



When typhoon Ketsana hit Manila last September 2009 and left hundreds dead and hundreds of thousands more homeless, some pundits said that the storm was a great equaliser, affecting both the rich and the poor. When we notice that summer is too early and too long, we assume that we all feel the burning sensation on our skin when we venture outside. We sense that the world is changing.

But there are bigger and finer differences in the way the world changes and the way people experience these changes, especially when one asks the questions: Who could run and climb much faster to higher grounds? Whose houses were washed away or buried first? Who loses a livelihood and becomes further indebted? Who are sick and dying? Who are parched and hungry? Who pays and prays the hardest? And ultimately, who are to be blamed and who must indeed pay?

This issue of *Women in Action*, “Women in a Weary World: Climate Change and Women in the Global South” surfaces the linkages between gender and climate change, whose impact is not only differentiated across geographical location but also hinges on the intersectionality of subjectivities and identities such as class, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, age, gender and sexuality. It provides a space for affected grassroots women from various parts of the world to share their stories of struggle in locales whose environment has been seriously damaged by government neglect, corporate greed, military ambitions and other fundamentalist forces.

Hence the magazine features the stories of women who have found it even more difficult to fetch water and provide food for their families, especially those who have been living around the Niger Delta, in Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Kenya and other parts of East Africa and Nepal as well as in ancestral domains. We see how women negotiate their multiple identities as well as relationships within the communities and with the surrounding environment itself, on the one hand and the trying contexts of displacement and resettlement, on the other hand. Similarly, Pakistani and Liberian women share their struggles in simultaneously dealing with the drying water sources and security threats posed by conflicts. We also learn why the changing fortunes of women climate refugees in Bangladesh are not only economic but personal and political.

But women do not merely constitute a marginalised sector. They are key in addressing this climate crisis. This *WIA* issue highlights women’s coping strategies and political involvement, from reducing one’s food intake to leading the rallies against pesticides, oil exploration, coal power plants, dump sites and carbon trading to popularly communicating the urgency of climate change as a global issue. Moreover, it reinforces that solutions to climate change necessitate a rethinking and reconfiguration of all sites of power from the household and community to governments and international bodies.

“Women in a Weary World: Climate Change and Women in the Global South” likewise offers a range of feminist analyses based on the lived experiences of women and their bodies as well as their agencies – including those that they ought to have and could possibly have – to make decisions for themselves, their families and communities. The magazine revisits ecofeminism, feminist political ecology, reproductive justice and sexual rights, among others and their operation in the climate change debates. Finally, this *WIA* issue aims to strengthen the participation of women, especially those from the South in the very political process that is expected to largely influence a global response to climate change in the critical years ahead.

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