

Solidarity Statement by the Coalition for a Feminist Foreign Policy in the United States

As a collective committed to advancing an intersectional feminist and explicitly anti-racist approach to foreign policy in the United States, we stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and other movements in condemning systemic and overt racism, discrimination, and white supremacy that are engrained deeply in our nation's institutions, including its foreign policy. We condemn the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor and the untold numbers of Black women, including trans women, by police now and throughout our nation's racist history, even as we also condemn the violence directed against Black, indigenous and people of color throughout the history of our foreign policy, which we have specifically organized to address in this collective.

Our definition of feminist foreign policy mandates an intersectional approach to feminism, one that takes a power-based analysis that reveals and works to dismantle disparate and intersecting streams of discrimination and marginalization. Much as our work to promote gender analysis in all aspects of foreign policy acknowledges that the history of this nation and its foreign policy is one built on a legacy of patriarchy, so too our intersectional approach recognizes that it is also built on racism, white supremacy, and colonialism that targeted and oppressed Black, Indigenous and people of color. For us it is the disruption of those legacies that is the goal and imperative of the feminist foreign policy we seek, and the anchoring of that effort in the same pursuit of social justice domestically that is necessary for its credibility and utility overall:

Feminist foreign policy is the policy of a state that defines its interactions with other states, as well as movements and other non-state actors, in a manner that prioritizes peace, gender equality and environmental integrity; enshrines, promotes, and protects the human rights of all; seeks to disrupt colonial, racist, patriarchal and male-dominated power structures; and allocates significant resources, including research, to achieve that vision. Feminist foreign policy is coherent in its approach across all of its levers of influence, anchored by the exercise of those values at home and co-created with feminist activists, groups and movements, at home and abroad.

We know that this is a tall order. Dismantling systemic racism, white supremacy, and patriarchy will take tremendous and constant effort, both in the institutions we are targeting in our campaign and the internal structures through which we organize ourselves. As such, we affirm our commitment to using our campaign to advance a feminist foreign policy in the United States actively as a platform to advance an explicitly antiracist agenda, both *outwardly* in our policy advocacy and external communications, as well as *inwardly*, in the development and refinement of our coalition structure, membership, organizing and operations.

Outwardly, we will espouse an explicitly antiracist and intersectional approach to feminism in our policy recommendations, advocacy and external communications, ensuring our recommendations do not simply ask that U.S. foreign policy and assistance consider "what about women," but also "what about Black, Indigenous, ethnic and religious minority women?," among a number of additional streams of discrimination such as ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, rurality, class and caste. We will seek not only gender parity in our foreign policy apparatus, but also robust representation by Black, Indigenous and people of color.

Inwardly, we will work to diversify the leadership structure and representation of this emerging collective, drawing from the richness of a diverse and global collective that is more than 70 organizations strong and draws from a diversity of regions, races, experiences and expertise. Practicing what we preach, even as we call on the U.S. government to diversify its ranks within its foreign policy apparatus, so too have we instituted a specific working group on diversity, equity and inclusion that will provide a platform for learning and improvement among our membership.

We pledge to promote the voices of Black people and people of color in our external communications, media and other public engagements. And we pledge to be a safe space where Black people and people of color can share their concerns on issues of racism and racial discrimination. And finally, we support the principles and commitments of the [Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security solidarity statement](#), an organization that has been foundational to our vision for a feminist foreign policy and is an active leader in our collective efforts to advance that work through both our outward-facing advocacy efforts and internal organizing and operations. We will hold ourselves accountable to that agenda even as we seek to ensure that U.S. foreign policy does the same.

We affirm that Black lives matter, as do the value, dignity and human rights of Black, Indigenous and people of color, and believe in the power of anti-racist and feminist movements in calling out racism, sexism and discrimination and calling in allies in the march toward a more feminist future.

We pledge to be part of the solution.