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# INVITATION

**to the Regional Central and Eastern European Conference**

**of the European Society of Women in Theological Research** **(eswtr)**

## **“WOMEN’S VOICES AND ACTIONS: INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, MIGRATIONS AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE”**

**September 9th – 11th, 2020**

**Faculty of Theology, University of Ljubljana (Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

ZRS Koper – Science and Research Centre Koper in cooperation with the Faculty of Theology of University of Ljubljana invites you to join the 12th International Conference of ESWTR entitled **“WOMEN’S VOICES AND ACTIONS: INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, MIGRATIONS, ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE”** that will take place on September 9th – 11th, 2020 at the Faculty of Theology of University of Ljubljana (Poljanska c. 4. Ljubljana 1000, Slovenia).

# **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:**

The Slovenian cultural memory includes its own, strong version of European anti-Muslimism which is interwoven with stereotypes of the Turks as brutal, soulless warriors of a foreign faith who pillaged Slovenian villages, raped Slovenian women, stole Slovenian children and turned them into janissaries. The memories of actual Ottoman raids and interactions with the Ottomans have become a mythologized national trauma. This simplified collective memory, which has become a national trauma, needs to be cured. Inter-religious dialogue can lead to the mending of difficult, even utterly broken, relationships. That's why the so called religious »awakening« of the individual is needed. This virtue is forming when the individual is active in an inter-religious dialogue and when there is a mutual understanding of the religious »limits«.

On one hand, interreligious dialogue in Europe is more developed and dynamic than ever before, and on the other hand, interreligious relations, with the rise of nationalisms and in the shadow of the refugee crisis, are under strong pressure and are being the victims of rough politicization. Critical understanding of the dynamics and different contexts of interreligious dialogue and of the obstacles to the kind of dialogue is crucial for identifying the best opportunities for the success of dialogue and facilitating life in religious plurality.

Although the voices of women and their engagement in interreligious dialogue and the religious establishment of peace, at least on a visible formal level, is often left out, ignored, it is at informal levels, in the expression of concrete actions, the women's effort to restore peace is very much alive and present. It should be noted, however, that the issue of equal gender recognition or recognition of women and their visible role at formal levels is, in fact, very closely connected with the question of understanding and positioning of the religious (O)ther. Therefore, the key to the equal recognition of women's voice is one of the key components of a quality interreligious dialogue, or the key to the equal recognition of the religious (O)ther. Both are crucial in transforming and raising human awareness on the individual as on the collective levels.

We invite women in theological and religious research to discuss complex and dynamic question of women's active participation and engagement in inter-religious dialogue, religious peace-building and eco-justice in times of migrations, refugge and ecological crises; and to rethink and search for new **ethical criterion and theological responses to the refuge and ecological crisis; and** pursuit and search for potential ways of resolving religious conflicts which arise as a result of migration (the refugee crisis) and which generate new conflicts due to fixed religious identities and prejudices.

## Submissions can focus on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

* women actions and voices in inter-religious dialogue, migrations, refuge and ecological crisis;
* women refuges, human rights and religion;
* women as refuges - experience, hopes and future possibilities;
* integration process and the question of women’s religious identity;
* new models and good practices of women’s religious movements and initiatives;
* conflict transformation and peace building, women as mediators in peace building process;
* violence and vulnerability of women, physical, cultural and structural violence against women;
* Bible, Quran and Jewish/Christian Apocrypha on Women, Inter-religious Dialogue, and Peacebuilding and Hospitality;
* eco-feminist ethics of non-violence and peace, and ethics of inter-dependence;
* social, religious and ecological justice.

Activities:

* Long/short talks
* Workshops
* Exhibitions
* Prayers/Rituals

Deadlines and logistics:

* The application forms with all the required information (including photo!) should be submitted by  **February 15, 2020**
* The abstracts (500 words max.) should be submitted by **February 15, 2020**
* Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **March 15, 2020**
* To facilitate translators’ work, texts of accepted talks should be submitted by **June 30, 2020**
* Please note **plenary** (long) talks should last **40 minutes** (+ 20 minutes for questions and discussion) while short talks – **20 minutes** (+ 10 minutes for questions and discussion)

Languages of the conference: English, German

All proposals should be sent to Nadja Furlan Štante at: [Nadja.furlan@zrs-kp.si](mailto:Nadja.furlan@zrs-kp.si)

# **FINANCES:**

* The **conference fee** is 30 Euros (due upon arrival)
* The **board & room fee** is 160€ (due upon arrival; includes, accommodation [3 nights], meals, coffee-breaks, conference materials)
* Presenters and members of the ESWTR from Central and Eastern Europe are **welcome to apply for partial reimbursement** of the travel and board & room costs. Please complete the registration form accordingly. Preference will be given to women who will offer talks/workshops

# **ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

Nadja Furlan Štante (PhD) – Science and Research Centre Koper

Anja Zalta (PhD) – Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Maja Bjelica (PhD) – Science and Research Centre Koper

Rebeka Anic (PhD) – Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

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# **REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE**

Title**:**

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Photo:

A short biography (800 characters):

Current research and activity:

Recent and/or most important publications:

# APPLICATION FORM

First name:

Surname:

Institution:

Position/Dept:

E-mail:

Correspondence address:

This is my first ESWTR conference: yes / no

I need translation (mark in the box):

( ) From English to: ( ) German

( ) From German to ( ) English

I would like:

( ) to give a long talk (or)

( ) to give a short talk

( ) to organize a workshop

( ) to organize an exhibition

( ) to prepare a prayer

# **ACCOMMODATION**

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Arrival at ............. (date), at …… (time) (means of transport)

Departure............ (date), at………….. (time) (means of transport)

Travel cost (least expensive option)………

Dietary requirements:

( ) Vegetarian

( ) Other

Accommodation (double rooms only)

Name of preferred roommate:

# FEES

First name:

Surname:

Address:

1. Conference fee is required
2. Travel costs

( ) On my own

( ) Please refund ………… of the cost.

1. Board & room

( ) On my own

( ) Please refund ………… of the cost.

# PLENARY TALK or SHORT TALK

Name, Surname:

Title:Women and vulnerability:

Abstract (500 words):

Key words:

Equipment: