



The office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Warsaw
cordially invite you to the Panel Discussion:

**Pink World, Blue World. The Colour Matters.
Panel Discussion about Gender Sensitive Education**

21 June 2007, 6 until 8 pm.

German Historical Institute, Al. Ujazdowskie 39

Gender stereotypes are one of the severe factors which generate inequalities between women and men in social, economical and political life. They prescribe specific roles for women and men determining their participation in public sphere and their access to resources and decision-making. Unequal gender division of power is affected by socialization processes in which boys and girls participate in their schooldays and at their homes. Available schoolbooks are often full of gender biases and stereotypes and they present traditional female and male roles.

The efforts to bring gender perspective into education have been undertaken by grass-root independent organizations. Unfortunately, they are not visible at the governmental level. The starting point for the discussion on gender sensitive education will be presentation of alternative models of teaching which include also diversity issues and the question of tolerance and respect for ethnical, religious, sexual differences. Practical solutions will be discussed which have been developed by feminists and teachers' circles open for new learning perspectives. One example is the Slovakian project "Pink and Blue World" implemented by ASPEKT and another one is Multicultural Humanistic High School named after Jacek Kuron, a legendary activist of Polish democratic opposition of the 1980s.

The following issues will be raised and discussed:

- How experiences with socialization help women and men in realizing their social roles and how they constrain their capacity?
- How the process of developing individual gender identity affects female and male lives? How do boys and girls absorb specific gender roles?
- What are the chances of developing gender sensitive education which will address also diversity issues? What are the best practices in that respect?

The following guest speakers will take part in the panel discussion:

- **Agnieszka Graff** - a writer, feminist; she works in the American Studies Center and at the Gender Studies at the Warsaw University.
- **Jana Cvikova** - a translator and feminist author, co-founder of Slovakian ASPEKT.
- **Ewa Rutkowska** - a member of Opta Association which conducts projects aimed at combating violence against women and Feminoteka Foundation. She is a teacher and co-author of a manual for teachers to teach them how to conduct gender sensitive lessons.
- **Piotr Laskowski** - director of Multicultural Humanistic High School named after Jacek Kuron.

Chair: **Joanna Piotrowska**, the Chairwoman of Feminoteka Foundation.

The event will be simultaneously translated into Polish and English. We invite you to join us for a glass of wine after the event. During the debate the Heinrich Böll Foundation offers qualified childcare.

Please confirm your participation in the event and, if necessary, the need for childcare, by **8 June**, either by e-mail (hbs@boell.pl) or by telephone (+48 22 594 23 33).