

PANEL DISCUSSION: »GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICIES IN MULTIETHNIC COMMUNITIES«

Panel of the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

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General Informations:

The sixth international seminar is organized in co-operation with the Dept. of Comparative Politics and the Rokkan Centre, Univ. of Bergen, Norway, and supported by the Project *The Politics of Democratic and Welfare Development in South Eastern Europe: a Network for Re-search and Education*, backed by the Center for International Univ. Cooperation and the Norwegian Research Council, Oslo.

Date: July 7-11, 2003.

Place: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Please send proposals as soon as possible to Kateryna Shalayeva: lobbyforwomen@yahoo.com.

For details on the seminar, please contact Dzema Sokolovic: Dzema.Sokolovic@isp.uib.no.

Transport and accommodation information is available at the Institute's web site: <http://www.democracy-konjic.org> or http://www.bosnet.org/democracy_institute/.

Gender mainstreaming policy is set up on the same principles, which play a leading role in strengthening of civil society. This is how such a policy forms prerequisites of democratic development and promotion of human rights. Gender mainstreaming policy in the multiethnic society guarantees stable peace and social progress. These positions are proved with the experience of many multicultural nations.

At the same time gender policy in each multiethnic society has particular features. We cannot just copy existing measures with the hope that it must work in our society. Each multicultural nation has its own traits; that is why sensitivity of gender mainstreaming policies towards cultural demands makes an important asset.

Today we may speak of a complex gender policy incorporating the issues of freedom of choice versus fundamentalism, cultural plurality versus ethnocentrism, peace-making versus escalation of conflict. It criticizes both the gendering of the ethnic group as male or female and reproduction of patriarchal gender roles. Over the last decades, the public debates are focused on the gender dimension of the global tendency that ethnic belonging turned into a trigger for local conflicts.

A growing quantity of works in sociology, law, public administration, social anthropology and cultural studies try to find solutions for these problems by means of introducing gender perspective into national policies. The issues offered to the panel are the contribution to this discussion.

Key issues:

- Variety of gender policies in multiethnic communities
- Gender advocacy strategies in multiethnic communities
- Specificity of women's leadership in multiethnic communities
- Feminism discourse in multiethnic communities
- Gender approach to language policy
- Marriage and parental care in multicultural families
- Intersection between gender and religion as a site of multiple identity
- Gendering migration policy
- Masculine and feminine paradigms in ethnic conflicts
- Patriarchal construction of nazism
- Gender mainstreaming in reconciliation processes
- Cross-section of gender and cultural pluralism

We invite papers, critical essays, creative writings, posters and presentations of photographs, short films, other art works and performance. Non-traditional forms of presentation are welcome.