

ROADMAP TO RECLAIMING

SEE

- Not all voices have equal access to platforms, resources, or influence
- Public spaces reflect power: Urban design, safety, and representation shape who belongs

- Call out suppression in rooms, streets, meetings
- Name gendered patterns in time, invitations, recognition

NAME

REFRAME

- Reframe streets for play, plazas for protest, benches for rest, spaces for care
- Reclaim narratives through art, renaming, or memory culture

- Taking care of your heart and your hope is a key part of political work
- Support systems of mentors and allies are part of public participation

PROTECT

CONNECT

- Collaboration over competition: From hierarchy to horizontal alliances
- A shared world is always possible through politics or civic action

- Take up Space: Your body, voice, and perspective belong
- Expression creates influence
- Prepare intention, message, and support: Presence grows courage in others

SPEAK UP

TRANSFORM

- Ask: Who decides? Who benefits? Who carries the burden?
- Mainstream Feminist Policy-Making

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Reclaim made it possible for an international team to work together on the issues that matter most to me. It gave me a feeling of belonging, of participating in a feminist space. The experience broadened my perspective with the insight that change doesn't only happen through institutions, but also through cultural expression, civic movements, and everyday acts of presence.

Feminist policy making enables long-term change because it integrates gender sensitivity into every phase of the policy cycle, from data and design to budgeting, implementation, and monitoring. Nevertheless, institutional change alone is not enough. Activism pushes boundaries and ensures that policies respond to lived realities. The project showed me how forming a collective around a shared purpose generates perspectives that institutions alone cannot produce.

A particularly meaningful moment was the *Desta – Decolonial city tour*. It revealed how power dynamics are reproduced in everyday urban space. It strengthened my belief that constant questioning is necessary and that speaking up matters, for myself and for those who are not heard. A takeaway I can apply daily is the idea of taking up space with intention. Preparing my message, understanding my purpose, and offering support to others is a form of collective empowerment.

Discussing our insights as a group within the scope of the project added multiple layers to the learning process through different perspectives. Realizing that others face similar challenges gave me energy to continue addressing them in the future. It also inspired me to join another collective with political purpose. This realization gives hope in a time of global political shifts and increasing backlash against gender equality.

Reclaiming is a matter of collective presence and mutual support. The exchange across countries and backgrounds reminded me that collaboration remains one of the strongest tools for shaping change.