

foraus launches new publication on gender backlash in Swiss foreign policy

Bern, 24 June 2026 — foraus, the Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy, is launching today its new publication titled [“Gender Backlash in der Aussenpolitik: un contre-mouvement”](#) on International Day of Women in Diplomacy. This Policy brief comes at a time when Swiss foreign policy is facing a growing gender backlash amid geopolitical fragmentation, budget cuts, militarisation, technological transformations, and the climate crisis.

The publication, developed over several months by fourteen foraus authors, argues that current setbacks in gender equality should not be understood as isolated or marginal phenomena. Rather, they form part of a broader structural counter-movement shaping Swiss foreign policy across multiple fields: from diplomacy and development cooperation to security policy, trade, climate, science diplomacy, and artificial intelligence governance.

Just as gender equality is coming under increasing pressure internationally, the new publication highlights how Swiss foreign policy can either reinforce existing inequalities or help build more inclusive, democratic and rights-based global governance systems.

“In a time shaped by crises, an inclusive foreign policy is not a ‘nice-to-have’, but a key prerequisite for a resilient Switzerland,” says Sereina Capatt, co-author of the publication and Co-Managing Director of foraus.

The launch event will take place tomorrow, on 25th June, at Stellwerk Bern with the participation of former Ambassador to the UN and designated Swiss Ambassador to the Council of Europe, **Pascale Baeriswyl**, of **Sibel Arslan**, member of the National Council, and of **Elisabeth Prügl**, honorary professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The evening will include talks with our guests, Q&A sessions at eight roundtables with the authors, and an apéro.

For more information on the Gender publication and its authors, please contact:

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foraus is Switzerland's participatory think tank, where a grassroots community of young people shapes foreign policy with evidence-based recommendations and tools for citizen engagement on global challenges.