



A GLOSSARY FOR ECOFEMINISTS

Ecofeminism can be explained as a movement that links the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature. It emphasises the idea that gender inequality and environmental degradation are interconnected issues, and advocates for the empowerment of women and the protection of the environment as mutually reinforcing objectives. The concept first emerged alongside the environmental and anti-nuclear proliferation movements of the mid-1970s. In its first iteration, ecofeminist thought has been criticised for its essentialising tendencies.

To essentialise is to reduce or simplify something or someone to a set of fixed and unchanging qualities or characteristics. It involves assuming that there is a single defining feature that represents or defines a person, group, or concept. It can overlook the complexity and diversity within that individual or group, leading to stereotypes and generalisations. One example is the assumption, which was often found in original ecofeminist thought, that women have universally more maternal, nourishing and caring qualities due to their biological disposition as mothers.

Environmental degradation refers to the deterioration or decline in the quality and health of the natural environment, for instance due to pollution, deforestation, overexploitation of resources, habitat destruction or climate change.

Capitalism is an economic system characterised by private or corporate ownership of capital goods and services. It operates on the principles of free market competition, profit motive, and private property rights. In capitalism, prices are determined by supply and demand, and individuals have the freedom to buy, sell, and invest as they see fit.

Gendered allocation of labor refers to the division of work and responsibilities based on gender within a society or a specific community. It typically involves assigning different tasks, roles, and responsibilities to individuals based on their perceived gender identity, often resulting in distinct spheres of work for men and women.

Productive vs. reproductive labor – *Productive labor* refers to activities that create goods or services and contribute to the economic output of a society. It typically involves tasks that generate income, such as manufacturing, agriculture, or professional services. *Reproductive labor* on the other hand encompasses activities that sustain and reproduce the workforce and society itself, such as childcare, housework, and caregiving. While productive labor is often recognised and compensated in the formal economy, reproductive labor tends to be undervalued and disproportionately performed by women, either unpaid or poorly remunerated.

(Climate Change) Mitigation refers to efforts and actions aiming to prevent or reduce climate change and its potential negative consequences, by taking proactive steps to limit greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable practices.

(Climate Change) Adaptation refers to the process of adjusting and preparing for the impacts of climate change to minimise the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of communities,



ecosystems and economies to effectively cope with changing climate conditions and potential risks.

Oppression from a feminist perspective, is a systemic and pervasive form of discrimination and domination. It involves the use of power and violence to maintain and reinforce social, cultural, and economic structures of inequality, limiting the opportunities and agency of marginalised individuals.

Ecological Wisdom refers to the idea that traditional ecological knowledge and wisdom of local communities should be respected and integrated into environmental practices.

Environmental Justice refers to the fair and equitable treatment of all people, regardless of their race, socioeconomic status, or gender, with regard to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies, regulations, and practices.