

## Local Feminist Perspectives as Transformation Levers for Greater Gender Equality

### Project concept note

Over the past years, the backlash against women's and marginalised genders' sexual and reproductive health and rights has intensified in many countries across the world, diminishing the outlook for gender equality. The reasons for this can be found in the dominating patriarchal systemic-structural conditions and respective socio-cultural norms and practices, which constitute barriers to sustainable, gender-transformative policies. In this context, local feminist perspectives have the potential to produce context-specific alternative approaches to development processes, which address prevailing norms and practices.

To address existing knowledge gaps on local feminist perspectives at different levels and analyse their potential as transformation levers towards greater gender equality, IDOS works together with three international partner institutes. In cooperation with the [Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre \(Ghana\)](#), the [Goa Institute of Management \(India\)](#) and [Gender in Detail \(Ukraine\)](#), this project explores the potential of local feminist perspectives to act as levers for transformative change for greater gender equality.

- In **Ghana**, social norms and gender inequitable behaviours continue to impact opportunities and human potential leading to gender gaps in education, access to health services, control over and access to long-term assets and resources. The study prepared by the team at Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre analyses contemporary feminist perspectives in Ghana to demonstrate how they can be used as levers for transformative change for greater equality and sustainable development.
- The study conducted by the Goa Institute of Management underscores the significance of placing local feminist perspectives at the forefront of the discourse on transformation in **India**. It recognises that the struggle for gender equality is not a monolithic endeavour but a mosaic of experiences, each unique and intricately woven into the fabric of local communities. By understanding and amplifying the grassroots movements and community-based initiatives, this study seeks to amplify the voices of women who have long been the architects of change in their respective locales.
- The **Ukrainian** partner institute, Gender in Detail focuses on local feminist perspectives as transformation levers for sustainable development in Ukraine in the context of ongoing defence. The Ukrainian team aims to map and analyse the range of activities and voices of Ukrainian feminists since the full-scale Russian invasion, with the objective of formulating feminist policy proposals that can serve as catalysts for sustainable development in Ukraine within the context of ongoing defence efforts and during periods of peace.

In a synthesis study developed by IDOS (expected publication in early summer 2025), the findings and policy recommendations of the three studies prepared by the partner institutes shall be further analysed out of a comparative perspectives to identify patterns and derivations as well as links to broader global debates on feminisms.

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[Project's website](#)