

# Feminist Foreign Policy

## Report

Event 27-02-2023

## NICC Foundation Event

Feminist Foreign Policy, past, present and future

### NICC PRESENTS: FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

*Feminist Foreign Policy in the past, present and future*

A lecture on Eveline Herfkens and Feminist

Foreign Policy avant-la-lettre by **Marene**

**Elgershuizen**, Young Academics Network FEPS

Europe.

With

**Saskia Ivens**, FFP researcher & consultant,  
**Professor, dr. Rosalba Icaza**, Professor in Global  
Politics, Feminisms and Decoloniality at the Institute of  
Social Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam, &  
**Pascal Grotenhuis**, Ambassador for Women's Rights  
and Gender Equality, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Join the conversation about  
Feminist Foreign Policy and its  
predecessors!

**27 February**  
**3-5 pm**  
**Atrium ISS**  
**The Hague**

Sign up via  
[info@stichtingnicc.nl](mailto:info@stichtingnicc.nl)



From Herfkens to Schreinemacher

### Eveline Herfkens

Marene Elgershuizen



**Inspiring, engaging, and an interested audience: a review of an animated gathering last Monday, February the 27th of 2023 at the ISS, organised by the NICC Foundation.**

Marene Elgershuizen started with a colourful lecture on Eveline Herfkens, who carried out a decisive and innovative policy, in which elements at the foundation of a Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) could be recognised. Herfkens was told that a "girl should keep her mouth shut". However, Herfkens employed the motto "just do it", and she insisted on policy coherence as well as addressing power relations.

After the lecture, following a critical comment from the audience, a discussion emerged focused on Herfkens' policy, where the differences between Herfkens' policy and the novel Feminist Foreign Policy were discussed.

### Panel

**Saskia Ivens, Pascal Grotenhuis, Rosalba Icaza, Marlene Elgershuizen**

Saskia Ivens started the panel by providing context around a Feminist Foreign Policy and discussed the main elements of FFP as already executed in other countries. She focused on the differences between Herfkens' policy and a FFP, and concluded that Herfkens' policy met a few but not all elements of a FFP. Pascal Grotenhuis added to this by providing insight into the development of the Feminist Foreign Policy of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prof. Dr. Rosalba Icaza continued the discussion as she looked at Feminist Foreign Policy from an academic perspective and her experiences with FFP in Mexico.







## Participants

The audience of this event provided a good atmosphere. It consisted of a varied and engaged group of policy makers, experts, and students. Their inputs were relevant, on topic, and knowledgeable. Several participants at the event had worked together with Eveline Herkens, which here and there caused laughter, agreement and sometimes even disagreement in the hall. The audience members were busy taking notes, as they took advantage of the knowledge and experience of the panel members.

The NICC Foundation will continue closely following the developments of the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy and aims to organise a follow-up event in the future.

## Timelines NICC Foundation

Feminist Foreign Policy - the latest addition to the Gender and Netherlands International Cooperation Timeline - has been introduced in the Netherlands in 2022. Other countries have preceded the Netherlands. More information on this in the NICC timeline.



**Minister Jolke Schreinemakers**

**Onderzoek feministisch buitenlandbeleid**

Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken  
Nederlandse Kamer - Europees Parlement

Opgesteld door:  
Beatrix Drees (Beleidsmede)  
Beatrix van Nieuwenhuis

Onderzoek feministisch buitenlandbeleid

**2022 Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP)**

In May 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liesje Schreinemakers announced the development of a Dutch feminist foreign policy (FFP).

**Background**

In 2014 Margot Wallström, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, was the first to announce a feminist foreign policy (FFP). This was followed by Canada, France, Mexico, Luxembourg, Spain and very recently Germany and Chile, with more countries working towards adopting an FFP (see ICOW press release).

The launch of the EU's third Gender Action Plan (GAP-III) in 2020 prompted the D66 fraction in the Senate to ask the Dutch government to investigate what lessons could be learned from the countries that already adopted a feminist foreign policy. In its answer (April 2023) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) agreed to explore the opportunities, possibilities and challenges of a feminist foreign policy for the Netherlands, see the concerned Senate document<sup>1</sup>.

