

### **Should men not have to ask if women want to have sex?**

Current legislation stipulates that for a man to be convicted of rape, the victim must be able to prove she resisted him. The application of the law builds on the masculinist assumption that a woman does not have a sexuality of her own, but exists as a readily available object for male satisfaction.

### **Should women suffering from heart attacks be made to wait longer for an ambulance than men?**

Women suffering from heart attacks wait longer than men for the ambulance, get referrals to fewer medical examinations, and receive less, as well as less expensive medication. (Source: The National Board of Health and Welfare)

### **Should the monthly income differ by 3590 SEK for industrial and health care jobs?**

The ten most male-dominated professions employ a total of 387 000 men. The average salary is 20 890 SEK. 388 000 women work within the health care sector, one of the most female-dominated professions. Average salary: 17 300 SEK.

### **Should women take on 83% of the parental leave, 79% of the part time employment, 60% of the unpaid work, and 64% of long term medical leaves?**

Women combine paid work with domestic responsibilities. Men combine paid work with economic and political power. Women's life patterns increasingly result in long-term medical leaves. (Sources: Statistics Sweden, Social Insurance Administration, Karolinska Institute)

### **Should women persecuted for being women receive less protection than other refugees?**

When women seeking asylum are the victims of domestic abuse, this is treated like a family problem rather than a reason for asylum, even though gender-based persecution constitutes grounds for asylum in Sweden since 1997.

## **This is just the beginning!**

These are only a few of the political issues that Feminist Initiative is pursuing. We will spend the coming year formulating a strong, clear feminist political agenda containing specific demands and suggestions. With enough support, we will raise these issues in the 2006 elections, and eventually in Parliament. Do you want to join us in renewing Swedish politics? Let us know! You will find contact information on the back of this folder.

## **Want to join us?**

Do you want to join in the work of **Feminist Initiative**? We anticipate large amounts of support, which will grant us seats in Parliament. Our efforts will be needed at all levels, so your skills and energy will come to great use. Sign up on our website, [www.feministisktinitiativ.se](http://www.feministisktinitiativ.se), or call 0706-100 190.

### **How do I become a member of Feminist Initiative?**

Sign up on our website, [www.feministisktinitiativ.se](http://www.feministisktinitiativ.se), or call 0706-100 190. The membership fee is 200 SEK. The money will be used toward the continued work of Feminist Initiative. We also welcome monetary donations beyond the membership fee.



**Feminist initiative**

**A new dimension in politics**

## What is Feminist Initiative?

**Feminist Initiative** has a vision of a world in which all humans have the same potential and ability to live full and complete lives. This vision does not correspond to our lived reality. Women are systematically subordinated to men. This is something we want to change.

**Feminist Initiative** is a collective of women who will no longer wait for the established political parties to pursue feminist political questions. We welcome men who join our work in solidarity.

The established political parties have failed to challenge the prevailing gender hierarchy. Report after report is commissioned while important decisions regarding gender equality are set aside.

Despite the rights that women have attained, through tireless work and intense struggles, the current political system is unable to realize a society with real gender equality.

We will bring a new dimension to politics. While the questions we bring to the table are not new, our political strategies are. For us, feminist issues will always be at the top of the political agenda.

We believe the time has come for a feminist initiative in Swedish parliamentary politics. Therefore, **Feminist Initiative** now seeks support to enter Parliament after the 2006 elections.

## What does Feminist Initiative want?

**Feminist Initiative** continues the struggle and hard work undertaken by women throughout history to improve their lives. **Feminist Initiative** puts feminist issues and concerns at the top of the political agenda.

**Feminist Initiative** does not believe that all women can agree on everything. Women differ from one another. Our interests, hopes, and wishes are different. Our circumstances, prospects, and resources divide us. We are ascribed different societal positions based on our economic conditions and our class identity, our degree of education, our country of birth, our sexual preference, our skin colour and our cultural belonging. We also differ in our values and our ways of constructing value systems.

**Feminist Initiative** makes demands from the point of view of a feminist analysis, which shows that although women speak with different voices, are situated in different locations, have different experiences, and live different lives under different conditions, we are all confronted by the power structure that puts men in positions of superiority and women in positions of inferiority.

**Feminist Initiative** sees the conditions under which women live. Women are less able than men to take up space, make themselves heard and be taken seriously within the educational, professional, corporate and judicial structures, as well as in the realms of culture, politics, and the media. We want to change all this, and much more.

**Feminist Initiative** is devoted to the thought of freeing women from gender-based inequality and injustice. We turn to the patriarchal order with our demands. We cannot permit decisions that allow some women to liberate themselves from inequality at the expense of others. We strive for the liberation of all women. This is how we create solidarity among women; this is how we continue the feminist struggle.

**Feminist Initiative** sees international solidarity and an anti-militaristic stance as fundamental aspects of its work.

**Feminist Initiative** sees that Swedish gender politics have hitherto been based on a view of equality as a non-zero sum game, meaning that women's conditions can improve without affecting those of men.

**Feminist Initiative** builds its politics upon an analysis, which makes it clear that women's subordination results from the privileging of men. Therefore, men must agree to relinquish their privileges.

**Feminist Initiative** formulates a politics, which in every area and aspect of life poses a challenge to patriarchy. We anticipate a large degree of resistance, but expect an even larger and stronger feminist desire for change.

## Who are the members of Feminist Initiative?

Many conversations have been held in many different forums about the future of feminism in Sweden.

Several groups have joined forces and formed **Feminist Initiative**.

We come from different backgrounds and bring different kinds of experiences from different environments and contexts. Political and private, left and right. We have different sexual orientations, different cultural identities. However, we are united by our awareness that men are put in positions of superiority to women, and by our desire to change this fact.

### **There will be many of us!**

The most important thing is for women's voices to be heard. Through **Feminist Initiative**, you too can make a difference. The feminist discussion is enriched when women with varied life experiences contribute their knowledge and ideas.

**Feminist Initiative** welcomes everyone who wants to work politically for a gender equal world.

