

Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP)

Feminist diplomacy, or feminist foreign policy, calls for a state to promote and practice gender equality and its values, ensuring all women enjoy their human rights, even through diplomatic relations.

The first Feminist Foreign Policy was released by Sweden in 2014, followed by a few other countries.

In September 2020, India was elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term, wherein India has committed to promoting gender equality, development and peace.

What is the Feminist Foreign Policy? - A Brief Background

- A Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) is a multidimensional political framework that aims to elevate women's and marginalised groups' experiences and agency to scrutinise the destructive forces of patriarchy, colonisation, imperialism, heteronormativity, capitalism, racism, and militarism
- Sweden was the first country to announce its Feminist Foreign Policy Framework in the year 2014
- In the year 2016, the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) was established. It is an international research, advocacy, and consulting organisation to smash the patriarchy in foreign policies and to help adapt an intersectional approach to the foreign policy adopted globally.
- Other countries/states to have adapted Feminist Foreign Policy include:
 - **2017** - Canada announced its Feminist International Assistance Policy
 - **2018** - UK Women's Equality Party voted to formally adopt FFP
 - **2019** - France, Luxembourg, and Mexico announced their intention to introduce their FFP
 - **2020** - Mexico launched their FFP
- There are three **key principles** of feminist perspectives on diplomacy and security on which the Feminist Foreign Policy is based on:
 - Broadening the understanding of security
 - Decoding internal power relations
 - Acknowledging women's political agency

Significance of Feminist Foreign Policy Globally

- The main aim of establishing an FFP framework is to incorporate policies and initiatives to not just control war, diplomacy and security, but also to manage and promote women and marginalised groups
- Sweden mentions that its Feminist Foreign Policy *"is an agenda for change to strengthen the rights, representation and resources of all women and girls."* The same approach can be helpful for other countries adopting the policy framework as well
- FFP framework will help in ensuring that women are treated as equals and they enjoy their human rights within international commitments

Need of Feminist Foreign Policy in India

- FFP in India will act as a milestone in setting up a framework for equality, common well-being, and peace
- It will help in modifying the patriarchal roles defined based on gender and also help in restricting the barriers preventing the participation of women and other marginalized groups in India's decision making
- Adopting an FFP could offer India an opportunity to create an environment of peace, by eliminating domestic barriers against women, and assisting them in building stronger bilateral relationships
- India can collaborate with various international, regional, and national civil society organizations to ensure the proper implementation of the FFP framework

Challenges with implementing FFP in India

- Since ancient times, women in India have majorly been related more to domestic work and to change this stereotypical mindset may be a bit time taking
- Patriarchal values in India are deeply integrated among a part of the society and to bring in an FFP might pose multiple challenges.
- With the adaptation of a Feminist Foreign Policy, the focus may not just be on national security matters but also on human rights, equality, [human trafficking](#), etc., which are generally not considered on top priority in terms of diplomatic or foreign policies