Communiqué: Reimagining Resilience

ISTANBUL 5- 7 NOVEMBER 2026

Feminist movements set a justice-based agenda for disaster risk reduction

Türkiye, 12 November 2026 — More than 100 feminist activists, researchers and grassroots community leaders met in Istanbul on 5–7 November 2026 and agreed to strengthen a global feminist network to transform how the world reduces disaster risk. The conference, Reimagining Resilience: Collective Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction — From risk to justice and collective survival, brought together feminist movements from disaster risk reduction (DRR), humanitarian, climate and environmental justice spaces for the first time.

With the 2030 deadlines of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals approaching, and with an urgent need to accelerate progress on all tracks, participants agreed a shared advocacy agenda for local, regional, and global forums, including COP31 in Antalya.

DISASTERS ARE NOT NATURAL

The conference highlighted that disasters are produced by systems that decide who is exposed, protected, heard and valued. Patriarchy, debt, austerity, extractivism and inequality interlock to turn hazards into disasters. Women are among the most affected, and also the first responders, yet their leadership and knowledge remain underrepresented and under-resourced in DRR decision-making.

Sessions explored the common priorities and call to action under the Belém and Sendai Gender Action Plans, including meaningful participation and leadership of women, sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data complemented by qualitative evidence, gender-responsive DRR and climate finance and investment, inclusive early warning systems, direct and non-direct economic loss and damage, and psychosocial support and care work during and after disasters.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS COMMITTED TO

- Build a global feminist DRR network and work through the Women and Gender Stakeholder Group on DRR to carry the work from global, regional and national levels.
- Bring feminist power and analysis into all government discussions and into COP31, the post-2030 process, and the Protection of Persons in Event of Disasters (PPED) Convention negotiations.
- Strengthen accountability for meaningful participation, budgets and financing, backed by citizen-generated data and grassroots women's stories.
- Engage with governments and philanthropy to mobilise and scale up funding for gender-transformative and inclusive DRR, including dedicated windows for grassroots, indigenous and refugee-led organisations.
- Invest in young feminist leaders and in alliances with climate, debt, land and environmental justice movements.

KEY DEMANDS

- **Governments** must recognise and address the power imbalances that shape disaster risk, placing equity, inclusion and meaningful participation at the heart of the post-2030 framework, as well as opening formal dialogue on debt and austerity as drivers of risk, regulating extractive projects and protecting land and environmental defenders.
- **Donors, philanthropy and financial institutions** must establish dedicated funding streams for grassroots women's organisations with flexible, long-term core funding, and shift resources from response to prevention.
- **The UN system** must ensure that post-2030 consultations address power imbalances, ensure meaningful participation by women and marginalized groups in shaping future priorities and commitments, track the drivers of vulnerability, and guarantee feminist and women's organizations a formal seat at the table.
- **Humanitarian and DRR practitioners** must go beyond collecting disaggregated data to use it for analyzing and addressing the power dynamics and structural inequalities that shape disaster risks, vulnerabilities, and resilience.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Participants will carry this agenda to COP31, to the UN Conference negotiating a Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters in Bangkok in early 2027, and to every forum where decisions about disaster risk are made. As the convening partners put it, the sparks that ignited in Istanbul are not an ending, but a beginning.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The conference was convened by the Women and Gender Stakeholder Group for DRR led by WEDO and ActionAid, with Oxfam KEDV, AWID, HUDOTO, Shifting the Power Coalition, Duryog Nivaran and the Huairou Commission and the support of UNDRR and UN Women.

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