

## Activity: Paths towards Gender Equity



**TIME ESTIMATE**  
45 minutes



**MATERIALS**  
Electronic devices for research, chart paper and writing materials for all participants

### PURPOSE

To engage with examples of food justice work in action as an opportunity to reflect on our own civic engagement and attempt to design ways to engage in gender equity and food system work

### DESCRIPTION

Participants will examine various gender equity and resistance efforts by womxn, trans, queer, non-binary and gender non-conforming communities. They will then conduct background research on organizations doing food justice work, and compare and contrast their strategies to achieving gender equity in the food system. Participants will then brainstorm and design ways to engage in gender equity and food system work.

### STEPS

- 1 Introduce the activity. Divide the class into small groups of 3-6 participants. Provide each group with a piece of chart paper and some writing utensils. Have the groups choose two grassroots or non-governmental organizations of their preference from this list to examine:
  - a. Womxn in agriculture
    - [The Female Farmer Project™](#)
    - [Soul Fire Farm](#)
  - b. Gender-inclusive ceremonies
    - [Dancing To Egales Spirit Society](#)
  - c. Queer food sharing
    - [Queer Soup Night](#)
    - [Queer Food Share New York City](#)
  - d. Gender equity in the restaurant industry
    - [Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation](#)
    - [Women's Leadership Programs](#)
  - e. Food security and HIV/AIDS
    - [Food, Nutrition, and Basic Needs Program](#)

#### Facilitator Note

- Let participants know they are also encouraged to research and select other organizations that are not on this list.
- To begin, [Food Tank](#) has many examples of Food Justice-related organizations.
- It is up to the facilitators' discretion to allow or disallow overlapping organizations between groups.

**MODULE 7: GENDER, EQUITY AND FOOD SECURITY**

- 2 Using a variety of different academic and community-based resources including the organizations' websites and online articles, ask participants to answer the following questions:
  - How do these organizations approach the gender binary?
  - How do these organizations employ a gender-based lens to tackle food security and food justice issues?
  - Focusing on one of the organizations you selected – which of the following oppressions does the organization address – corporeal, sociocultural, material? What tactics do they use to resist these oppressions and create more equitable ways forward in the food system?
- 3 Regroup as a class and invite participants to share what they have found so far. After a round of sharing, ask them to discuss this prompt in their small groups: How does a gender-based approach intersect with other aspects of food justice? (For example, racial equity or climate justice.)
- 4 Regroup as a class again. Have participants share similarities and differences in strategies used by various organizations to achieve gender equity and food justice. Invite participants to share any insights, strategies, organizations or movements that particularly stood out for them.

**ASSESSMENT: CREATIVE PROJECT**

Drawing on a learning or insight that came out of this activity, design creative ways to engage in gender equity and food system work by sharing about an organization with your friends and family. This can take the form of an infographic, comic, poster, illustration or brochure on one or more organizations that were presented in class.

Alternatively, you could write a reflection (-500-700 words) on the organization's engagement strategies or events they have hosted and offer recommendations on how they can better convey the work they do (through improved outreach, design or media tactics).

These reflections can be picked up at the end of the class as an 'exit ticket', where learners submit their short reflection before leaving the class or workshop, or assigned as a take-home exercise.

**NOTES:**