

Conference Programme

Women, Violence and the Politics of Mobilizing Resistance: The Case of Kurdish Women

Organised by Kurdish Women Action Against Honour killings, International Kurdish Women Studies Network and Institut Kurde de Paris

Date: Friday, February 22nd, 2002

**Venue: Palais du Luxembourg
16 Rue de Vaugirard
75006 Paris (Metro: Luxembourg)**

The programme:

Thursday, February 21st : Arrival at the Kurdish Institute of Paris.

Friday, February 22nd : The conference

9:00am: Welcoming address by Nazand Begikhani

9:05: Introduction by Madame Mitterrand

9:15 – 10:10am: First session

Session title: Uncovering the dynamics of violence: theoretical analysis of the idea and practice of violence against women.

Discussant: Dr. Seve Izouly (Lawyer, Strasbourg)

Speakers: Professor Margaret Grieco (Napier University): Culture or repression? Gender, autonomy & the sacrifice of life.

Juliette Minces: (Author, specialist of Islam and women): Bodies militarised: Violence against women with a comparative perspective.

Dr. Michiel Leezenburg (Amsterdam University): Violence, gender, and subjectivity: the case of Kurdistan.

10:10 – 12:00: Second session

Session title: Women in armed conflict: violence against women and feminist challenges

- Discussant:** **Dr. Heidi Wedel (Researcher, London)**
- Speakers:** Nebahat Akkoç (KA-MER Women's Centre in Diyarbakir): The effects of displacement on Kurdish women & children in Diyarbakir and women's initiatives.
- Av. Fatma Karakaş (Legal Aid Project for Women Raped or Sexually Abused in Custody, Istanbul): Sexual violence against women & the Legal Aid Project.
- Av. Meral Danış Beştaş (Diyarbakir Bar Association, Women's Commission): The situation of Kurdish female prisoners & the women activities of the Diyarbakir Bar Association.
- Necla Açıık (M.A. in Islamic Studies with focus on Kurdish women, Manchester): Women images and self-sacrifice in the Kurdish national struggle.
- 12:00 – 13:30:** **Lunch**
- 13:30 – 15:10:** **Third Session**
- Session title:** **Politics of extermination: The Anfal campaigns in Iraqi Kurdistan**
- Discussant:** **Dr. Nashmil Ghassemlou (Psychotherapist, Germany)**
- Speakers:** Pakhshan Zangana (Teacher & journalist, Cologne): The Anfal campaigns: causes and consequences.
- Wazira J. Saaid (Editor-in-chief of *Bergri* magazine, Suleimaniya): Anfal & the women's movement in Iraqi Kurdistan
- Karin Mlodoch (Psychologist, Berlin): The psychological situation of Anfal-surviving women in the Garmian area.
- Inga Rogg (Journalist & cultural anthropologist, Munich): Violent voices, silenced voices- Anfal & memory.
- 15:10 – 15:30:** **Break**
- 15:30 – 17: 40:** **Fourth session**
- Session title:** **Naturalised violence: the practice of violence on the bodies of women and strategies of resistance.**
- Discussant:** **Professor Martin Van Bruinessen (Utrecht University)**

Speakers: Roonak Faraj (Journalist, Women Information Centre, Suleimaniya): Notions of shame & honour: the practice of honour killings in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Narmeen Qaradaghi (Av. Erbil): The functioning of the law and the situation of women in the KDP area.

Nazaneen Rasheed (Kurdish Women Action against Honour-Killings, London): The *Aram* shelter for women in Suleimaniya: a sociological analysis of *shelter in the Kurdish context*.

Dr. Nazand Begikhani (Researcher, University of the West of England): Kurdish women and political Islam.

17:40 – 18: 40: Fifth session

Session title: Kurdish Women in the Diaspora: the dialectic of violence and resistance.

Discussant: Dr. Abbas Vali (University of Wales, Swansea)

Speakers: Rachel Gorman (Researcher, Toronto University): Learning for life: Kurdish women's tales of war & diaspora.

Monireh Moftizadeh (Kurdish Women Action against Honour-killings, London): Kurdish women's life in exile: power of adaptation, experience of violence & mechanisms of resistance

Carina Grosser-Kaya (Researcher, Germany): Searching for security: daily life of Kurdish female asylum seekers in the Eastern part of Germany

18:40: Conclusion by Dr. Isabelle Rigoni (Researcher, Warwick University)

Saturday, February 23rd : Feedback and discussion for future plans and strategies at the Kurdish Institute. By invitation.