



PAX ROMANA ICMICA / MIIC
International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs
Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques
Movimiento Internacional de Intelectuales Católicos
miicmica@paxromana.int.ch
www.paxromana.org
Mag. Annemarie Weinzettl, Co-ordinator of Women's Vision

SYMPOSIUM ON

**THE STRUGGLE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE -
A STORY OF SUCCESS AND IGNORANCE**

organized by
Women's Vision / Pax Romana Europe

Date: 25th – 27th of January, 2008

Place: Dom Sv. Jozef, Plecnikova 29, 3000 CELJE, Slovenia, e-mail: dom.jozef@siol.net

This symposium has been initiated and finally organized by an international European group of women who felt that although the topic of Gender Equality has been on the agenda of individual European governments and EU presidencies for some time, and has been mentioned in various political and even ecclesiastical papers, nothing of real importance has happened by and large. Therefore Women's Vision / Pax Romana Europe decided to invite men and women, who share their concern, to discuss gender topics together with experts.

Dr Nadja Furlan from Slovenia and Dr Erich Lehner from Austria, two specialists on gender questions, have been asked to lecture on various aspects of Gender Relations and Gender Equality. They will offer some insight into the current state of research in these fields, they will present theoretical and practical tools of gender mainstreaming in church and society, they will encourage vivid debates and help the participants find ways for activities in their own environ. - A written document should finish off the symposium, be published and eventually passed on to representatives in society, education, politics and churches.

Dr Nadja Furlan holds a PhD in Theology. Her primary research interests are gender relationships, Christian feminist theology, religious feminism and women studies within different religious systems, and African religions in the context of multicultural, comparative studies. She is research associate at the Science and Research Centre of Koper at the Faculty of Humanities.

Mag. Dr Erich Lehner is a Private Psycho-Analyst and an Expert in Male and Gender Research as well as in Palliative Care. He lectures at the University of Klagenfurt (Carinthia) on Palliative Care and Ethics. Dr Lehner has been in charge of gender mainstreaming projects in some Austrian dioceses and will share two of them with the participants of the symposium.

We want to thank Dr Lehner in particular for proposing the topical units of this symposium and for his offer to lead the study sessions.

We are also grateful to the European Coordinator of Pax Romana, Philippe Ledouble (France), to Prof. Matija Cencelj of SKI (Slovenia), and to other friends within and outside Pax Romana for all their help and assistance during the preparation procedures.

And finally, thanks to all the participants whose presence - like some other people's interest in the project - is proof enough that organizing this symposium has been worthwhile.

Mag. Annemarie Weinzettl
Coordinator of Women's Vision
Pax Romana Europe
E-mail: annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com

P R O G R A M M E

Friday, January 25th, 2008:

- Afternoon: Arrival and Registration (16.30 – 17.30)
- 18.00: Dinner
- 19.15: Welcome Address (Annemarie Weinzettl) and Introduction to Celje (DVD)
- 19.45: Introduction to the Symposium (Erich Lehner)
- 20.00: Exchange and Discussion on Gender Relations in the Participants' Home Countries (answers to questionnaire)

Saturday, January 26th, 2008:

- 08.00: Breakfast
- 08.45: Morning Praise (in chapel with Luis Maria Goikoetxea, European Pax Romana Chaplain)
- 09.00: Unit 1
 - From Women Studies to Research into "Gender Relations"*
 - *New and Old Female Gender Stereotypes*
 - *From Women Policy to Measures to Promote Women to Gender Policy*
 - *Women's Rights and Human Rights*
- Speaker: Nadja Furlan
Discussion in the plenary
- 10.30: Coffee Break
- 11.00: Unit 2
 - Men – Part of the Process of Change in Gender Equality*
 - *Male Gender Stereotypes and their Impact on Women*
 - *Men's Policy as an Aspect of Gender Policy*
- Speaker: Erich Lehner
Discussion in the plenary

12.30: Lunch

14.00: Unit 3

Gender and the Church

- *Biblical Images of Women and Men and Gender*
- *Theological Reflections on Gender Issues*
- *The Church's Opinion on Gender Issues*

Speaker: Nadja Furlan

Discussion in the plenary

15.30: Coffee Break

16.00: Unit 4

Gender Mainstreaming in Church and Society

- *Gender Mainstreaming – a New Method of Policy Making*
- *History and Development of Gender Mainstreaming in the EU*
- *Tools of Gender Mainstreaming*
- *Gender Mainstreaming in the Church (on the examples of the Archdiocese of Salzburg and the Diocese of Eisenstadt)*

Speaker; Erich Lehner

Discussion in the plenary

18.00: Dinner

19.00: Group Work

The participants meet in groups and discuss consequences, options for action and first steps for further work at home.

20.30: Plenary Session

- Presentation of results of group work
- Nominating team for written documentation

Sunday, 27th, 2008:

08.00: Breakfast

08.45: Transfer to Ljubljana
(by coach)

10.00: Sightseeing in Ljubljana
(guided tour)

12.00: Mass in Ljubljana
(for the participants of the symposium)

13.00: Sunday Lunch
and farewell address of the European Coordinator of Pax Romana, Philippe Ledouble

Afternoon: Departure of Participants
and Meeting of ELC Members respectively



PAX ROMANA ICMICA / MIIC
International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs
Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques
miicmica@paxromana.int.ch
www.paxromana.org
Mag. Annemarie Weinzettl, Co-ordinator of Women's Vision

A REPORT ON

The Struggle for Gender Equality – A Story of Success and Ignorance

Pax Romana Symposium in Celje / Slovenia
Dom St. Jozef
January 25th - 27th, 2008

About 35 **participants from 14 European nations** assembled in Celje to first present and exchange the answers of a questionnaire concerning the situation of gender relations in their home countries on Friday evening. This discussion clearly showed great differences and deficiency of equality status in every area of life. Sad fact: Women are not given the same rights and positions in church, society, economy or politics.

Saturday was dedicated to the studies of the latest research findings on gender equality and justice in gender relations, and of the recent developments in male research. **Old and new roles and stereotypes of women and men** as well as new **aspects of gender policy and tools of gender mainstreaming** were discussed by the two experts, Dr. Nadja Furlan from Slovenia – a feminist theologian and specialist in religious feminism and women studies - and Dr. Erich Lehner from Austria – a private psycho-analyst and specialist in male and gender research. Their lectures focussed on the **role of the Catholic Church** as well as on **the interpretation of the Bible in regard to the discrimination of women**. It became obvious that the question of the men's role as part of the problem and as protagonists in the process for more equality for women has undergone changes since it was made a new discipline in the field of science and the humanities. This means that gender mainstreaming is the path into a future of equal partnership between men and women.

Gender equality has been acknowledged by the churches and by societies and by governments as a **fundamental right**, and individuals and organisations that support the efforts of these institutions should be encouraged to carry on with their work. Therefore **the participants** formed groups in the evening and **discussed consequences and proposed their conclusions:**

Individuals and federations committed themselves to **networking** with public, social and religious institutions in their home countries and with NGOs pursuing the same aims;

educational institutions (schools, church, and establishments for children, youth and adults) have to be forced to **pay attention to gender questions**, in order to **get rid of typical gender stereotypes**;
Politicians must be compelled to help **evaluate women in the professional spheres** and to care for **equal rights and equal duties in family and everyday life**.

The participants expect that as soon as men and women will live and accept each other as equal partners, **violence in the family will consequently be diminished** too.

Pax Romana successfully contributed important messages to both world conferences on women agenda in **Nairobi and Beijing** in the past. With this symposium in **Celje**, Pax Romana Europe has again opened a new page for regional and also global changes that are of special interest in the context of the International Congress on “Woman and Man, the *humanum* in Its Entirety” in **Rome**, February 7th – 9th, 2008, when the 20th anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Mulieris dignitatem* will be celebrated, and the significance of the two genders, each one as person and both as a whole, will be stressed too.

Sunday was reserved for a visit to Ljubljana and for saying good-bye.



Some participants had already left when this picture was taken on our visiting tour in Ljubljana