

European Feminist Forum

European women's networks are calling upon you to take part in the European Feminist Forum. Your participation starts now.

Grab the opportunity to respond in force to the political and economic climate determining the changing face of Europe. Take the chance to finally discuss new contexts in Europe, new and old feminist issues. The European Feminist Forum is committed to building an open and diverse dialogue, organizing an energetic space for feminists in Europe to come together, and setting a renewed collective feminist agenda. Join now! The European Feminist Forum process will conclude with an event in Poland, from 13-15 June 2008.

New Contexts in Europe

Europe is living through a phase of rapid change and transition due to multiple forces both within and outside Europe. There is the process of European enlargement, the decline of the national state, new trends in the movement of people in the search for jobs, and changes in identities and communities. For many women there is growing poverty and increasing marginalization. For others, new avenues have opened up. Some gains made by women's rights movements are under threat. Many new concerns and new opportunities for women are emerging.

The European Feminist Forum (EFF) is a space for discussions on how to re-politicize the feminist movement in Europe and to explore feminist agendas needed in today's Europe.

A New Form of Organizing: Affinity Groups

Preparing the content for the European Feminist Forum in 2008, the organizers have chosen the model of Affinity Groups. It is a non-hierarchical, open, participatory and innovative process to explore topics European Feminist Forum participants see as key to their political vision as feminists. Different Affinity Groups will prepare the dialogues in their own way. Affinity Groups can take different shapes and produce different outcomes (a paper, a video documentary, podcasts, European chats, art work, research outcomes etc). Affinity Groups are invited to work in whichever medium they chose, in cyberspace, face-to-face meetings, across all European countries, within one country, in whichever language and media. Affinity Groups started in January 2007 and will work towards the European Feminist Forum in June 2008. The Affinity Groups findings also set the agenda for European Feminist Forum. Each Affinity Group publishes its debate on the EFF website:

www.europeanfeministforum.org.
Read, watch, interact & join!

Topics

The content for the European Feminist Forum and its presentation form (theatre, video, paper, workshop, etc) is chosen by Affinity Groups. The topics include:

- Movement
- Preventing Violence & Peace and Security
- Labour Market
- ICT- New Media
- Secularism
- Feminist Migrant Agenda
- Feminist Art
- Gender Watch on Finances in the EU
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

An Innovative Event

We will organize the European Feminist Forum event in Poland in a new way. Forget sitting and listening! We prepare to use webcasts, video-conferencing, podcasts, large video screens with running chats and comments. All participants will engage in creating the new European feminist agendas. We plan to learn about the possibilities of new technology with the participants, as part of the program. Wouldn't it be great to send all your friends a podcast with your first impressions after a session, and post it on your website as well? Wouldn't it be wonderful to see the immediate comments of different interest groups on a large screen while you are listening to a facilitated talk show on an exciting topic?

Creating the new feminist European agenda means having fun. Not only a mad party every night, but ongoing energizing entertainment: listen to feminist bands; see the street theatre and art gallery; choose the photo of the day; join the over 60s cheer leaders and enjoy the open podium for performance; song and poetry. Give it a try in the EFF song contest! If your meeting gets boring SMS the Roving Entertainers - you get an instant short performance of a mad poet, drag king, guitar player, or karaoke. And don't forget to join us in the Daily Political Action - send a postcard/mail/SMS on an urgent action. A DPA a day, keeps patriarchy at bay!

Initiating Networks in Europe:

- The WIDE Network, Globalizing Gender Equality and Social Justice (www.wide-network.org)
- ASTRA, the Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (www.astra.org.pl)
- Babaylan, the Philippine Women's Network in Europe and Bayanihan (Center for Philippine Women in The Netherlands)
- The networks of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (www.iiav.nl)
- The Women's Peace Makers Program of IFOR (www.ifor.org/WPP)
- Karat Coalition, a network of women's NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (www.karat.org)
- NEWW, the Network of East-West Women (www.neww.org)
- The network of the Roma Women's Initiative (www.romawomensinitiatives.org).

If you are interested in joining a brainstorm community that has been especially created online, please register yourself as a member at www.dgroups.org and become part of the European Feminist Forum Brainstorm Community. Support this initiative!

Participate!

Advance the European feminist agenda!
Empower others to participate!
Provide funding!

Questions? Offers of help?

Please contact the
EFF Secretariat
IIAV
Obiplein 4
1094 RB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31(0)20.665.1318
E-mail: EFF@iiav.nl

Website: www.europeanfeministforum.org