



GADN and AWID Webinar: Corporate Power and Women's Economic Justice

28 February 2017

1st hour: Hearing from our speakers about...

1. What are the priority issues in achieving of women's economic justice, particularly those that are not yet captured in the mainstream debate?
2. What are the feminist visions and proposals that should be taken forward?



2nd hour: We want to hear from YOU...



- Hearing questions and comments you posted throughout the first hour
- A round of interventions from the panelists to respond to these and if time allows, a second round of Q&A

** **Please Note:** you may direct your questions to specific speakers or in general.*

In the next two hours, we'll be debating essentially on **what kinds of transformations we need to make gender, economic and ecological justice a reality.**



CSW61

Commission on the Status of Women



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT IN THE
CHANGING WORLD OF WORK

13–24 March 2017



Photo: UN CSW



Understanding the power of corporations in shaping economic policies that impact gender & economic justice (1)

Corporate power in numbers



Of the 43,060 transnational corporations, **40%** are owned by a core group of 147 transnational corporations. Most of the 147 transnational corporations are commercial and investment banks and pension funds headquartered in the global North.

CORPORATE LOBBYING



1.3 BILLION (USD)

In Brazil, corporations donated over 3 billion real (1.3 billion USD) to the 2014 electoral campaigns for the presidency, senate and congress.



In the **United States** the Supreme Court ruling Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission allows corporations to fund electoral campaigns.

In **Brazil**, a Supreme Court ruling in 2015 banned all donations to politicians and political parties during electoral campaigns.



110 COUNTRIES

The revenues of the three largest corporations, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and Wal-Mart, were higher than the gross domestic product (GDP) of 110 countries, 55% of nation states.

484 BILLION (USD)

is the total revenue earned by Shell, one of the largest investors in Nigeria's Niger Delta. This is almost double Nigeria's GDP which was USD 235 billion in 2011, and at the time Africa's second largest economy.



62 INDIVIDUALS
owned as much
wealth as

**3.6 BILLION
PEOPLE**



44%

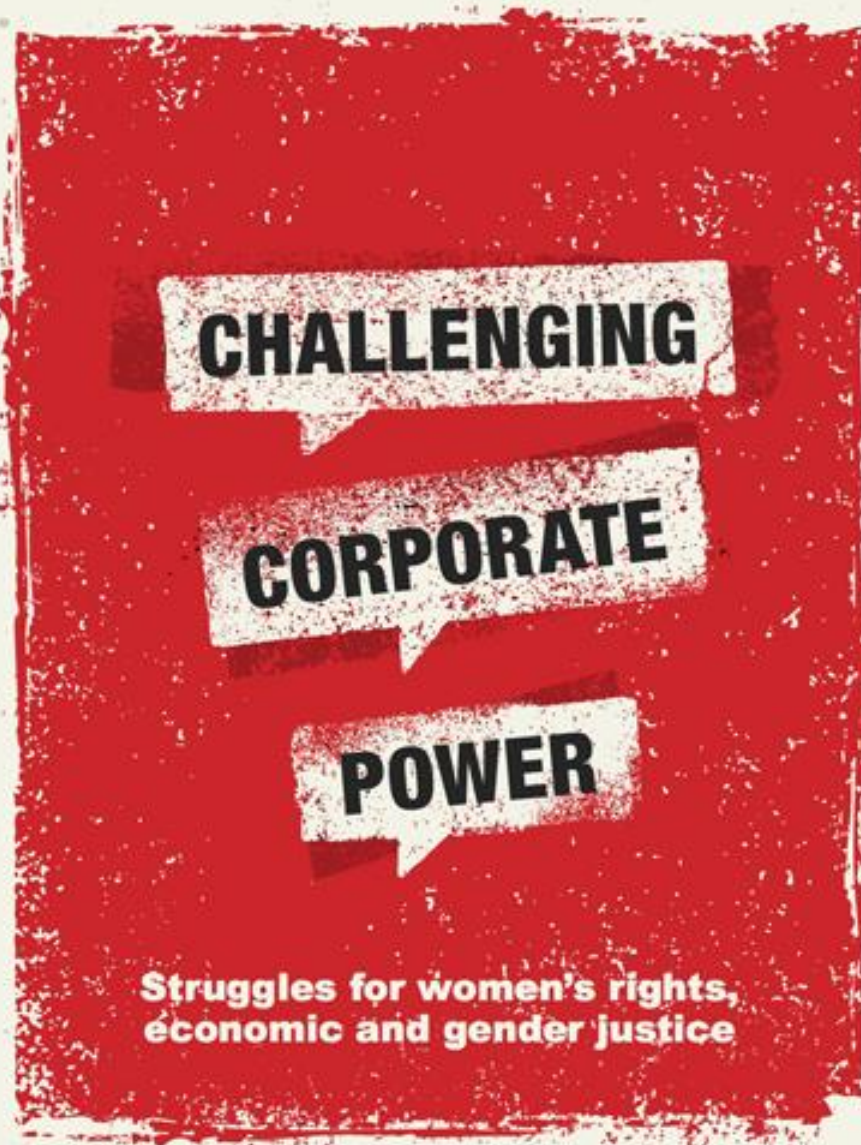
is how much of the
wealth of these
individuals rose
by over the past
five years.

Understanding the power of corporations in shaping economic policies that impact gender & economic justice (2)

We define corporate power as:

“The excessive control and appropriation of natural resources, labour, information and finance by an alliance of powerful corporations, and global elites, in collusion with government”.





AWID and the Solidarity Center released a **joint report** that outlines the ways in which large national and transnational corporations are impacting the lives of women's and oppressed people's and offers insights into their strategies of resistance.

<https://www.awid.org/publications/challenging-corporate-power-struggles-womens-rights-economic-and-gender-justice>

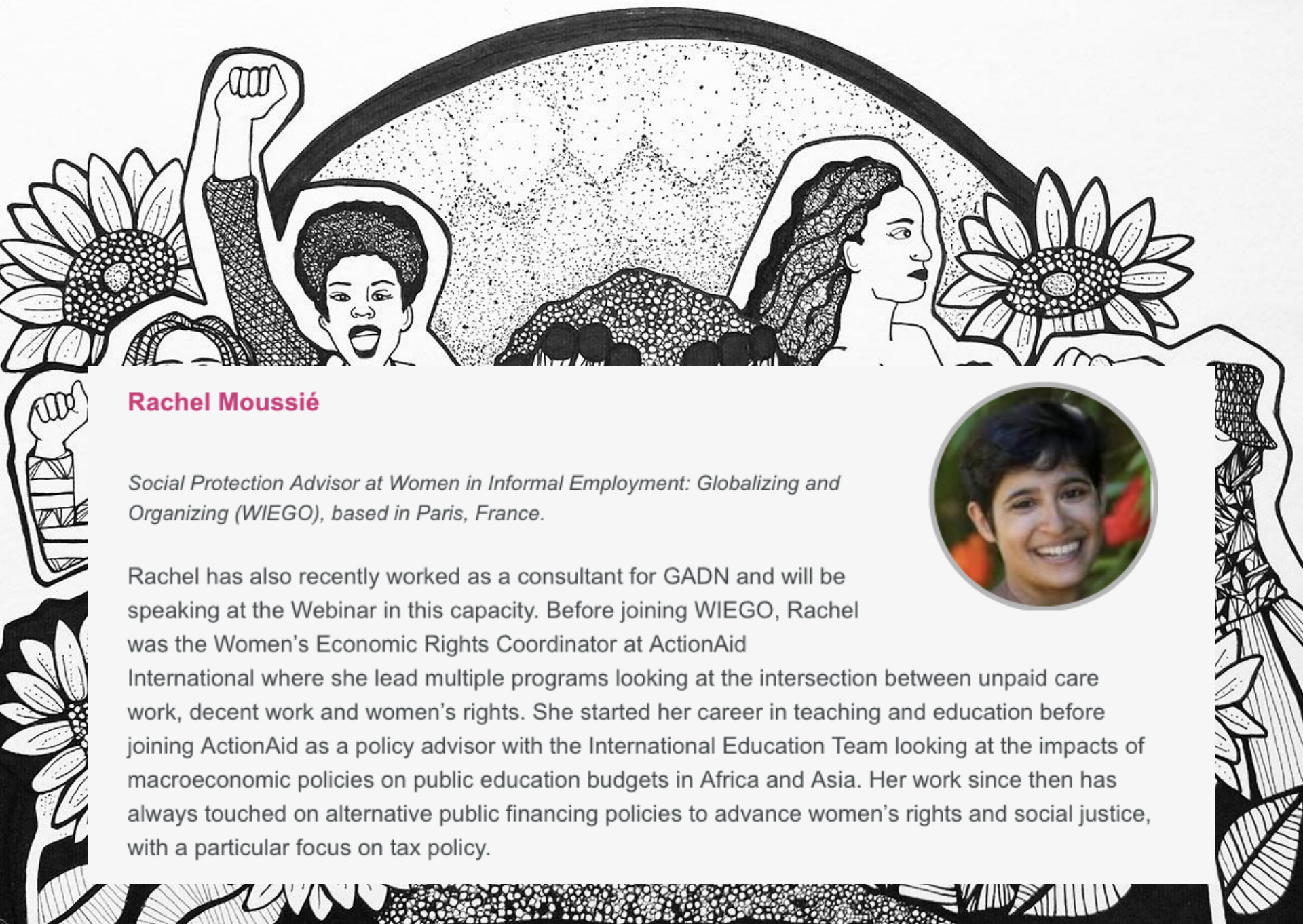


Mariama Williams (Ph.D.)

Senior Programme Officer on Global Governance for Development, South Centre.

Mariama is also a director of the Institute of Law and Economics, Jamaica. Author of a range of publications related to gender and the economy, she has extensive experience in the areas of sovereign debt crises, international trade policy and macroeconomics and economic development. She is also a former member of the Steering Committee and Co-research Coordinator, Political Economy of Globalization (Trade) for Development Alternative with Women for a New Era (DAWN, 2003-2008), past Research Coordinator with the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN, 2000-2008) and past member of the board of the Association for Women's Rights and Development (AWID, 2002-2004).





Rachel Moussié

Social Protection Advisor at Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), based in Paris, France.



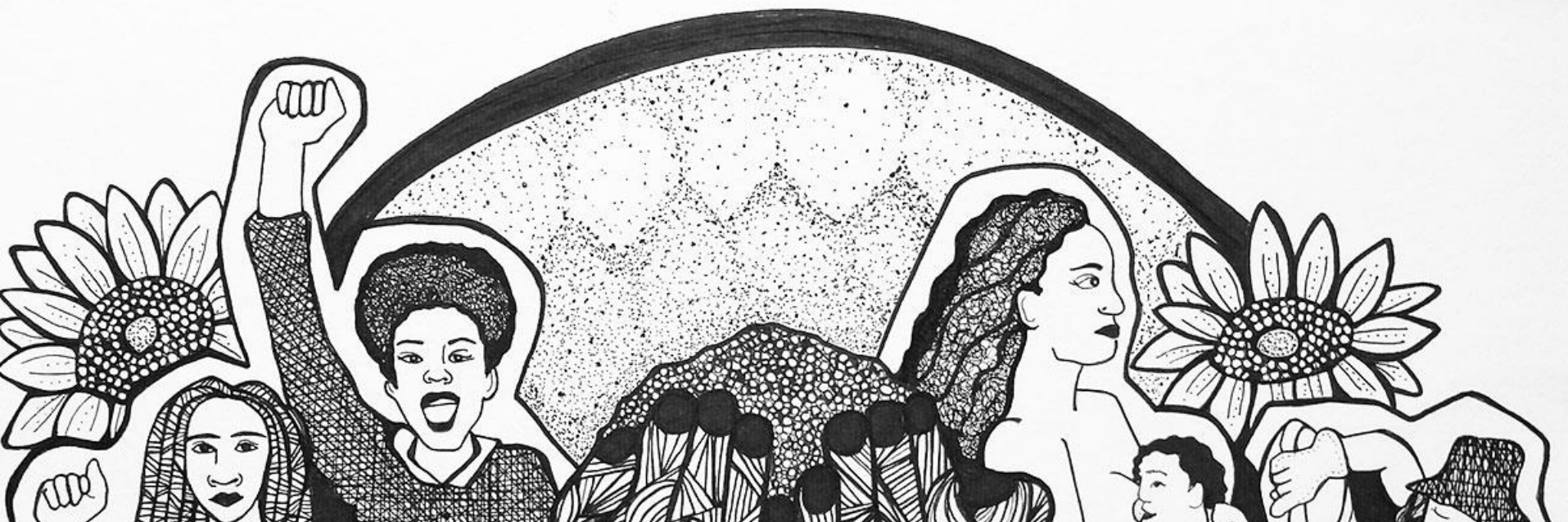
Rachel has also recently worked as a consultant for GADN and will be speaking at the Webinar in this capacity. Before joining WIEGO, Rachel was the Women's Economic Rights Coordinator at ActionAid International where she lead multiple programs looking at the intersection between unpaid care work, decent work and women's rights. She started her career in teaching and education before joining ActionAid as a policy advisor with the International Education Team looking at the impacts of macroeconomic policies on public education budgets in Africa and Asia. Her work since then has always touched on alternative public financing policies to advance women's rights and social justice, with a particular focus on tax policy.



Kunthea Chan

Program Coordinator, JASS Southeast Asia

Kunthea has long been a part of the JASS community, beginning with her participation in the first Southeast Asia Feminist Movement Building Institute in 2008. Building on this defining moment, Kunthea and three of her colleagues went on to form the Cambodian Young Women's Empowerment Network (CYWEN)—a group focused on empowering young women to demand rights. She is the Program Coordinator of the Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP), a group based in Cambodia. Since 2006, she has coordinated seven organizations in planning and implementing activities to promote women to decision making positions in public office. A firm believer in the power of solidarity and collective action to bring about social change, Kunthea says of work in JASS SEA: “we need to build our team like a family who have the same goal.”



Chidi King

Director of the Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Whithin her work, Chidi deals with issues such as gender equality, migrant labour, youth employment, social protection and the informal economy. The ITUC is based in Brussels and is the umbrella organisation for trade union national centres worldwide, with a membership of 180 million workers in 162 countries and territories. Chidi has also worked on employment rights and civil liberties issues with the UK Trade Union Congress; as the equality and rights officer with the Global Union Federation Public Services International, based in France; and as the senior lawyer with the public interest disclosure charity Public Concern at Work.





Jessica Woodroffe

Director, Gender and Development Network (GADN)

Jessica leads the network's project on gender and macro-economics. GADN is a UK based coalition of organizations advocating for gender equality and women's rights globally. Throughout her career Jessica has focused on both women's rights and economic justice issues. Over the last 20 years she has held a variety of advocacy posts in the international development sector including Director of Policy and Campaigns at ActionAid UK, Head of Policy and Campaigns at the World Development Movement and Head of Campaigns at Christian Aid. As Head of Campaigns at the Fawcett Society, Jessica also campaigned for gender equality in the UK.



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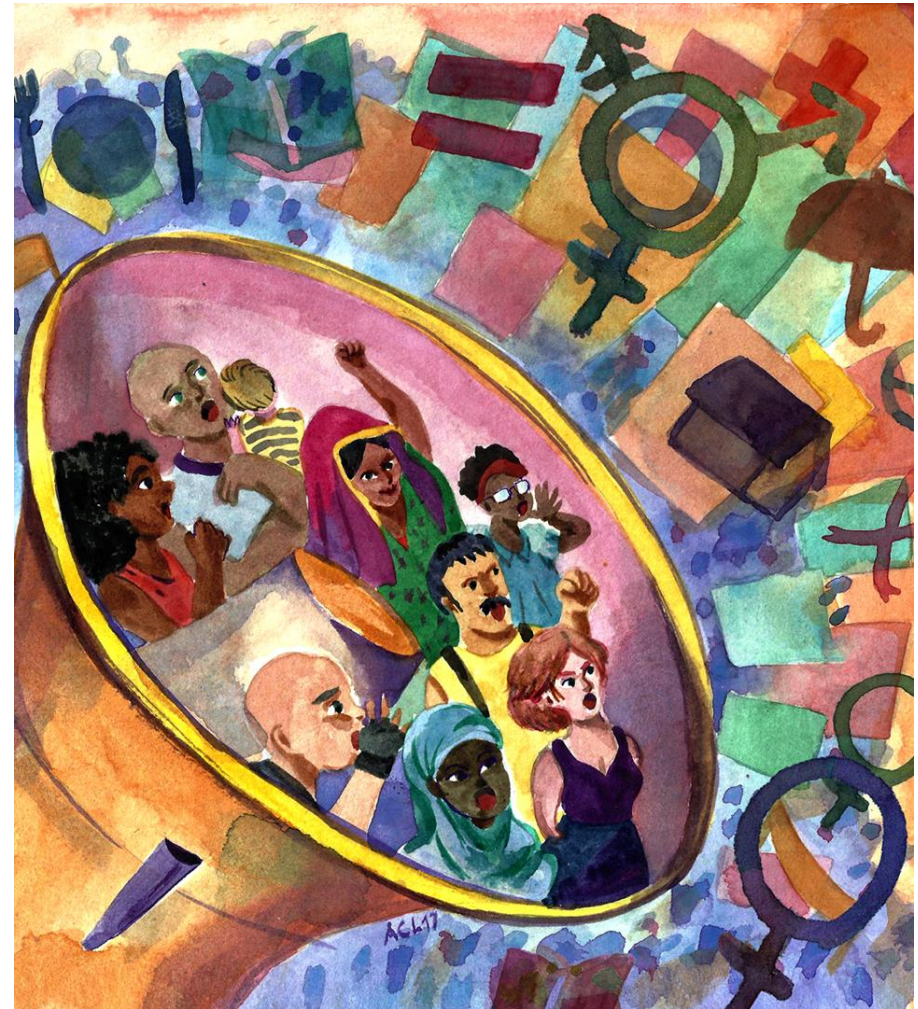


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Time's up - What next?

- We will share the **recording** of the webinar with you. Pass along to your colleagues as well!
- We will produce a **short summary** with key highlights from this conversation and a **short brief** with policy recommendations for CSW61
- After the webinar, please fill out a **survey**. It's helpful for us to hear your feedback and improve the webinar experience for next time!



On behalf of GADN and AWID, thank you again for joining us!

Other questions and comments? Write to membership@awid.org

