

A WILPF GUIDE TO

Feminist Political Economy

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WILPF

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

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A WILPF Guide to Feminist Political Economy

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About WILPF

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) works towards a world of permanent peace. A peace that is built on feminist foundations of freedom, justice, human rights, and equality for all. Part of that vision is putting the people, the planet, and its other inhabitants before profit and growth.¹

At WILPF we use feminist political economy as a lens to bring to light how patriarchy, with its gender hierarchy and in combination with other systems of oppression, determines who will have access to resources, power, wealth, information, labour, responsibilities, care, but also who will be subjected to violence, oppression and exploitation. We use it to understand the broader context of why wars are waged and for whose benefit, and to show political, economic, social and ecological consequences of violence. We use our feminist lens to challenge seemingly fixed and unchangeable economic, social, and political parameters for our societies, and work towards transformation of root causes to violence.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about WILPF and how we use feminist political economy analysis in our work.

¹ WILPF's International Programme can be found at https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WILPF-International-Programme-2022-2025_ENG.pdf

What and for Whom Is This Guide For?

The intention is for this Guide to be used by WILPF members and Sections, but also other practitioners and those that are curious about feminist political economy. It can be used to support the discussions and work on broad set of peace related issues: from prevention, demilitarisation, women, peace and security, human rights, environment to envisioning alternative economic systems in support of sustainable peace.

What Is Political Economy Analysis?

Classical political economy analysis is an interdisciplinary study of political and economic processes. It helps reveal how political, social and economic processes relate to each other and how these processes affect our lives. Understanding the connection between the politics and the economy helps us engage in questions of structure, agency, ownership and distribution. It also helps us deconstruct the narrative that politics and the economy are two separate spheres, and that economy is better left to the “experts”.

CAPITALISM is currently one of the most dominant forms of political economy in the world. It developed under specific historic conditions and is based on exploitation of people, their labour and planetary resources, working hand in hand with other systems of oppression such as racism, patriarchy and militarism. Capitalism impacts our lives on many different levels which is why WILPF does not only interrogate the economic aspects of capitalism but analyses its entire political economy.

PATRIARCHY along with capitalism, nationalism, militarism, racism and colonialism, determines how and what kind of resources, power, wealth, information, labour, responsibilities, care-work but also violence, will be used and how they will be distributed in our societies.

Why Should We Analyse Political Economy with a Feminist Lens?

The classical approach to analysing political economy does not pay attention to gender, gendered division of labour, or how formal economy relates to social reproduction. Instead, it assumes that the formal economy is the only one that matters, and it treats all members of a society as if they have the same needs, problems, capacities, resources, and power. At WILPF we apply a feminist lens to our analysis of the political economy because our starting point is that nothing in our societies happen in a gender-neutral way. A feminist lens helps us shed light on how gender determines social, political, and economic relations. It does this not just at the macro level, but perhaps even more importantly at the micro level, at the level of households and communities—helping us to formulate questions whose answers will help reveal stories about people’s lived realities.

A feminist political economy analysis opens for an intersectional understanding of the world around us, allowing us to see a more complex picture of how gender, class, ability, race, ethnicity, migration status and a like, shape our social, political and economic realities. It helps us understand the everyday experiences of people and the multidimensional gendered reality we live in. It shows us the patriarchal workings weaved into both visible social relationships and the invisible structures created by norms, laws,

EXAMPLES OF MACRO LEVEL: state, government, bilateral and multilateral institutions and relations.

EXAMPLES OF MICRO LEVEL: household, family, individual, everyday experiences and relations.

SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IS ALL THE LABOUR THAT GOES INTO REPRODUCING THE LIFE ITSELF. It includes:

- biological reproduction (physical reproduction of people and future workers)
- unpaid care work (e.g. cleaning and cooking within our homes, or taking care of children, elderly, siblings)
- paid care work (e.g. teaching, healthcare professionals, paid childcare)
- social provisioning (e.g. community activism, volunteering, aid distribution, running support groups)
- emotional support and other related activities that contribute to the wellbeing of people
- reproduction of culture and ideology (instilling attitudes, norms, belief systems, transmission of knowledge etc.).

culture and institutions at local, regional and global levels. Feminist political economy analysis also helps us imagine alternatives for sustainable, feminist, demilitarised societies based on equality, justice, solidarity, and care.

Who is Paying Attention to What?

The classical approach to political economy focuses on the macro level and studies the relationship between production, labour, trade, and different laws and government policies. It looks at indicators such as balance of payments, financial data (interest rates, exchange rates), international trade (export/import), consumer price index, gross domestic product (GDP), and so forth.

Feminists on the other hand pay attention to both macro and micro levels, focusing on how different political and economic decisions translate to people's lived realities. We look at austerity measures, public budgets and investments, informalisation of work, inequality gaps, exploitative labour conditions and labour rights, job security, gender patterns in wages and resource allocation, access to education and health, and other indicators of human well-being.

LET'S LOOK AT GDP WITH A FEMINIST LENS. Gross domestic product (GDP) is used by countries and international financial institutions to measure how well a country's economy is doing. The bigger the GDP the healthier is the economy, they say. But if we apply a feminist lens to understanding the relationship between GDP and our economies, we will find that the GDP does not say anything about how the wealth it captures is distributed and who benefits from this wealth produced by the combined work of all people living in a country. We will also find that the GDP does not measure any contributions to the economy that is made outside of the formal economy. All the social reproductive work done mainly by women, which upholds the productive economy, remains invisible and unaccounted for.

Feminist Tools of Analysis

When analysing the political economy feminists focus on:

- The role of gender in social, economic and political processes and structures
- Asymmetric power-relations between the genders
- Division of labour in both productive economy and social reproduction

GENDER: A social construct distinct from biological sex, encompassing the roles, behaviours and attributes society associates primarily with men and women and sometimes other gender categories. It varies across cultures and time periods.

ASYMMETRIC DIVISION OF POWER: When feminists talk about asymmetric divisions of power, under the conditions of patriarchy, they look to shed light on unequal distribution of power between genders. Due to patriarchal norms men, and in particular men from the countries located in the capitalist core, hold more power, influence, and resources than women and other oppressed groups. Gendered power-relations intersect with race, class, sexuality, age, ethnicity, ability, and so on.

GENDERED DIVISION OF LABOUR: Gendered division of labour refers to the allocation of tasks based on gender. Due to the patriarchal norms in our societies women and men are assigned specific roles. Men are typically given roles that require physical strength, use of authority or violence, such as in the military, construction or legal professions. They are also often awarded higher positions and better pay. Women, and other feminised groups, are assigned caregiving responsibilities because care provision is considered to be “natural” for women. Thus, women are frequently found among paid care givers, teachers, and health associated professions. This division devalues feminine-associated roles and values masculine-associated roles, shaping societal perceptions of who belongs where in the economy, politics, and culture. Gendered division of labour varies over time and across different contexts.

Intersectionality

In doing a feminist political economy analysis we should always strive towards being intersectional.

The concept of intersectionality emphasises the interconnectedness of various social categories such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability, nation, and ethnicity, and their relation to systems of power. These intersections shape societies and contribute to how social inequalities play out. Different people and communities within our societies experience different material realities, based on their position within these intersecting systems, leading to varying experiences of social inequalities. The political aim of intersectionality is to make these various experiences visible and dismantle the power structures that lead to their invisibility, marginalisation and oppression.

In practical terms this means that when using intersectionality as an analytical tool we should avoid focusing on only gender, or race, or class, or any of the other categories in isolation from each other. Instead, we need to understand how they fit together. So, when we are analysing a particular phenomenon, we should look at it as being about gender, and race, and class, together.

The concept of **INTERSECTIONALITY** is attributed to Kimberlé Crenshaw, an American civil rights advocate and scholar of critical race theory. However, its origins are rooted in the collective efforts of social justice movements advanced by women of colour, such as **Third World Women's Alliance** and **Combahee River Collective**, who highlighted various forms of oppression, discrimination, and violence they faced in the United States, Great Britain, and other white settler and imperial state.

How Does a Feminist Understanding of Political Economy Help Advance Our Work on Peace?

The political economy of war and peace is gendered. However, the international community approaches countries affected by violence and war as if the economy surrounding the violence, and the political approach used to resolve it, are processes that are autonomous from each other. What more, we are told that the neoliberal recovery approaches used in country after country are objectively the only ones possible. The economic policies that are rolled out in (post)conflict contexts are routinely separated from lived and highly gendered experiences of war, and from the new, and often more complex and overlapping needs that emerge because of the violence.

But peace is not a neutral concept. For WILPF peace is a question of social justice. It is a political question about what kind of society we want to live in.

This is why we use a feminist lens. We strive for a deeper understanding of intersectional gendered experiences of violence; how these experiences affect different people's ability to access recovery schemes, including decent work, healthcare, education, water and land. We use a feminist lens to understand gendered power-structures surrounding peace negotiations; to understand who has access to those structures of power and how they influence political and economic decision-making that shape the peace process, including the recovery phase. Our feminist lens helps us to put spotlight on different groups', in particular women's agency during conflicts as well as the structural impediments to their inclusion during peace.

This deeper understanding is a prerequisite to be able to formulate political and economic interventions that can address root causes to wars and conflicts and help identify pathways for transformative change, from war to peace, but also more generally towards sustainable and just societies based on feminist values and principles.

"A feminist political economy approach contests the gendered structure of war and peace by arguing that stability without justice is not possible. The prioritization of national security and electoral machinery by governments over the social and economic security of citizens after war or armed conflict is usually destabilizing in the long run. Insofar as women are unable to gain access to physical security, social services, justice, and economic opportunities due, in part, to the military build-up and privileging of militarized masculinities, their particular vulnerability to violence continues in peace time".

True, Jacqui. *The Political Economy of Violence against Women*. Oxford Studies in Gender and International Relationship, 2012. Oxford University Press. Kindle edition, p. 32

UNDER FEMINIST SCRUTINY: GENDERED ECONOMY OF INVESTMENTS

What is invested in and what societies save money on is highly gendered. Most of economic policies, be it from the national government or international finance institutions, lack proper gender impact assessment that can help understand how economic policies will affect gender equality in a country. Furthermore, most economic interventions, in (post)conflict countries lack critical conflict analysis. Instead, “conflict” and “economic policies” are often seen as not related.

The uneven and gendered distribution of investments in (post)conflict countries is especially visible in favouring of big infrastructural investments more focused on the needs of the market over investments into eradication of poverty, health and educational infrastructure that would benefit wider society and support overcoming gender and other inequalities.

Countries are also frequently pushed into structural reforms. The “reform packages” are often represented as gender and conflict neutral, and economically and politically necessary. However, without the additional information and baselines collected through a feminist political economy analysis it is not possible to foresee and track the gendered impact of economic interventions. For a society coming out of a war or conflict economic policies must be part of dealing with the remnants of war or otherwise they risk feeding into new aggravations.

This has real implications for peace as well as for women’s and other oppressed and marginalised groups’ access to rights and meaningful participation in peace building processes. A person’s ability to participate is seriously circumscribed if one must focus on surviving, putting food on the table, educating oneself or the children in the family, not being able to take care of one’s health because there is no affordable health care, not being able to participate in formal labour because of the lack of accessible and affordable child care etc. If then on top of it, there is no conscious investment in gender equality as part of the overall economic investments as well as more targeted investments in peace, the burden of picking up the slack of the state will not only fall on women, but women will also most likely remain trapped within the domain of the private, balancing between informal economy (as a means of survival) and unpaid care work.

This blindness to gendered economic interventions is unfortunately still very present. That puts an even greater urgency on peace organisations to understand political economy of conflict and (post)conflict reconstruction and recovery, including the gendered economy of investments. That understanding will provide us with a platform to advocate for conceptualisation of peace agreements and (post)conflict reconstruction as an opportunity to establish new institutional rules and norms that redress inequalities in the society, including gender inequalities.

How to Do a Feminist Political Economy Analysis

A feminist political economy analysis can seem complicated, and perhaps too academic, but really it is about being curious and asking a lot of questions – something feminists do on daily basis.

Before we go into some practical suggestions for how to go about, please do remember:

OUR DEPARTURE POINT ARE LIVES OF WOMEN and other oppressed and marginalised groups, such as LGBTQI+ people, their lived experiences, the problems they identify, and their perspectives on how solutions would look like. Because no group is a fixed and homogenous category, intersectionality is a key element of our methodology.

OUR ANALYSIS CANNOT BE A ONE-OFF ACTIVITY. Feminist political economy analysis should be integral to all our discussions, and we should regularly revisit our analysis to see how things have changed. This is important because our realities are not static. The world and countries we live in, our communities, and households, are constantly changing and with those changes, our experiences change. They change based on external influences, internal dynamics, or probably both.

THERE IS NO ONE WAY OF DOING A FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS. As any feminist methodology, feminist political economy analysis can consist of a multiplicity of ways to analyse an issue, gather information and make sense out of it. There are also multiple ways for what that analysis can be used for: policy briefs, action points, strategies, to initiate discussions, understand the context etc. It can be turned into a written analysis, or it can just be a discussion. It is up to you to decide what method works best in your context, with your section or group you are working with. What is laid out in this Guide is meant to inspire and give ideas. It is not an exhaustive set of tools.

THE PROCESS IS NOT LINEAR. Our feminist analysis should always be iterative. Many times, the building blocks of our analysis we identify in the beginning need to be revised; the questions we are asking need to be changed or rephrased; we need to bring in more or different people to help us answer the questions; and we might need to change the method in order to get information we need. Be flexible and adaptable in your approach. Be innovative.

A process of doing a feminist political economy analysis can look something like this:

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR ANALYSIS.

Thinking ahead about how you want to use your analysis will help inform the different steps in the process.



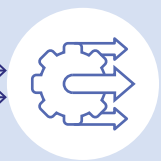
IDENTIFY YOUR QUESTIONS

Think about what questions you need to be asking when discussing the different areas you have identified as your building blocks. The type of questions you ask will depend both on your identified building blocks and the chosen method(s) for collection of information.



IDENTIFY THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF YOUR ANALYSIS

In relation to the issue you are looking at, what are the key sectors and areas that you need to focus on? This will probably be revised several times.



THINK ABOUT YOUR METHOD(S)

How will you gather information in relation to the questions you are posing? How will you sequence your analysis? Who needs to be part of your discussion group? etc.



START GATHERING INFORMATION AND SEEKING ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

How you do this will depend on the chosen method. You can for example do this through desk-research, meetings, workshops, one on one discussions, focus groups, interviews, observations and so on.



PULL YOUR ANALYSIS TOGETHER

Once you are happy with the information gathered you can start writing up your analysis.

ONCE YOU ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR ANALYSIS, THINK ABOUT:

What is the implication of the analysis for your work, for what you want to achieve?

Is there anything in the analysis that requires you changing your demands, planned activities, strategy?

Don't forget to use feminist political economy analysis on your own suggestions.

BE OPEN TO THE NEED TO RETHINK YOUR METHOD, add more building blocks and/or pose different or new questions, all depending on whether you are happy with the direction of your analysis.

Your first step is to identify the building blocks of your analysis. The building blocks will vary depending on whether you are analysing a bigger issue, such as the intersection between violence and inequalities in a country, or if you are looking into the effects of certain reforms or laws on specific groups in the society.

As an example, if you are looking to understand the overall political economy in your country you will probably want to start with these basic building blocks:

THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT, looking to understand what the main characteristics of the country are, and what are key issues in relation to gender (in)equality;

THE GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT: many of internal issues are connected to and/or driven by external factors, so we need to understand what those factors are and how they influence internal power dynamics.

WHO ARE THE KEY ACTORS: here you are looking to understand who, what and how in the relationship between social, political and economic structures of power, resources and access to them. In understanding the interconnections between who, what and how it is advisable to look at national, regional and international actors.

This will give you a basic overview of the context, which you need to start mapping the gendered political, economic and social power divisions embedded in your country's context and how they intersect with, for example, inequalities. Your basic building blocks will lead you to other areas that require your feminist scrutiny.

Next you want to start expanding your building blocks so that they are context specific.

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL ACTORS:

Governmental and other institutions at various levels for example the national/ regional or local government, the legislative bodies, service providers, justice institutions, financial bodies, security sector (politics, military) and so on.

Civil society, for example women's rights organisations, unions, environmental groups, human rights defenders, victim associations, formal and informal groups of activists, religious groups and institutions and so on.

Private actors, such as economically and politically influential individual and groups, investment companies, banks and a like but also private military actors, private security companies, mercenaries etc.

EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTORS:

Can be UN agencies in the country or any other specialised body, regional mechanisms such as European or African Union, international financial institutions e.g. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, African and Asian Development Banks, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group; international investment companies; transnational corporations; countries that have geopolitical and economic interest in the given context etc.

For example, in Afghanistan, looking at aid flows and aid dependency is essential to understanding the context within which the oppression of women takes place; in Palestine the settler colonial policies and occupation must be scrutinised; and if you are in a country with a peace-keeping mission part of your analysis must be the presence of international military personnel. Other specificities can be large scale emigration or migration, environmental disasters, ongoing reforms, considerable illicit trade of weapons or drugs and so on. Simply put, add as many building blocks to your analysis as you think will help you understand the problem you are analysing. Don't forget to discuss these different building blocks using feminist tools discussed above:

- The role of gender
- Asymmetric power-relations
- Gender division of labour

Understanding the larger context is important but we need to go beyond the macro level and come as close to the micro level as possible – how does all of this play out at the level of our communities, households, families and individuals?

For example: *In a fictional country recovering from recent violent events, the government, advised by international financial institutions, is looking to cut public spending, and they are targeting subsidies for food, public sector salaries, and investments in the health care.*

In our analysis of this decision, we should be looking to understand the intersectional gendered impact. This involves examining who will be affected and how. The decision to save money will clearly have a socio-economic impact on people's lives, and the impact will intersect with gender, class, ability, whether one lives in rural or urban area, the experience of harms and violations, the composition of households, and so on.

When the government cuts food subsidies this will affect different households differently, for example single headed households compared to those with two incomes might be worse off. Households in rural areas, compared to those in urban areas, might be impacted less due to access to farming land. With respect to healthcare, if women are the main providers of unpaid care at home, such cuts could increase their care burden, impacting among other things their ability to participate in public life, including taking up paid jobs or engaging in political discussions. It is also likely to impact their own health, as savings in the healthcare sector often lead to closing of clinics. Women in rural areas can be affected even more. However, it is likely that women with higher income will be affected less because of their ability to pay for the needed care. Cuts in the healthcare sector will of course affect the overall health of the entire population, but because the government is simultaneously cutting public sector salaries where women are overrepresented, this decision will impact working class women the hardest.

Questions to consider also include whether the government is simultaneously increasing investments in other areas, and if so, whether these investments are gendered and who they will benefit? Additionally, the process that led to this decision should be scrutinised to determine if a gendered impact analysis was conducted and if the affected groups were involved in the decision-making.

A feminist political economy analysis can also be used for specific issues.

An example: *A government, in cooperation with a UN agency, is planning to implement a pilot project with income generating activities in a rural community. This community is largely made up of women. Most men from the community work in cities, or mines, and only occasionally come home. In addition, the vicinity of illegal gold mines exposes women to the risk of gender-based violence during their everyday chores of collecting wood, fetching water or farming.*

The women farm their land but lack proper equipment and the produce from the land is barely sufficient to feed their families. In addition, the community hosts internally displaced persons, most of whom are women with children. Many of them carry trauma from the violence they have experienced.

The idea of the pilot project is to provide 30 women with training in either tailoring or agriculture so that they can use those skills to start their own businesses. In addition, the women will be provided with a training in business management. At the end of the project the women will be given a small start-up grant.

If we were doing a feminist political economy analysis of this pilot project, some of the questions we would need to consider are:

- ❓ What does economic empowerment mean from the perspective of the women in the described community? Have the women from the community been asked about their needs? Have they been asked about how they would go about “empowering” themselves?
- ❓ Does additional money in the household budget automatically mean ‘empowerment’? Why/why not?
- ❓ Are tailoring or farming the right sectors to invest in? Why/why not?
- ❓ Are there any legal, administrative, practical, cultural, social, or other obstacles for women to enjoy the potential benefits of this project, such as for example land ownership?
- ❓ Do women that are internally displaced have differentiated needs from the other women in the community? If so, how would those needs need to be addressed by the project?
- ❓ Consider the number of tasks the women already have: domestic chores, child-care, farming... and then consider how would running a business affect or intersect with the existing tasks?
- ❓ Does the community have the necessary infrastructure to support women running their own businesses? How would they come to a market to sell their produce? Who would provide care for their children while they are gone? Would it be safe for them to travel to and from markets given the illicit mining and violence surrounding it?

EXAMPLE OF METHODS THAT CAN BE USED DURING THE PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION AND ANALYSING:



Individual interviews, group meetings, focus group discussions or informal talks with representatives of formal as well as informal groups and individuals;



Co-creative and validation workshops;



“Formal” interviews and/or discussions with powerholders, and decision-makers;



Analysis of laws and policies in various areas: welfare, labour laws, education, health, civilian victims of war, refugees/returnees/internally displaced persons, environment, public service etc.;



Analyses of proposed and ongoing reforms, i.e. analyses of written documents, implementation reports, impact analyses etc.;



Looking into the projects and activities of the international financial institutions in order to understand their focuses and priorities;



Review of national budgets; development and other strategies; relevant action plans etc.

How Can Feminist Informed Questions Look Like

Feminist political economy analysis is built from specific feminist questions. Exactly what questions we ask will depend on each given context and the issue we are analysing. Thus, the list of questions provided below is not exhaustive and is only intended as an inspiration.

SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO SOCIAL REPRODUCTION AND GENDERED DIVISION OF LABOUR:

- ? What key elements of social reproduction can you observe in your country today (e.g. care obligations, both paid and unpaid, human rights activism, care for nature, raising children, subsistence farming etc.)?
- ? Where does the social reproduction mainly take place (e.g. in the family, in the public domain)? Is there anything specific that happens in any of these spheres (e.g. high levels of domestic violence in the families, prevalence of GBV; high prevalence of migrant women in care work etc.)?
- ? Has social reproduction in your society changed over time, and if so how and why? Changes can be induced by e.g. war and conflict (more women entering the labour market due to men taking up arms); neoliberal austerity measures (loss of jobs and relegation of women to the private sphere); deliberate targeting of women by military during conflict; redistribution of care work due to targeted investments in the public sector etc.
- ? How does the gendered division of labour look like? Which jobs and spaces are feminised/masculinised? Who does what (e.g. women are primary labourers in subsistence farming while men own all the land; men work in the construction while women occupy public sector jobs etc.)?
- ? How does the valorisation of masculinity look like?
- ? How does the devaluation of those that are feminised look like?

SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO KEY ACTORS AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES:

- ? Who are the main actors? Look at the local as well as international economic and political elite; national and global corporations; religious actors; UN agencies; parties; political movements; non-governmental organisations; media; military, police and other security actors etc. Who sets the agenda? Whose priorities and needs are catered for? Whose are not?
- ? Is there an overlap between political and economic power in the country? Is that power gendered?
- ? Who has power over what? Look at political, economic, and social power. Why do they have this power and how do they maintain it?
- ? How does the access to resources look like? Who owns them and who controls them? How are they distributed? It can be financial resources but also other resources such as land. Are all the resources privatised? Are there any communal resources? How are they governed?

SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO ECONOMY AND DECISION-MAKING:

- ? How does the economy look like? What are the constraints (both in private and public sphere) for different groups to engage in formal economy? What circumstances (family relations, laws, regulations, mechanisms etc.) would be conducive for their equal and just participation in the economy and overall realisation of their rights?
- ? What economic activities are particularly valued?
- ? How does the division between formal and informal, productive and reproductive economy look like? How is informal economy valued? Is there any recognition of the unpaid care work? Is unpaid care economy part of the overall economic analysis by the government or international financial institutions?
- ? What sectors are invested in, and what sectors are divested from? Who are the investors?
- ? Which sectors are dominated by women? How are these sectors valued by the society?
- ? What is being produced? How? By and for whom?
- ? Are there any ongoing reforms in the country? What is their main purpose? How will they affect gender and other (in)equalities?
- ? How and for what does the country borrow money? What sort of conditionalities do the international financial institutions have for the national government in the given context? Are they conducive or are they hindering access to human rights, especially socio-economic rights?

SAMPLE OF QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO CONFLICT AND (POST)CONFLICT COUNTRIES:

- ❓ If there is a peace agreement in the country, what is the role of the peace agreement in shaping the current context? How does the implementation look like? What parts are implemented, and what parts are not, why? Who funds the implementation?
- ❓ Are there any specific economic activities in the country related to the conflict (e.g. remittances, which often get left out of the official analyses)?
- ❓ Is there analysis over violations and harms suffered by the population? Are those analyses gendered? How can the identified violations and harms be redressed? Is there a nexus between redressing these conflict-specific violations and harms and the overall access to economic and social rights?
- ❓ Is there an understanding of the gendered aspects and the effects of the war on people's ability to engage in labour market, access healthcare, education etc.? How can that nexus be addressed?
- ❓ How do conflict and (post)conflict interventions (including but not limited to peace negotiations and agreements, exploitation of resources, direct foreign investments, loans from international financial institutions, development aid, humanitarian aid, national government's own investments etc.) interfere with (or advance) enjoyment of human rights?
- ❓ What is the ratio between resources allocated to security (such as police and military) and public services and infrastructure?
- ❓ In a (post)conflict context, it is inevitable that the care work will be massive – are there specific caring needs that are filled by women rather than by the state? How can that change? What does the country need to invest in to free the women from the burden of the unpaid care?

Remember to look at all your questions from an **intersectional point of view**, in other words don't only look at gender but try to understand these different issues as an intersection between gender and race, class, migration, age (young/old), ethnicity or nationality, sexual orientation, geographical location (rural/urban) etc.

Additional Resources

WATCH AND LISTEN

- WILPF's Feminist political economy introduction [video](#)
- WILPF's [Feminist Political Economy Learning Series](#) available on MyWilpf.org (for WILPF members only)
- [Wait A Minute – How Do Wars, Armament, and Poverty Feed Into Each Other?](#), voices from Yemen, Palestine, and Syria on poverty reduction in the context of militarisation and armament
- TEDxTalks, [Feminist economics is everything](#), by Lebohang Pheko, a public intellectual, writer, scholar activist, academic, policy analyst, lecturer and public speaker

READ

Examples of WILPF's feminist political economy analysis in relation to conflict context:

- [Commodifying War: The Political Economy of Disaster Capitalism in Ukraine and Beyond](#)
- [Reasoning with the Patriarchy: the Political, Economic, and Social Fallout From Talking with the Taliban](#)

Examples of WILPF's feminist political economy analysis in relation to human rights:

- WILPF's Submission to the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights': [The impact of economic reform policies on women's human rights](#)

Examples of WILPF's feminist political economy analysis in relation to arms trade and war profiteering:

- Explore WILPF's [Reaching Critical Will](#) work and resources

EXPLORE

- WILPF's feminist political economy [webpage](#) for details on our publications and work

REACH OUT

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