

International Conference on Gender and Climate Justice



Foundation for Innovative Social Development
(FISD)

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International Conference on Gender and Climate Justice (ICGCJ)

2025

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International Conference on Gender and Climate Justice (ICGCJ) 2025

Technical Sessions

SN	Theme	Time	Venue	Chair Person	Session Coordinator
1	Women and Natural Disasters	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Main Hall	Prof. Fareena Ruzaik	Ms. Ayeshmantha Jayasekara and Mr. Vidusha Samarasingha
2	Political Ecology, Gender and Water Rights	11.30 am– 1.00 pm	Persian Hall	Ms. Nirosha Lakmini Ruwanpathirana	Ms. Nishalya & Ms. Samadhi
3	Women and Climate Resilience	1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Main Hall	Dr. Kaushalya Hewawasam	Mr. Isuru & Ms. Amali
4	Climate Change, Food Security and Gender	1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Persian Hall	Dr. Ayomi Witharana	Mr. Yasiru & Ms. Nilushi
5	Eco-feminism and Climate Justice	3.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Main Hall	Mr. Ravi Kandiah	Ms. Hansi & Mr. Fahim
6	Gender and Climate Justice (Tamil and Sinhala Papers)	3.00 pm– 4.30 pm	Persian Hall	Mr. Asmiyas	Ms. Manjula and Ms. Shiromi Samaraweera

Session 01: Women and Natural Disasters

Session Chair: Professor Fareena Ruzaik

Session Coordinator: Ms. Ayeshmantha Jayasekara and Mr. Vidusha Samarasingha

Time: 11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Main Hall

01. The Interrelationship Between Climate Change, Urban Poverty and Migration: A Scoping Review with System Dynamics Modeling in Sri Lanka.

D. R. C. T. Dasanayake

02. Economic and Social Costs of Female Migration in the Context of Climate Challenges: A Case Study from Welikanda, Sri Lanka

Erandi Hettiarachchi

03. A Sociological Study on the Impact of Climate Change on Women Tea Pluckers: A Case Study from the Yakkalamulla Divisional Secretariat in Galle District

G. I. Madushani¹ & S. V. Gallage²

04. Natural Disasters, Gender Inequality and Economic Sustainability: Cross Sectional Nexus Study

G. W. Y. M. Gunasekara¹ & Prof. M. H. A. Sisira Kumara²

05. Climate Injustice on Small-Scale Women Fish Processors and Their Adaptive Capacity

*D. A. M. De Silva¹, M. M. S. C. Senevirathne², A. M. S. M. R. S. G. Bandara³,
I. M. Wickramaratna⁴ & N. H. A. Vikumsara⁵*

Session 02: Political Ecology, Gender and Water Rights

Session Chair: Ms. Niroscha Lakmini Ruwanpathirana

Session Coordinator: Ms. Nishalya & Ms. Dinithi

Time: 11.30 am– 1.00 pm

Venue: Persian Hall

01. Challenges in Protecting the Rights of Girl Children During and After Natural Disasters (floods and landslides) in Sri Lanka: A Scoping Review

A. G. N. Muthumini¹, Ayesmantha Jayasekara² & Nishalya Jayasooriya³

02. Political Ecological Perspectives on Urban Water Security in Informal Settlements: A Case Study of the 60 Waththa Underserved Community in Colombo, Sri Lanka

D. R. S. D. Dasanayaka

03. A Geospatial Analysis of the Dynamics of Urban Growth and Changes in Ecological Systems within the Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council

S. M. N. B Karunaratna¹, R. M. C. R. Rathnayake², P. G. M. K. Ranaweera³ & E. V. H. S. Sandeepa⁴

04. Constitutional Recognition of the Right to Water: Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Rural Women in Sri Lanka's North Central Province

Y. P. N. Jayawardana¹ & K. P. S. G. Peiris²

05. Gender Vulnerabilities and Localized Challenges Faced by Women in Kakkaitheevu During Flood Conditions

Aarabee Sivakugan

**06. Gendered Impacts of Disasters and Inclusive Governance Strategies
in Sri Lanka**

M. H. P. Hasna¹ & Fareena Ruzaik²

**07. An Ecological Social Work Perspective on How Natural Disasters Disproportionately
Impact Women in Climate-vulnerable Regions**

T. Mithilaimaran & P. Gokuldas

**08. The Impacts of Coastal Erosion on Women's Livelihoods in
Fishing Communities in Sri Lanka**

T. M. F. Wazeema¹ & M. Y. M. Suheera²

**09. Flood Vulnerability in Ratnapura City: Effects on Livelihoods and
Community Well-being**

W. Chanuka Viraji Thilakarathna

Gendered Impacts of Disasters and Inclusive Governance Strategies in Sri Lanka

M. H. P. Hasna¹ & Fareena Ruzaik²

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The frequency and severity of natural disasters are increasing globally. Over 7,300 disasters were reported worldwide between 2000 and 2019, nearly double the number in the preceding 20 years. Even though entire populations are impacted, these occurrences, not everyone shares the consequences equally. Due to gender inequality, the consequences are not experienced equally. Due to gender inequality, care-giving responsibilities, and limited participation in disaster decision-making, women and girls in Sri Lanka are more vulnerable. This study employs qualitative content analysis of secondary data to investigate the gendered impacts of natural disasters on Sri Lankan women. The results show a multiple-socioeconomic, psychological, and physical vulnerabilities that are backed by international evidence. Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are more prevalent in women than men. Pregnant women were at heightened risk for health complications such as hypertension and stress-related conditions during Hurricane Katrina. These disparities were further highlighted by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Sri Lanka, which claimed the lives of nearly 70% of women. While women constituted 65% of the missing and deceased in Galle, over 90% of the population in Dutch Bar, Batticaloa, perished, many while performing care-giving duties such as children, cooking, or bathing. Cultural norms and dress codes further impeded their ability to evacuate. Post-disaster conditions frequently increase woman's vulnerability to sexual violence, including abuse by partners and rescuers. Globally, only 42% of women worldwide are aware of the risks of disasters, and many in Sri Lanka do not have access to emergency supplies and early warnings system. Women employed in agriculture and the unorganised sector may lose up to 60% of their livelihood, compared to 40% for men. Recovery is also delayed by a 30–50% increase in unpaid care work. Despite these facts, women remain under-represented in governance, holding only 5.3% of Sri Lanka's parliamentary seats, and they play a very small role in disaster relief. However, committees with female members are 35% more likely to use gender-sensitive, inclusive approaches. To more equitable and disaster-resilient Sri Lanka, it is imperative that women be recognized not only as a vulnerable population but also as leaders and knowledge holders, as this study demonstrates.

Key Words: *Gender-Based Violence, Natural Disasters, Women's Vulnerability, Mental Health, Disaster Risk*