



# A FEMINIST GREEN NEW DEAL FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



Draft policy briefing by:  
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# SUMMARY

A just transition in our food system is critical for both the planet and people. Without a shift to truly sustainable and regenerative patterns of food production, distribution and consumption then we will be unable to meet the existential threat and challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Women, in all their diversity, are the most impacted by climate change, structural inequities, and the violence of an extractive globalised food system. A system that results in hunger, health and social inequalities, and the triple burden of women in society.

Gender and women's rights and empowerment must be at the centre of an inclusive, green policy convergence built on intersectionality as a framework for analysis and action.

A feminist agroecological approach that examines the relationship to power, of women, racialised and minoritised groups that result in inequalities, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and oppression in our food systems. Gender responsive and transformative approaches to work, income, and adequate food and nutrition, and rights based and social justice approaches to intersectional inequalities must go alongside those for the reduction in greenhouse emissions from industrial agriculture and food waste, trade, curbing corporate power, agrarian reform, land use and planning, and a transition to agroecology as a whole system approach.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

This briefing lays out the key priorities the government must include in policies to mitigate climate change and build climate resilience in the food system whilst ensuring the full rights and participation of women and other marginalised groups.



## 1. RECOGNISE THE ROLES AND RIGHTS OF FOOD SYSTEM WORKERS

Ensure that those who want to work have decent work and that all workers have fair working conditions, standards and rights under U.K. ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and guidelines including the Just Transition Guidelines and Gender Equality and Mainstreaming.

## 2. ENSURE LIVING INCOMES FOR ALL WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A CARE INCOME

All women, carers, food workers in industry and hospitality, and landworkers producing food in agroecological systems deserve to have a living income based on minimum income and living standards, and a real living wage.



### 3. BUILD STRONGER SOCIAL PROTECTIONS

The social security net must be strengthened to reduce household food insecurity by removing the two child limit for child benefit, uprating legacy disability benefits, extending the eligibility of healthy start vouchers, making free school meals universal for all primary and secondary children, removing restrictions on asylum seekers to access public funding, and developing subsidised food schemes in low income areas with private, public and community partners, including supporting direct farmer to consumer schemes.

### 4. SUPPORT TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

An agroecological transition requires a skilled workforce throughout the food system. Fund training, farmer to farmer knowledge sharing and entrepreneurship. Develop and fund programmes specifically aimed at women, racially and minoritised groups in agroecological, regenerative farming and allied trade skills.

### 5. CENTRE AGROECOLGY IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Shift to Agroecology to protect and increase agrobiodiversity, mitigate climate change and environmental damage, reduce the occurrence of infectious zoonotic disease, protect forests and the ocean, increase food security, to provide a diversified diet that is more plant based with less and better meat and to centre farmers' knowledge, participation and leadership, and the full and equitable participation and leadership of women and other minoritised and marginalised groups.



## 6. LOCALISE FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Build territorial food systems based on short food value chains, private, public and civil society partnerships to improve public health and food access which reduce diet related health inequalities by providing affordable fresh locally sourced, nutritious and culturally appropriate food, and to build social, economic and environmental resilience.

## 7. MAKE HEALTHY NUTRITIOUS FOODS MORE AFFORDABLE

Recognise food as a public good. Develop subsidised healthy food programmes for low income people and areas funded by the revenue from taxing high in saturated fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) and foods from industrial farming. Support local and community schemes. Ensure an affordable fixed price, healthy food basket is available at all supermarkets with no tax incentives for participation in a healthy food basket scheme.

## 8. ENSHRINE THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN LEGISLATION

Protect the right to adequate food and nutrition for everyone, as part of the right to an adequate standard of living by enshrining the right to food into domestic legislation. Establish a ministry of food to be responsible for integrated food policy, food security and the establishment of a food commission to ensure government accountability to rights holders and multilateral participation in decision making.





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