

# KURDISH WOMEN: FEMINISM AND POLITICS

- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
- (KURDISH FREEDOM MOVEMENT)
- THE WAY TOWARDS FREEDOM THROUGH FEMINISM.
- POLITICS AS AN AREA OF STRUGGLE.
- THE GAINS FROM THE POLITICAL GROUND.

## V. INTERNATIONAL GENDER WORKSHOP

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# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ◉ Social conditions:
- ◉ Social, economic, educational and cultural effects. These first defenders of feminism were from bourgeois backgrounds, they lived in great towns like Istanbul, they were highly educated, and most of them were the daughters and sisters of influential intellectuals.
- ◉ Civil rights movements - Women rightst movements: the first time in Turkish history when feminist women were able to speak out their revolt in their own name, was in the period following the military coup of September 1980 which put an end to all political struggle in the country. This political conjuncture limited severely women's ability to organise and publish a journal of their own. But, paradoxically this is the first time when feminist women are gathering to form small 'consciousness raising groups', in order to understand the dimensions of oppression under which they have lived throughout the entire Republic

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ◉ Kurdish freedom movement: a new ideology and struggle that lead the women to freedom. A fight against patriarchy and racial discrimination. The Women who break down the barriers which are based on a conservative, conventional and male mentality.
- ◉ Kurdish feminism represents an example of a third-wave women's movement; a struggle that aimed to surpass the dual oppression against women, namely for gender and ethnicity.
- ◉ Zilan, Beritan, Arin Mirxan: persons that dedicated their lives to freedom.

# FEMINISM AND THE WAY TOWARDS FREEDOM.

- ◉ Student movements and women on the stage.
- ◉ Questioning women' s role in the society.
- ◉ Shaking the barriers of traditional ideology that determines gender's role.
- ◉ A new perspective emerged, which is rooted in Kurdish freedom movement.

# POLITICS: AS AN AREA OF STRUGGLE

- ◉ Women turn the spotlight on politics, that was dominated by male mentality, with a feminist perspective.
- ◉ Politics encounter with the "colour purple".
- ◉ The hurdles and hardships that must be surpassed.
- ◉ Women 's (Kurdish) bravery, on political ground, turned a key stone in the field of women's right movement and democracy.

# GAINS FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS (STRUGGLES) AND ITS RESULTS.

- ◉ Women have set a new form of politics.
- ◉ Women gained voice and began to appear in the political and social spheres, that was mostly dominated by men.
- ◉ Women shook the rules that forced them into the domestic sphere.
- ◉ No more docile and mute but more active and effective in the every stage of life.
- ◉ HDP: a political party for women and against male dominated ideology.



# HDP(PEOPLES' DEMOKRATIC PARTY)

- ◎ Call For a New life.
- ◎ The call for a new life is **for Women!**
- ◎ We have taken a principle stand against all forms of discrimination and violence to women. In this, we will continue.
- ◎ Only if women take a leading role, we will be able achieve our new way of life. Every society is only as free as the women in its society.

# HDP:ASSEMBLIES OF WOMEN

- ◎ Life together can only be based on equality and freedom.
- ◎ We will establish **assemblies of women**, youth, the disabled, belief groups, cultural and ethnic groups, farmers, workers and labourers. Instead of increasing the power of presidency, we will undertake a presidency which will guarantee the increased power of the people.



# HDP: POLITICS AND WOMEN

- ◎ compulsory applies a minimum 40% women's quota in the whole skeleton of the party, and its affiliated parties and organizations (but main aim is to achieve 100% equality in every stage of life).
- ◎ Apart from that, it is a compulsory, and unanimously agreed upon, by the members that a party or any other institutions should be presided in a joint leadership; a woman and a man.
- ◎ This is the innovation of Kurdish freedom struggle movement that you cannot find in the whole Middle East region. You can hardly find female political figures in the Middle East. This is not to say that some female political figures don't exist in the Middle East, but of those that do, rarely get to the higher positions. But in Kurdish the freedom struggle and political ideology, has become a system that will go forward in the future.

# LEYLA ZANA: HER LIFE AND STRUGGLE, IN THE POLITIC, AS A KURDISH WOMAN



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