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GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice  
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## **Gender, Cities and Climate Change**

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### **Gender ...**

- ▶ **... is about socially and culturally constructed roles and power relations**
- ▶ **... is not about women, but on women and men**
- ▶ **... is not about a minority, but 100% of the population**



## Why gender in local climate policy?

- ▶ **Equality and Justice**
  - ▶ CEDAW, Beijing, MDGs
  - ▶ Gender balanced participation
- ▶ **Effectiveness of climate policy**
  - ▶ **Mitigation:**  
Address needs & include capacities of women and men
  - ▶ **Adaptation:**  
Work with most vulnerable groups & build resilient communities



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## Carbon footprints of citizens

In most cities:  
from close to zero ...



... to extremely large



Related justice problems: use of scarce resources such as urban space, water, air

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## Carbon footprint of women and men



9 - 40% larger footprint of male single-person households compared to female in Europe

for all age groups and income groups

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## Factor 1: Who decides? Gender bias in power & decision-making

### Underrepresentation of women

- ▶ share in executive positions in urban climate policy: 0 - 30%
- ▶ male dominated fields: energy, transport, construction



### Consequences

- ▶ male bias in planning and decision-making
- ▶ neglecting needs of women



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## Factor 2: Who does the care work? Gender division of labour

In all cities, women do more

- ▶ care work
- ▶ unpaid work
- ▶ informal jobs

### Consequences

- ▶ vulnerability: water, fuel, food, health ...
- ▶ increase of work burden
- ▶ informal work affected
- ▶ long-term impacts: health, education, gender roles



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## Factor 3: Where is the money? Gender differentials in income and resources

In all countries - high, middle and low income

- ▶ gender pay gap
- ▶ gap in assets
- ▶ female poverty

### Consequences

- ▶ vulnerability
- ▶ impacts of policies



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## **Factor 4: Gender roles and cultural patterns**

**Large variations in different countries and cultures**

- ▶ **mobility**
- ▶ **education**
- ▶ **attitudes**
- ▶ **communication**



### **Consequences**

- ▶ **gendered vulnerabilities, e.g. more fatalities of women due to disasters**
- ▶ **gender blind policies neglect half of the citizens**

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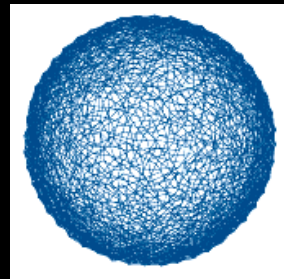
## **Factor 5: Sex related factors, physical differences**

- ▶ **Reproductive functions**  
Menstruation, pregnancy, lactation
- ▶ **Personal safety**  
Sexual harassment and violence
- ▶ **Health issues**  
e.g. higher sensitivity to heat stress?

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## Which issues are relevant to climate policy? Which issues have a gender dimension?

- ▶ **Needs:** health, housing, mobility, food
- ▶ **Resources:** energy/fuel, food, water, land
  
- ▶ Urban development, land use
- ▶ Housing and household energy
- ▶ Urban transport
- ▶ Water management
- ▶ Waste management
- ▶ Disaster risk reduction
- ▶ Health and food security
- ▶ Education



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## Core sector: urban structures

- ▶ Reflect social & economic systems:  
**carbon economy,**  
**power relations** and  
**androcentrism**
- ▶ **Inertia**  
- need for long-term  
considerations
- ▶ **Justice** - economic  
versus social priorities



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## Core sector: transport

- ▶ Gendered trip patterns
- ▶ Safety requirements
- ▶ Customary/cultural constraints for women
- ▶ Preferred modes
- ▶ Gendered relation to cars



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## Core sector: housing and domestic energy

- ▶ Energy poverty
- ▶ Energetic retrofitting options depending on house ownership
- ▶ Clean and affordable energy for the poor
- ▶ Energy efficiency for the poor



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## Who are your allies for climate policy?

### Attitudes

- ▶ different risk perception
- ▶ preferences technologies - lifestyle change

### Behaviour

- ▶ awareness and disposition to change consumption patterns
- ▶ women's contribution to community based actions



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## Local gender-sensitive climate policy

- ▶ Narrow carbon-only perspective not useful
- ▶ Sustainable development approach towards **low-carbon, resilient, equitable, inclusive city**
- ▶ Multi-dimensional approach includes:
  - ▶ Recognition and consideration of care economy and informal economy
  - ▶ Change and improve structures, infrastructure and services
  - ▶ Address poverty and overconsumption
  - ▶ Clean air policy, noise reduction, reallocation of public space, liveable city

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## Steps for gender mainstreaming into climate policy

- ▶ **Commitment**
- ▶ Raise awareness on gender dimension
- ▶ **Ensure equal participation** of women
- ▶ Collect **data** (transport, energy, consumption data, e.g. surveys, response on programmes)
- ▶ Information and **cross-cutting capacity building** (climate change unit, gender unit)
- ▶ Identify **key areas** and critical issues for gender & cc policy
- ▶ Quick scan of existing and planned programmes and projects as for their **gender relevance**

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## Gender Impact Assessment

- ▶ Care economy properly considered?
- ▶ **Balanced benefits for women and men?**  
Finances, space, time
- ▶ Influence on gender composition?
- ▶ **Androcentrism and symbolic order?**
- ▶ **Relief from threats, constraints, sanctions?**

The art of gender sensitive policy:  
**Recognise and address gender roles**  
and **contribute to breaking gender stereotypes**



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## How to assist cities in double mainstreaming?

- ▶ Menu of gender sensitive options for urban climate action
- ▶ Can be used for quick scan / stock-taking
- ▶ City chooses priorities and defines details of implementation according to specific situation of the city
- ▶ Funding schemes can be connected to the menu



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