



Invitation

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Budapest cordially invites you to a round-table discussion within the framework of its regional programme "Gender equality in East-Central Europe" on

Dialogue on gender equality:

Images of Women and Women's Rights in Islam and in Islamic Communities

New Year's Eve in Cologne and in other German cities, and the controversies around the media reporting contributed not only to the emergence of often marginalized debates on gender perspectives of the refugee crisis in Europe but also to the revival of debates on political correctness and on femonationalism: Political parties that have not been champions of women's rights and of combatting violence against women now became the biggest advocates of the issue, claiming refugees / immigrants from Arab countries / Muslims are a danger to "our wives and daughters."

We would like to take up the issue and provide a platform for a differentiated debate. What are the connections between Islam, Islamic law, Islamism, the refugee crisis – and women's rights? What is the role of culture, socialization and religion when it comes to the recognition of the equal dignity of women? What kind of feminist struggles are currently taking place in Islamic communities in the Middle East, in Eastern Asia and in Europe, and how do they relate to Western and secular feminisms? Are we facing new challenges with the refugee crisis from the gender perspective, or is it exaggerated in the discourse, and should we combat women's disadvantages in society in a more general frame? How are these questions discussed in the Visegrád countries? How can we speak about these issues without tabooing, but also without essentializing and stigmatizing cultures and religions?

We kindly invite you to discuss these and other related questions together with experts from Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary.

We are aware that the topic could open up other related issues, however, in order to be able to cover one topic as much in in-depth as possible, we are concentrating on the issues related to women's rights and gendering the discourse and now not covering topics like terrorism or the referendum on the quota.

We discussed political mobilisations in France, Poland and Slovakia against what some groups call "gender ideology" [in February](#) and [in June](#) 2014. During these controversial but respectful events held, among others, with representatives of conservative and human rights based women's associations, religious groups and academia, the demand and the hope for a [dialogue on gender issues](#) were articulated. So we launched a dialogue series, starting in October 2014, with [the topic of motherhood](#), continuing with [the one on masculinities](#) in March 2015, [the one on discourses about child-bearing](#) in April 2015, [the one on \(romantic\) love and politics](#) in October 2015 and the one on [dignity](#) in March 2016. With our present forum we would like to continue and deepen the dialogue between different actors concerned by gender relations in the democratic society.

14 September 2016, 3.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Venue: Budapest, Kossuth Klub, VIII., Múzeum utca 8.



**Dialogue on gender equality:
Images of Women and Women's Rights in Islam and in Islamic
Communities**

Programme

Chair

Prof. Dr. Andrea Pető, Professor, Department of Gender Studies, CEU, Budapest

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm: Registration

4.00 – 4.30 pm: Opening remarks

Eszter Kováts, Project leader, “Gender Equality in East-Central Europe”, FES

Prof. Dr. Andrea Pető, Professor, Department of Gender Studies, CEU, Budapest

4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Keynote speech: Prof. Dr. Riem Spielhaus

Professor of Islamic Studies, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Discussion

6.00 pm – 6.30 pm / Coffee break

6.30 – 8.30 pm

**Reflexions on the keynote speech from the perspective
of the current discourses in East-Central Europe**

Dr. Agata Skowron-Nalborczyk, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw

Dr. Emire Khidayer, writer, former diplomat, Slovakia

Dr. Erzsébet Nagyné Rózsa, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Budapest

Anna Németh, Hungarian Islamic Community

Discussion

8.30 pm / Finger buffet

English-Hungarian interpretation is provided.

Participation is free of charge but requires registration by September 10 [at this link](#).

For the registration please indicate your affiliation and position.

The Facebook event page of the forum is [here](#).

With regard to those who would not be able to participate in working hours we scheduled the forum for the evening. If required, we can offer child-care free of charge during the event. In that case registrations are requested by September 8.



The key-note speaker

Riem Spielhaus joined the Georg Eckert Institute in April 2016 as head of the department Textbook and Society and Professor of Islamic Studies with a focus on education and cultures of knowledge at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. She studied Islamic studies and African studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she also earned her PhD, writing on debates over Islam and the self-positioning of Muslims in Germany. Her dissertation, released by the Ergon Publishing House, received the Augsburg Academic Prize for Intercultural Studies in 2010. She worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for European Islamic Thought at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the Erlangen Centre for Islam and Law in Europe at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. She is a member of the Rat für Migration (Council for Migration). Her research interests include female authorities on Islam, the institutionalisation of Islam, the political participation and religious practices of Muslims in Europe, and the production of knowledge about Muslims in Europe.

Selected Publications

Spielhaus, Riem. 2012. „Making Islam relevant: Female Authority and Representation of Islam in Germany.“ In *Women, Islam and Mosques: Changes in Contemporary Islamic Authority*, edited by Hillary Kalmbach and Masooda Bano, 437–455. Leiden: Brill.

Spielhaus, Riem. 2012. „Gender justice as a common value? Configurations of Islam in Germany.“ In *A Jihad for Justice*, edited by Kecia Ali, Juliane Hammer, and Laury Silvers, 90–104. <http://www.bu.edu/religion/files/2010/03/A-Jihad-for-Justice-for-Amina-Wadud-2012-1.pdf>

Spielhaus, Riem. 2013. „Europe.“ In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*, edited by Natana J. Delong-Bas, Asma Afsaruddin, Hibba Abugideiri, and Heba Ezzat, 523–525. New York: Oxford University Press.

Spielhaus, Riem. 2012. „Counter-measures to religious discrimination: a local initiative in Berlin.“ In *Les discriminations religieuses en Europe: droit et pratiques*, edited by Frédérique Ast and Bernadette Duarte, 239–256. Paris: L’Harmattan.

Hammer, Juliane and Riem Spielhaus (eds). 2013. „Muslim Women and the Challenge of Authority: An Introduction.“ *The Muslim World* 103 (3) (Juli 28): 287–294.

Ast, Frédérique and Riem Spielhaus. 2012. „Tackling double victimization of Muslim women in Europe: The intersectional response.“ *Mediterranean Journal of Human Rights* 16: 357–382.