

## ActionAid Connects Gender Equality and Economic Justice at Bangkok Strategy Meeting



**B**ANGKOK, Thailand: ActionAid International brought together colleagues and partners from 7 to 9 October 2026 to examine how global financial and governance systems shape women's rights and to explore joint strategies for economic justice.

The Women's Rights and Economic Justice Learning and Strategy Meeting connected ActionAid's women's rights and feminist alternatives portfolio with its economic justice and gender-responsive public services portfolio. It created space to exchange programme experience and consider how the two areas of work can strengthen wider policy advocacy.

The meeting was held under the theme "Why Systems Change, Why Now? Weaving Feminist Alternatives and Building Collective Power for Women's Rights and Economic Justice." Discussions drew on ActionAid's Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF 3), its systems change approach, feminist just transition and gender-responsive public services.

Participants examined women's rights and economic justice as connected responses to the same global systems of power. They considered how austerity, debt and tax rules, together with the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and United Nations, shape national policies and local realities.

## Building a shared feminist analysis



The first day opened with activities centred on belonging, relationship building and collective care. Participants mapped their expertise and shared political trends in their countries, providing context for the learning and strategy discussions that followed.

A review of programme and advocacy progress against SIF 3 examined challenges and lessons. Sessions on decolonial feminist political education explored coloniality, global institutions and intersecting systems of power. Country discussions connected these issues with the settings in which colleagues and partners work. Connecting tax justice with care and public services

On the second day, progressive taxation featured as a feminist alternative for sustainably financing public services, including education, while supporting a fairer organisation of care and decent, dignified work.

The TaxEd project introduced new tools for examining explicit and implicit gender biases in tax policy and economic systems. The session brought attention to how taxation can be assessed through a gender equality lens.

Participants also explored the United Nations Tax Convention (UNTC) as a framework for rewriting global tax rules shaped by colonial inequalities. The discussion covered why the process matters, how ActionAid is seeking to influence it and the demands informing its advocacy.

Separate portfolio sessions provided time for more focused work. Women's rights colleagues examined priorities and pathways for key commitments, including implementation of the Marafa Declaration. Economic justice colleagues focused on UNTC advocacy and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) tool.

## **Exploring collective advocacy**

The final day turned to action around the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings. Participants reviewed how the IMF makes decisions and considered opportunities to influence those decisions.

Lessons from country-level pushback on the IMF informed discussions about collective action across the ActionAid federation. Participants considered how national advocacy and engagement with governments could contribute to joint efforts to influence global financial institutions.

Across the three days, the meeting connected programme experience with the policy decisions that affect public services and care. The discussions explored how feminist analysis and country experience can inform ActionAid's collective advocacy on the financial and governance systems shaping women's lives.

ActionAid Liberia's participation in the Bangkok meeting, represented by Women's Rights Manager Markon Knightley, provides an opportunity to connect global feminist learning with the priorities of women and girls in Liberia. The discussions offer ideas for advancing Country Strategy Paper III, particularly through advocacy for accountable public services, women's economic rights and freedom from violence. Applying this learning requires keeping women's experiences, especially those of rural and excluded communities, at the centre of efforts to influence policies and decisions that shape their lives.