINIST CLIMATE LEADERSHIP**

We demand dedicated and sustained resources for diverse young women to lead climate action and shape climate solutions. Climate finance must reach young women-led, grassroots and community-based initiatives, not only large institutions. Funding mechanisms must be accessible, flexible, long-term and responsive to the realities of young women, particularly those facing intersecting forms of marginalization. Young women are not beneficiaries of climate action; we are leaders, organizers, knowledge holders and decision-makers.

5. **DEMAND ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CLIMATE AND DISASTER SETTINGS**

We demand that the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence be central to climate resilience, disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery. Governments must establish survivor-centered services, safe and confidential reporting mechanisms, protection systems, referral pathways, and accountability measures before disasters occur. Communities must be resourced to identify and address risks, while responsibility for preventing violence must never be placed on women and girls themselves.

6. **DEMAND CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

We demand climate action that protects food sovereignty, local food systems and the livelihoods of communities most affected by climate change. Governments and climate finance institutions must invest in sustainable, locally led and climate-resilient food systems that recognize women's knowledge and leadership in food production, seed saving, caregiving and community resilience. This must include equitable access to land, seeds, water, finance, technology and other productive resources.

7. **DEMAND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AUTONOMY AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES**

We demand climate policies and investments that strengthen women's economic autonomy, not deepen their unpaid labor or economic insecurity. Governments must expand accessible livelihood opportunities, decent work, social protection, entrepreneurship support and access to finance and productive resources for women. Women must have meaningful control over income, assets and resources, and decision-making power over how climate and development resources are allocated and used.

8. **DEMAND RESILIENT, ACCESSIBLE AND COMMUNITY-CENTRED INFRASTRUCTURE**

We demand investment in climate-resilient infrastructure that is designed with and for the communities who rely on it. Housing, water and sanitation, healthcare, transport, communications, and other essential infrastructure must be safe, accessible, affordable, and responsive to diverse needs. Infrastructure planning must consider the realities of women, girls, persons with disabilities, older people, children and geographically isolated communities, particularly those who face greater barriers to mobility and evacuation during emergencies.

9. **DEMAND THAT INTERSECTIONALITY BE AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE POLICY AND FINANCE**

We demand that intersectionality move from principle to practice. Governments, donors and climate institutions must recognize how gender intersects with disability, age, ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, geographic location, socioeconomic status and other forms of inequality to shape people's experiences of climate change. Climate policies, programs and investments must be designed, implemented, and monitored according to these different realities. There is no single experience of being a woman, and there can be no one-size-fits-all climate solution.

10. **DEMAND THAT YOUNG WOMEN MOVE FROM PARTICIPATION TO POWER**

We demand an end to tokenistic youth and women's participation in climate governance. Governments and climate institutions must create sustained, resourced and accountable mechanisms for diverse young women to hold real decision-making power at national, regional and global levels. Young women must have seats at the table, influence over priorities and policies, access to climate finance, and a meaningful role in determining how climate solutions are designed and implemented. Nothing about our climate future should be decided without us.

For any inquiries please reach out to:

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