

# Regional Conference on Gender and Energy in Central Asia

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## The Gender and Energy Nexus

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# Agenda

1. Key Concepts
2. The Gender and Energy Nexus
3. Why Does This Matter?
4. Barriers and Opportunities



# 1. KEY CONCEPTS





# GENDER and SEX

- **SEX**

Sex refers to the **biological and physiological** differences between women/men and girls/boys that are genetically determined and cannot be changed

- **GENDER**

Refers to the **social meaning given** to being a man/woman & girl/boy, which accordingly generates specific expectations and societal and professional roles.

- **GENDER EQUALITY**



In an equal society, men and women have equal social value, rights, responsibilities and equal access to the means (resources, opportunities) to exercise their rights and responsibilities.

= everyone is treated *the same*, regardless of their characteristics (including gender).

- **GENDER EQUITY**

There is an additional element of fairness and justice in the distribution of rights and responsibilities, by acknowledging and addressing the specific challenges and disadvantages that women and girls face due to their gender.

= everyone is treated *fairly*, recognizing that women and girls may have different needs and experiences.



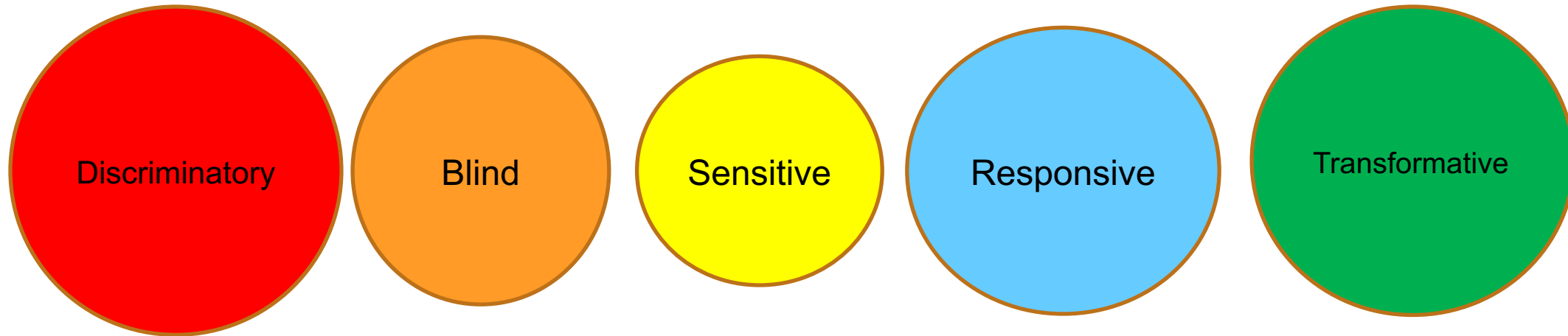
- **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

An approach ensuring that gender considerations are embedded throughout the decision-making process, in order to **make sure that men and women benefit equally** from policies, programs and projects.

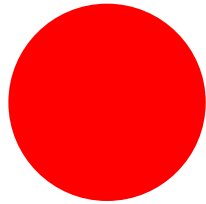
It integrates the perspectives and experiences of men and women **in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of policies and programmes in all spheres.



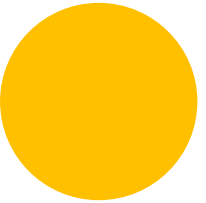
# Different Levels of Gender Integration



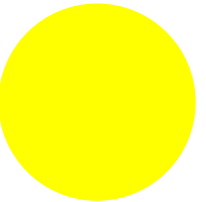




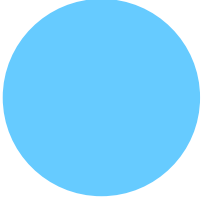
**Gender-discriminatory** : Project/programme that reinforces negative gender norms, thus actively harming women and girls.



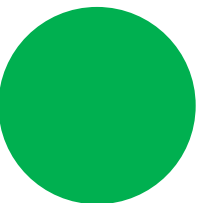
**Gender-blind**: Project/programme that ignores gender differences, gendered needs and power dynamics, thus contributing to harm to women and girls.



**Gender-sensitive** : Project/programme that recognises gendered needs and power dynamics but does not intentionally integrate them into its design.

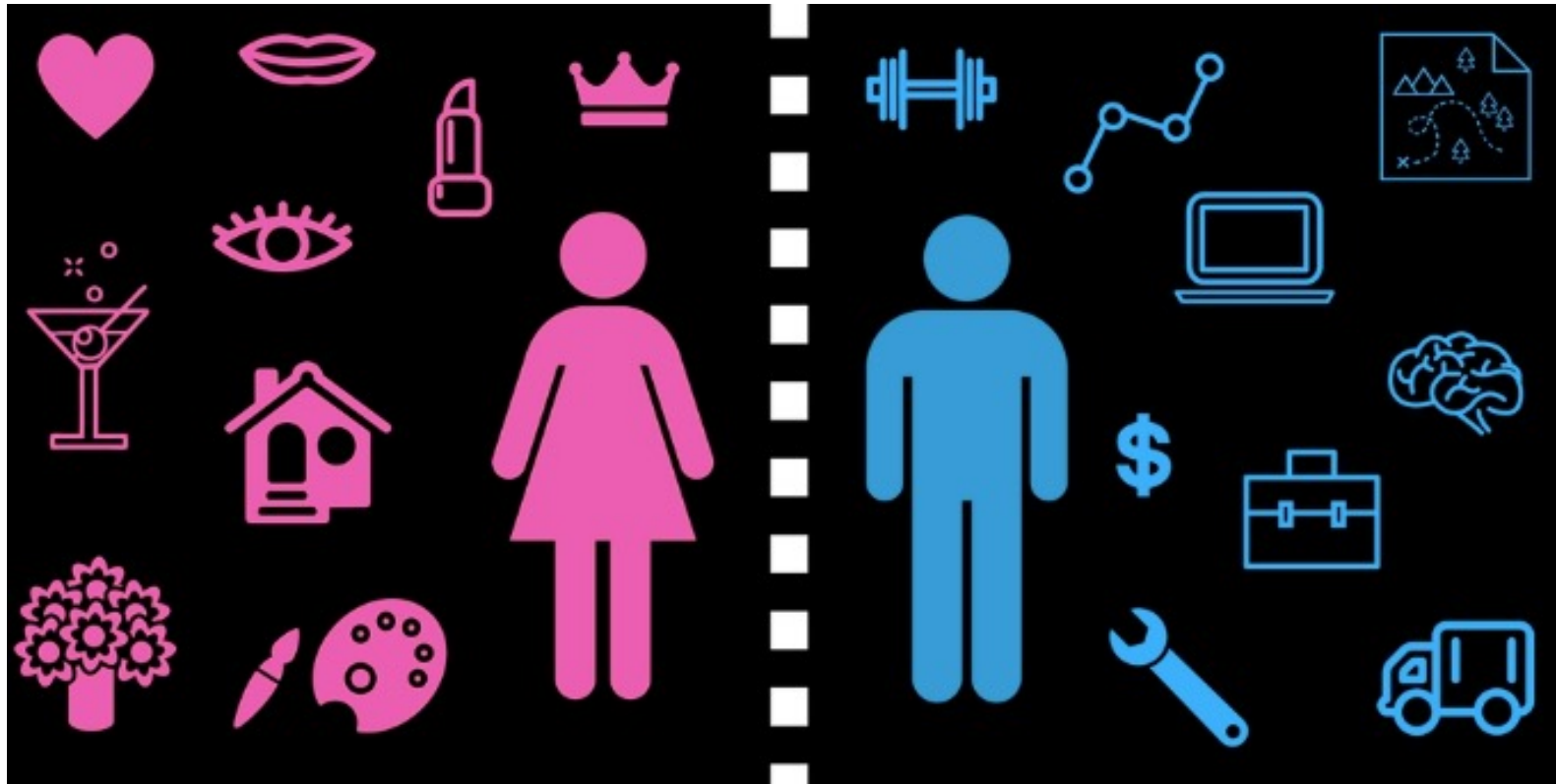


**Gender-responsive** : Project/programme that **acknowledges gendered differences** and **integrates specific actions to address them**.



**Gender-transformative** : Project/programme that acknowledges gendered differences, has an explicit objective of addressing **root causes** of gender inequality and strengthening **positive norms** that reinforce equality.

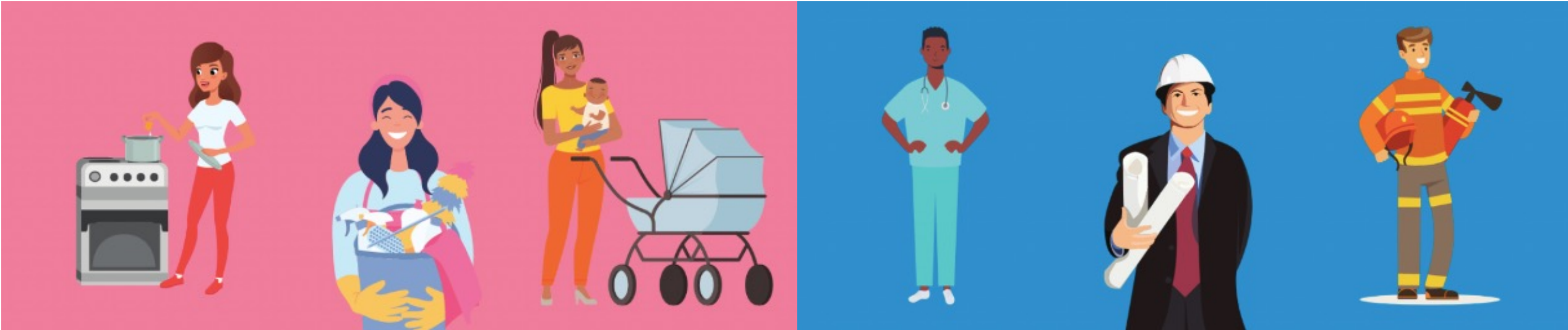
- **GENDER STEREOTYPES**



Preconceived ideas whereby women and men are arbitrarily assigned characteristics and roles linked based on their sex. They generate expectations on their future roles and possibilities and influence the development of natural talents and abilities, impacting on access to opportunities.



- **GENDER ROLES**



Set of behaviour, activities, tasks and responsibilities assigned to men and women, differentiated according to the **cultural norms and traditions** of the **society** where they live which define the **perception** of what it is to be male and female, and hence shape **identity** and define **opportunities**.

Image source: yes-shecan.com

- **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Process by which women and girls gain power and control over their own lives through awareness-raising, building **self-confidence and agency**, expansion of **choices**, increased **access, ownership and control** over **life choices, resources and actions**, contributing to an equitable society where men and women have the same rights and opportunities.



**WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT**

Image source: vecteezy.com



# • INTERSECTIONALITY

While having different needs and positions compared to men, **women are not one homogeneous group.**

To effectively address gendered differences, avoid and minimise negative direct and indirect impacts and unleash potential opportunities, interventions shall also use the **lens of intersectionality**, i.e. consider the intersection of additional and multiple features, such as:

- age / age group
- socioeconomic level
- level of education
- civic status
- ethnic/cultural/religious affiliation
- location
- ability

- **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Process that addresses the barriers that limit or prevent the full participation in society of individuals and members who are **vulnerable or marginalised** due to factors such as ethnicity, religion, age, gender, occupation, location, disability, race, citizenship status.

It acknowledges the **dignity** of and improves **ability and opportunities** for disadvantaged members of society.

In the scope of the SECCA project, social inclusion makes reference to individuals and groups who have **limited or no access to electricity**.



## 2. THE GENDER AND ENERGY NEXUS





# HOW ARE GENDER AND ENERGY LINKED?

Women and men:

- Make different **use** of energy
- Have different energy **needs**
- Different **access to** energy resources and services
- Different **control over** energy products and services.

This is a result of:

- Gendered social norms and cultural values
- Power relations (at the household, in society, organisations, policy-making, etc.)





# ENERGY POVERTY



Women are among the most exposed to **energy poverty** - i.e. limited or no access to adequate, affordable, reliable, clean, high-quality, safe and benign energy services - for reasons including their:

- lower levels of disposable income
- over-representation in single-parent households
- power relations and decision-making patterns
- under-representation in leadership and in the energy sector.

# GENDER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Women are particularly poised to benefit from energy-saving and energy efficiency, especially:

- 1. Reduced energy costs:** Energy-efficient practices and technologies can help reduce energy consumption, leading to lower energy bills. This can provide financial relief for households, especially those struggling to afford energy costs.
- 2. Improved health and well-being:** By reducing energy consumption and ensuring access to reliable energy services, women can benefit from improved health for themselves and their families.
- 3. Economic empowerment:** Energy-efficient products and techniques free up resources (incl. time and finances) for women to invest in education, training, or small businesses. can create job opportunities in the energy sector, providing women with new economic opportunities.

# THE IMPACTS OF ENERGY POVERTY ON WOMEN

1. **Health:** Limited or no access to affordable, reliable, efficient, quality and clean energy and fuels makes **women the most vulnerable** to the **negative health impacts** of energy poverty (e.g. **respiratory problems, eye and skin irritation, premature deaths**).
2. **Physical drudgery:** With no (or limited) access to energy-powered equipment, tasks – incl. fuel collection – become less efficient and more labor-intensive.



Silvia Sartori, Tajikistan 2024

3. **Lost productivity :** In turn, this increases the amount of time needed to perform tasks and activities, which is then taken away from income-generating or educational activities.



### 3. WHY DOES THIS MATTER?





# 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## SDG 5

“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

## SDG 7

“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”

## ... and more

- SDG 1: Poverty reduction
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

# CROSS-CUTTING IMPACTS





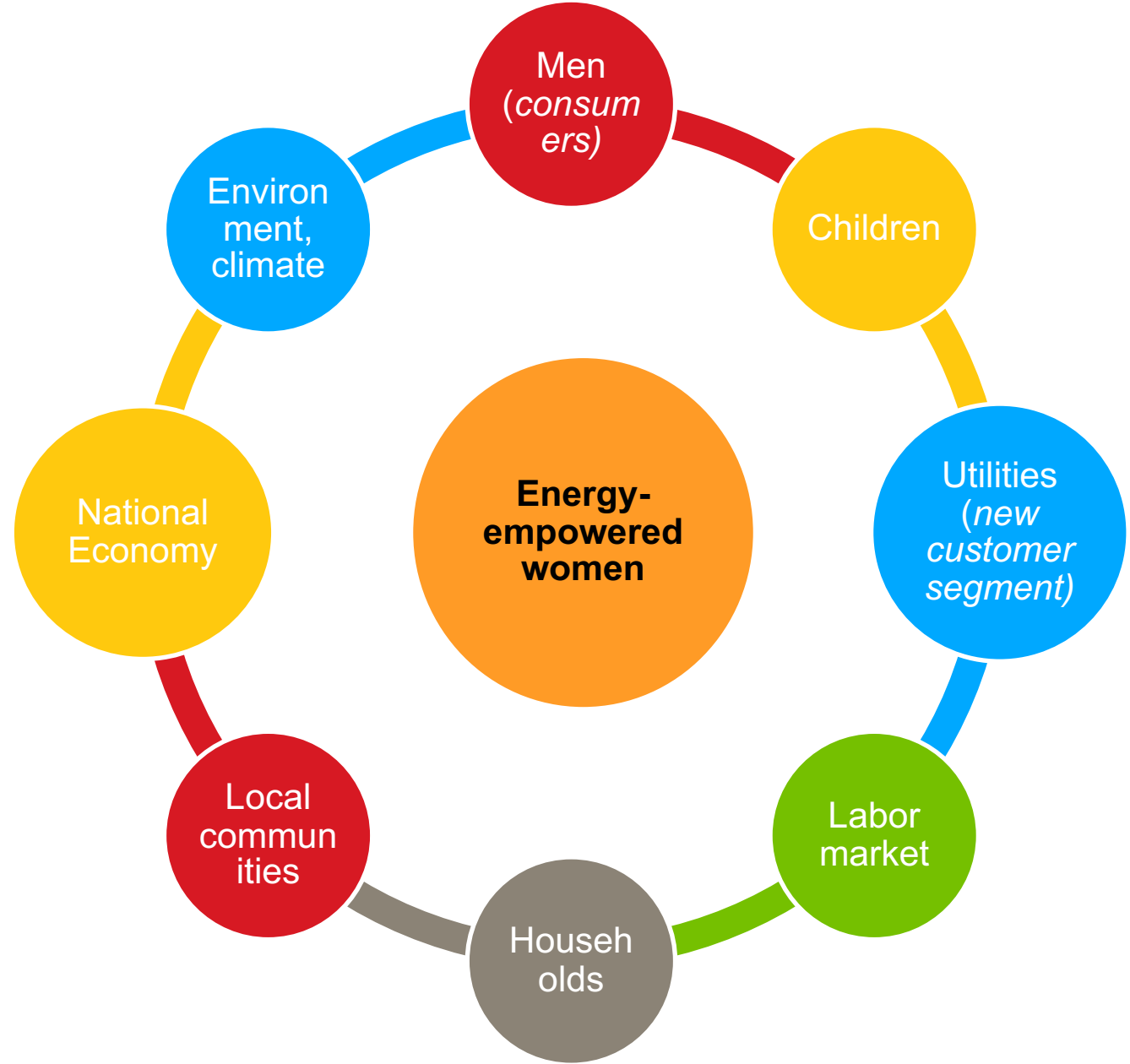
# MORE THAN VICTIMS



When empowered, incl. “energy-empowered”, women have proven to be successful **change agents**, driving the sustainability agenda.

Empowering women allows society to tap into their potential, their resources and their talents, to the advantage of society as a whole.

# NOT ONLY WOMEN BENEFIT





# 4. BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES





# LIMITING FACTORS

## 1. SOCIETAL

- Social and cultural values, norms, beliefs, practices and behaviours
- Gender stereotypes
- Restrictions to mobility

## 2. METHODOLOGICAL

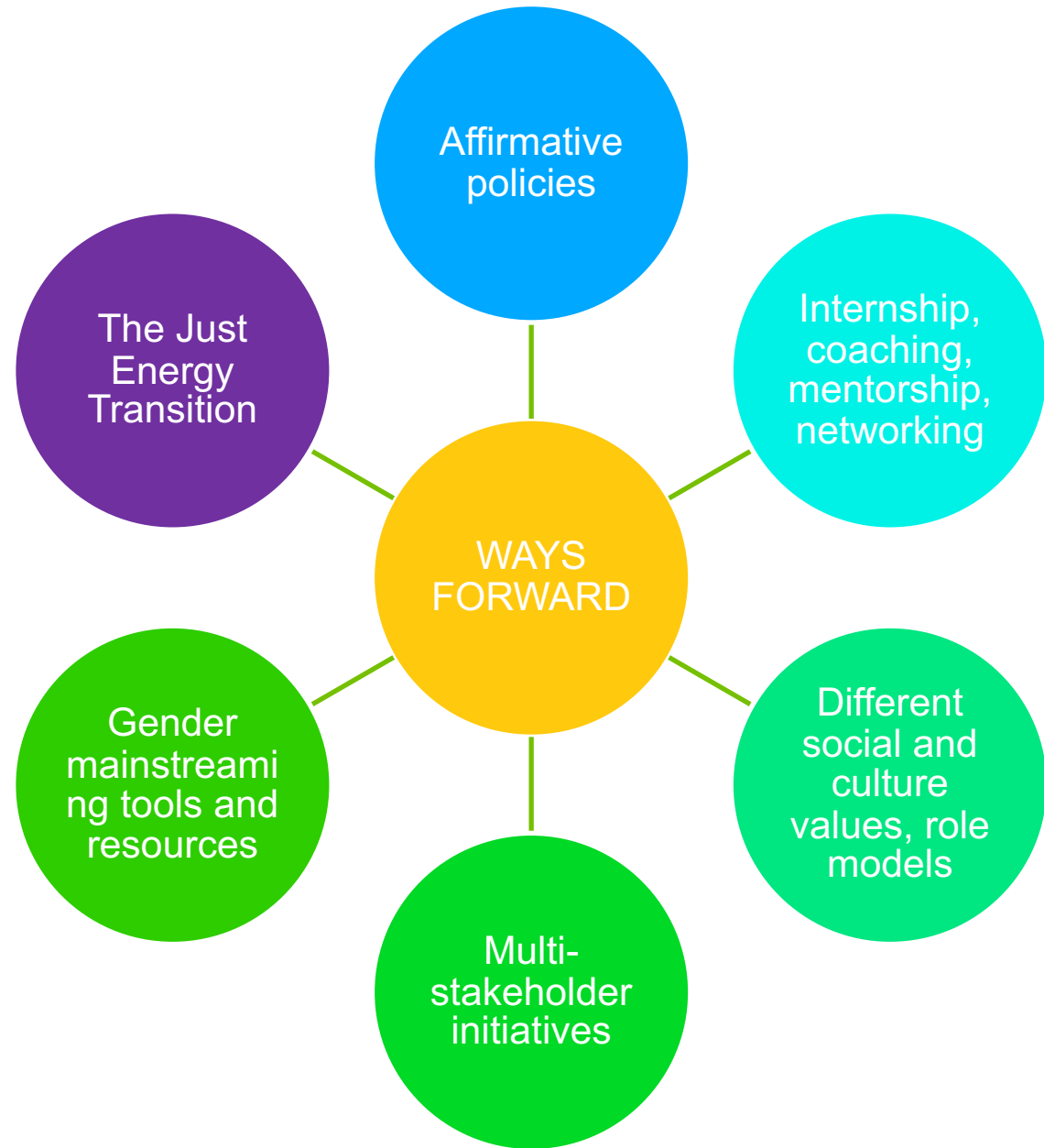
- Lack of systematic, gendered-disaggregated data
- Gaps between policy formulation and implementation
- Under-representation of women in policy-making

## 3. INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC

- Limited awareness
- Low enrolment of girls in STEM
- Few women-oriented mentorship, training, networking opportunities
- Under-representation of women in the energy value chain
- Regulatory limitations
- Women-unfriendly / gender biases in HR practices and workplace environments



# OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS







# THANK YOU!

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