

## **Program for the first Module – EPIL**

### **European Project for Interreligious Learning**

Protestant Academy Boldern  
Männedorf (near Zurich), Switzerland

**Saturday, May 26 – Saturday, June 2, 2007**

### **“Difference and the Search for Identity”**

The module marks the beginning of a two-year process. It will enable women from different countries and diverse religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds to grow together as a learning community.

The module will

- offer training of dialogue methods which will be practised throughout the entire study course: new insights are developed by listening, by assuming an attitude of empathy and by learning techniques that allow for a change of perspective.
- include a seminar on basic religious issues, which will be presented not as doctrinal statements but as they relate to women’s daily lives: the self definition of the “other” will serve as the basis for further exploration.
- introduce students to the situation of Muslims in Switzerland and explore the visibility of religion in the city.
- highlight dialogue initiatives of women of both faiths.

## **Saturday, May 26**

Early Afternoon

16.30

Arrival and Welcome

**Welcome and introduction: Understanding EPIL as an alternative discourse**

Reinhild Traitler and Teny Pirri-Simonian (EPIL Board)

18.15

Dinner

19.30 - 21.30

**Getting to know each other**

With Rifa'at Lenzin and Tania Oldenhage

## **Sunday, May 27**

8.45

Morning Meditation

9.00

**“The Basics of my Faith” – Voices from Islam and Christianity**

We listen to speakers from five religious traditions:

- Randa Halabi, The Druze Faith
- Rifa'at Lenzin, Islam
- Teny Pirri-Simonian, Orthodox Christianity
- Sonja Sailer-Pfister, Roman Catholic Church
- Heike Wolf, Protestant Christianity

16.00

Group Work and Plenary Discussions: “The Basics of our Faiths”

**“The Philosophy of Human Rights and Intercultural Identity”**

Public Lecture by Gret Haller

Public Reception with Representatives from EPIL and VIOZ

(Vereinigung Islamischer Organisationen in Zürich), the Zürich Forum der Religionen, the Ecumenical Women's Movement and the Fatima az Zahra Women's Movement

19.00-21.00

**Banquet républicain**

## **Monday, May 28**

All Day

**Dialogue – A Different Approach to Learning**

Training Seminar with Martina Hartkemeyer

## **Tuesday, May 29**

8.45

Morning Meditation

9.00

**Identities and Sacred Texts**

We engage in narratives from the Bible and the Qur'an

Led by Tania Oldenhage and Rifa'at Lenzin

15.00

**Religion, Truth and Power**

Are claims to truth and claims to power related in monotheist religions?

Perspectives on some historical and present day realities. Inputs and Discussions

With Amira Hafner-Al Jabaji and Reinhild Traitler

19.30 - 22.00

**Identities and Places**

Five Country-Presentations

### **Wednesday, May 30**

8.45 Morning Meditation  
All Day **The Visibility of Religion**  
Excursion to the City of Zurich led by Hanna Kandal-Stierstadt

- Visiting the Office of Integration in Zurich
- Walking through the city with open eyes
- Having dinner at the Bosnian Mosque in Schlieren and meeting members of the community

### **Thursday, May 31**

8.45 Morning Meditation  
9.00 **Religious Identity and Gender**  
Group Work: Gender - what difference does it make?  
The Feminist Question - Inputs by Rifa'at Lenzin and Tania Oldenhage  
Plenary Discussions  
15.00 **Women's Perspectives on Interreligious Dialogue**  
Brigit Keller and Marise Lendorff-El Rafii share their experiences with women's interreligious dialogue projects in Switzerland  
Evening Free Time

### **Friday, June 1**

8.45 Morning Meditation  
9.00 Open Questions - Unfinished Business  
15.30 Evaluations  
19.30-21.00 Farewell Party

### **Saturday, June 2**

Morning Meeting of Learning Groups  
Good Bye Ritual  
Departure after Lunch

## Who is Who?

Amira Hafner-Al Jabaji, Scholar of Islamic Sciences, Grenchen

Randa Halabi, managing since 1998 the Toufic Assaf Lebanese cultural center, initiating and directing the cultural program for youth, lifelong learning and multiculturalism.

Dr. Dr. h.c. Gret Haller, former president of the Swiss Parliament and Human Rights Commissioner for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajewo, now teaching at the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt

Hanna Kandal-Stierstadt, Protestant pastor in Zürich-Schwamendingen

Dr. Brigit Keller, writer and former study director at the Paulus-Akademie, Zürich

Marise Lendorff-El Rafii, Lecturer of Intercultural Pedagogy

Rifa'at Lenzin, Scholar of Islamic Sciences and Comparative Religions, Vice-president of the Interreligious Association of Switzerland (IRAS-COTIS)

Dr. Martina Hartkemeyer, specialist in dialogue with the Adolf Reichwein Society, Osnabrück

Dr. Tania Oldenhage, Protestant Theologian at the Protestant Academy of Boldern

Dr. Sonja Sailer-Pfister, works with the Dean of the Roman Catholic Church of Cologne

Teny Pirri-Simonian, works in the office of Ecumenical Relations, World Council of Churches in Geneva

Dr. Reinhild Traitler, former study director at the Boldern academy, works on interreligious projects and as EPIL coordinator

Heike Wolf, Protestant Theologian, teacher of religious education,  
Vienna