

Freedom, Equality and a show of solidarity at Gothenburg Book Fair - Sweden 25-28 September 2008



The annual Gothenburg Book Fair, the biggest book fair in Scandinavia was held at the end of September this year. More than 100,000 people visited the fair. Organisation for Women's Liberation too had a stall offering many different leaflets, booklets, fundraising competitions and petitions in defence of women's rights in Iran. The theme of our stall was campaign against gender apartheid. Leaflets exposing the crimes of Islamic Republic against people in Iran including mass executions of activists and protesters were also available.

A deligation from OWL, namely Maryam Kousha, Azar Majedi, Shahla Noori and Karim Noori run the stall. Many people visited the stall and signed our petition in condemnation of gender apartheid in Iran. People were interested to know more about issues such as women's situation in Iran, women's liberation movement, honour killings, the aims of our campaign, the role of political Islam in violating women's rights; and our work. Discussions about confronting both poles of terrorism, state militarism and terrorism of Political Islam and the need to form a third alternative to combat both poles and in defence of people was also carried out.

During the whole period a slide show about women's situation in Iran and victims of honour killings in Sweden was being played on big screen monitor. Amongst the books sold were "*No to the war of terrorists, the third alternative speaks out*" which included a series of articles by Mansoor Hekmat about the world after September 11 and resolutions of Worker-communism Unity Party about war; and "*Women's rights vs. Political Islam*" written by Azar Majedi. Information leaflets about Maria Hagberg's book "*It starts to rot at 20*" about honour killings were handed out too. This book is under publication and will soon be available.

Azar Majedi, the chairperson of OWL was interviewed by National Swedish Radio, Farsi section, Radio Zagros and Radio Noor about OWL and the book fair. Shahla Noori had an interviewed with Radio Sobh. Azar Majedi together with Maria Hagberg held a workshop on the situation of women in Iran, the effects of political Islam in the region and the women's liberation movement in Iran.

For all enquiries and ordering books please contact us by email. To order Maria Hagberg's book please email her on maria.hagberg@socialtoolbox.se or visit her website at www.socialtoolbox.se