

Gender equality and Ecology

PAIC Joint Policy

Purpose and mission

The policy and thematic strategy set the foundation for the gender equality and ecology work of PAIC. In this regard, PAIC strives to work towards having empowered right holders defending their right in their communities to a safe and healthy environment in ecological balance.

PAIC aims for an ecosystem management and production systems that minimize negative environmental and climate impacts, including by strongly supporting sustainable environmental practices.

PAIC supports its right holders to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to limit their own impacts on the climate through mitigation strategies and working towards enhanced resilience. PAIC will also support its right holders in lobbying and advocating national and other authorities on environment and climate change issues, especially as these relate to gender equality and women's rights to natural resources.

PAIC shall maintain an active and self-critical attitude towards its own use of natural resources and contribution to global warming.

The importance of sustainable development

The advancement of sustainable development guides the work of PAIC, meaning that we work to meet people's needs while maintaining what will be needed to meet the needs of future generations. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted under Agenda 2030, are invoked for their integrated, indivisible and balanced approach to addressing economic, social and environmental concerns.

PAIC believes that a sustainable use of the planetary resources and access to a safe and healthy environment in ecological balance is a prerequisite for a just world free from poverty, respectful of human and non-human rights and strong democratic development.

The policy has two purposes:

- It describes PAIC's perspective on gender, environment and climate change issues
- It is a guideline and reference for PAIC and its right holders to address gender, environment and climate change concerns

It also supports right holders in:

- (i) their sustainable use of natural resources, climate change mitigation and reducing climate impact and
- (ii) ensuring the integration of disaster risk reduction and resilience in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions.

Target group

PAIC and its right holders namely the women, men, girls and boys who live in poverty and who work together to defend their rights and reach common goals.

Any interventions emanating from this framework should benefit the target groups of PAIC.

Gender, environment and climate change

Gender equality is fundamental to restore environmental resources and combat the impacts of climate change. Environmental degradation, climate change and extreme weather events affect individuals living in poverty the hardest, especially women. Rural women living in poverty are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihood due to their responsibilities to secure water, food and energy. The effects of climate change such as droughts, landslides, floods and hurricanes and uncertain rainfall, combined with deforestation, make it increasingly difficult to secure these resources, thus increasing women's time and material poverty.

Equal rights between women and men is a fundamental human right. Women play an integral role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge and their role as active economic agents. To address this reality, a gender perspective is needed to guide all interventions. It is crucial to include and involve both women and men in the development and implementation of any intervention. In this regard, it is important to have knowledge about the context and a gender perspective when planning, implementing, and evaluating environmental and climate change interventions. When rightsholders get together and organize they gain influence over their own lives and power to claim their rights through advocating towards duty-bearers. This in turn gives both the PAIC organisations and the individual members increased capacity to hold duty-bearers accountable for the management of environmental sustainability.

The **vision** of this PAIC policy is to put relationships of responsibility and care for Palestine's ecology at the center of all work undertaken both as individual organisations and as a Coalition.

PAIC acknowledges the similarities between patriarchal devaluing of women and capitalist devaluing of care work, which is mostly extracted from women and marginal people without recognition or recompense for the services given. PAIC recognizes the social, economic and cultural costs of the erasure of women's contributions to the land, the family, the community, and the nation.

This Policy commits the PAIC to ensuring the following:

- Women, as equal rights-holders to men, are always invited to define the nature of the problem to be solved, then to co-conceptualize and lead the development of all interventions at any scale
- Any actions and interventions, and all advocacy efforts, are designed to overcome the prevailing "no-value-for-care" economy: they proactively support the long-term wellbeing of the ecosystem in which they are located, and are nurtured through ongoing relationships with communities
- Women-led solutions, including those which are no- or lo-tech, are granted equal value, and are solicited and implemented with equal respect to any other intervention
- The promise of sustainability is realized through commitment to an ongoing relationship of care: inclusive, long-term project maintenance and management is envisaged, planned and budgeted for; accountability and lines of responsibility are known; management and maintenance capacities are built and proactively undertaken; damaged or worn-out project components are replaced or replenished immediately a problem appears
- Interventions are accompanied and supported until their owners judge themselves to be fully competent and capable for their sustainability
- Broad coalitions of rights-bearers, both women and men, gain access to the skills needed to maintain and safeguard project interventions, including any technical components

All PAIC members are the duty-bearers of this Policy.

Responsibility for its enforcement lies with the gender officer in each organisation, reporting directly to the leadership of each PAIC Member.

Regular joint activities will be undertaken by each PAIC member to build and maintain solidarity and commitment to the realisation of this Policy.

Effective Date of Policy

(Original issue date)

Next Revision Date

Responsible Parties

Names and contact details of the policy owners (in conjunction with We Effect?)