

TWO IS NOT ENOUGH FOR GENDER (E)QUALITY

Transgressing Gender Conference

Ženska soba / Women's Room (Zagreb)

General information:

The conference is initiated by:

Ženska soba / Women's Room (Croatia), CESI (Croatia), Organization Q (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and DEVE (Serbia and Montenegro).

Date: October 7-9, 2005.

Place: Zagreb, Croatia.

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Application process:

All proposals should be submitted in English. Submissions of 250-word proposals are due by July 10, 2005.

The proposals should be sent to tgenderzagreb@tgenderzagreb.com. Outlines for workshops and presentations, and papers in their full and final version must be submitted by September 10, 2005.

Society's concepts of sex and gender must be challenged. These concepts are more fluid now than they have ever been. However, as the struggle for gender equality and freedom of gender expression intensifies, communities that could be working together are becoming more and more divided. What does it mean for the sisterhood of feminism when someone who was born with testicles, someone who will never menstruate, wants to be accepted as one of their own? Can someone assigned male at birth ever really be a woman? Furthermore, is gender socially constructed, or wired into our brains? Can an androgynous person actually exist in a gender-free identity? Can a man with a vagina really call himself a man? And what does all this mean on the larger scale of human rights? Is gender in and of itself a human rights issue? These questions seem to be affecting communities all over the globe. Thus, we hold the *Transgressing Gender Conference: Two is not enough for gender (e)quality*.

The Present state of affairs with regard to gender issues in Croatia and the region is limited to advancing legal frameworks for gender equality, putting mechanisms for protection from gender discrimination in place, as well as attempting to introduce gender perspective into the educational system. During the past few years, gender perspectives became an important base both in political and theoretical endeavors, and the concept of gender equality is being introduced into the public discourse. In the past few years we have witnessed some changes in the legislative systems, both in Croatia and Central and South East Europe with regard to the equality of sexes, gender mainstreaming, protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and other human rights directives. However, the concept of gender equality being discussed in the public sphere stems mostly from international directives and standards and is neither produced from within nor is it based on the latest political/activist developments and accomplishments and theoretical frameworks. Moreover, the discourse on gender equality in Central and South East Europe has so far failed to introduce and develop effective mechanisms for advancing gender equality that goes beyond merely solving the consequences of certain aspects of overt discrimination based on gender stereotypes.

This conference is being held in order to initiate communication on the interconnected issues of feminism, gender, and transgenderism in order to generate a better understanding of overlapping dimensions of gender oppression, violence, transphobia, and genderphobia, as well as to redefine and clarify existing definitions of gender. The purpose of this conference is to reach out to feminists (of all genders), intersex people, trans people, genderqueers, gays, lesbians, straight folks and others who care about these issues. It is being designed by a mixed demographic that represents these categories. It will be the first of its kind in Central and South East Europe and it aims at combining concepts of feminist, transgender, and gender perspectives in search for more efficient mechanisms for furthering gender rights and freedoms, on the local level and internationally. It will include academic papers, presentations, workshops and performances relating to the intersection of transgender and feminist perspectives and the implications of the subversion of traditional gender norms.

Goals:

- to introduce transgender issues to gender equality and feminist debates
- to develop a discourse on the meanings and concepts of gender(s) and gender equality
- to identify common grounds for action and form the basis (platform) for future (regional) actions and activities in order to empower broad gender rights movement
- to foster dialogue between diverse groups concerned with gender and gender issues
- to provide space for articulating experiences on pushing forward inclusive gender politics
- to produce theoretical and practical knowledge on the interconnectedness of concepts of gender, feminism, and transgender
- to open up resources for further education on gender issues, freedoms, and rights

**Conference Fee and
Acocomodation:**

Conference fee: 60 Euros; 30 Euros for students and unemployed. The fee covers conference materials, refreshments and lunch during the conference.

The Conference Team will provide assistance in reserving accommodation. However, we regret that we will be unable to cover travel and accommodation expenses for all participants. All applicants are strongly advised to seek funding from other sources. There will be limited financial assistance for covering travel and accommodation expenses for the participants from the Central and South East Europe.

Presenters are not expected to pay conference fee, but must fill out the registration form. The registration form for the conference is available at:
<http://www.tgenderzagreb.com>

Through this conference, we aim to put forward intersectional approach to work on gender rights. To facilitate this, we will attempt to build cross-sectoral networks and movements that work together to develop analysis of gender rights and to develop complimentary and co-operative strategies in order to advance these rights.

Furthermore, we seek to initiate a discourse on the interconnectedness of the issues of feminism, gender, and transgender in order to develop mechanisms to counter discrimination based on gender stereotypes more efficiently. This conference seeks to open a discussion and/or to redefine and clarify existing definitions of gender and to empower trans people, women, LGB population, feminist, gender and human rights activists.

We welcome proposals for papers, presentations, and workshops that explore and critique the intersecting concepts of gender, feminism, and transgenderism through consideration of the following topics: body, sex, sexuality, patriarchy, politics, activism, communities, identity and practices, transphobia, genderphobia, heterosexism, language, theory, and violence.

