

# Women and Climate Justice Tribunals



Photo credit: FTF Nigerian Tribunal

Raising the voices of grassroots women...

in the United States,

and around the world.



Photo Credit: [www.southwings.org](http://www.southwings.org)



Photo Credit: FTF Pakistan Tribunal



## What is a People's Tribunal ?

- Tribunals of Opinion or Popular (Peoples') Tribunals have been used to create a "public" space for people to draw attention to critical issues at local, national and global levels. At these Tribunals, persons directly affected by different situations e.g. poverty, climate change, gender inequality can present testimony, bring awareness and advocate for fundamental human rights.

## What can be achieved by a Tribunal?

- Tribunals aim to put political pressure on governments at the national, regional and international level. Proposals and information from Tribunals are collected, documented and presented to decision makers and used for public policy purposes.

## Why focus on Women's Tribunals?

- Historically, women began to use Tribunals and hearings as a way to make visible gender-based abuses often hidden in the "private" contexts.
- Seeing a need to highlight the situation of the feminization of poverty and capture the plight of impoverished women, the Feminist Task Force (FTF) of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) has identified the use of a Women's Tribunal as a means of raising awareness, providing a platform for rural and grassroots women, and documenting their stories for advocacy for policy change.

In 2012, the Feminist Task Force (FTF) and the Loretto Community at the United Nations will host the first series of Women and Climate Justice Tribunals in the United States, highlighting how women living in persistent poverty areas and impoverished communities are being affected by climate-related issues.

### Appalachia Mountains

Through partnership with the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) and other grassroots organizations, the first Tribunal will feature the testimony of women throughout the Central Appalachian mountain region concerning the effects of mountaintop removal and other coal industry abuses on their lives, families, and communities.

### City of Chicago

The year's second Tribunal will highlight the other end of coal's lifecycle through collaboration with Chicago's Eco-Justice Collaborative and community partners in Chicago's Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods, and nearby Joliet, Waukegan, and Romeoville. Testimonies will be presented by women impacted by the city's Fisk and Crawford coal burning power plants, and other coal-related effects to the greater Chicago area.

These US-based Women and Climate Justice Tribunals are not the first of their kind. On the contrary, they are preceded by a long line of Tribunals that have taken place around the world, spearheaded by the Feminist Task Force.

FTF's Tribunal series, in collaboration with GCAP, Greenpeace, and Inter Press Service, took place in 15 African, Asian and Latin American countries in 2011. The Tribunals focused on the collection of authentic, specific and exemplary testimonies of grassroots and rural women who have experienced climate change related problems in their lives and communities, and their search solutions.

Learn more at:

<http://climatejusticetribunals.blogspot.com>

### Partnering Organizations

#### At the United Nations:

Feminist Task Force: [www.feministtaskforce.org](http://www.feministtaskforce.org)

Loretto at the UN: [www.lorettoattheun.org](http://www.lorettoattheun.org)

#### Appalachian Mountains

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition:  
[www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org)

#### Chicago, IL

Eco-Justice Collaborative:  
[www.ecojusticecollaborative.org/](http://www.ecojusticecollaborative.org/)