

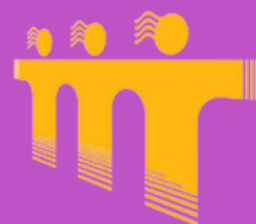
ZATO 



# FER SCHOOL

Feminism Religion

**TPO**  
FONDACIJA



ekumenska inicijativa žena

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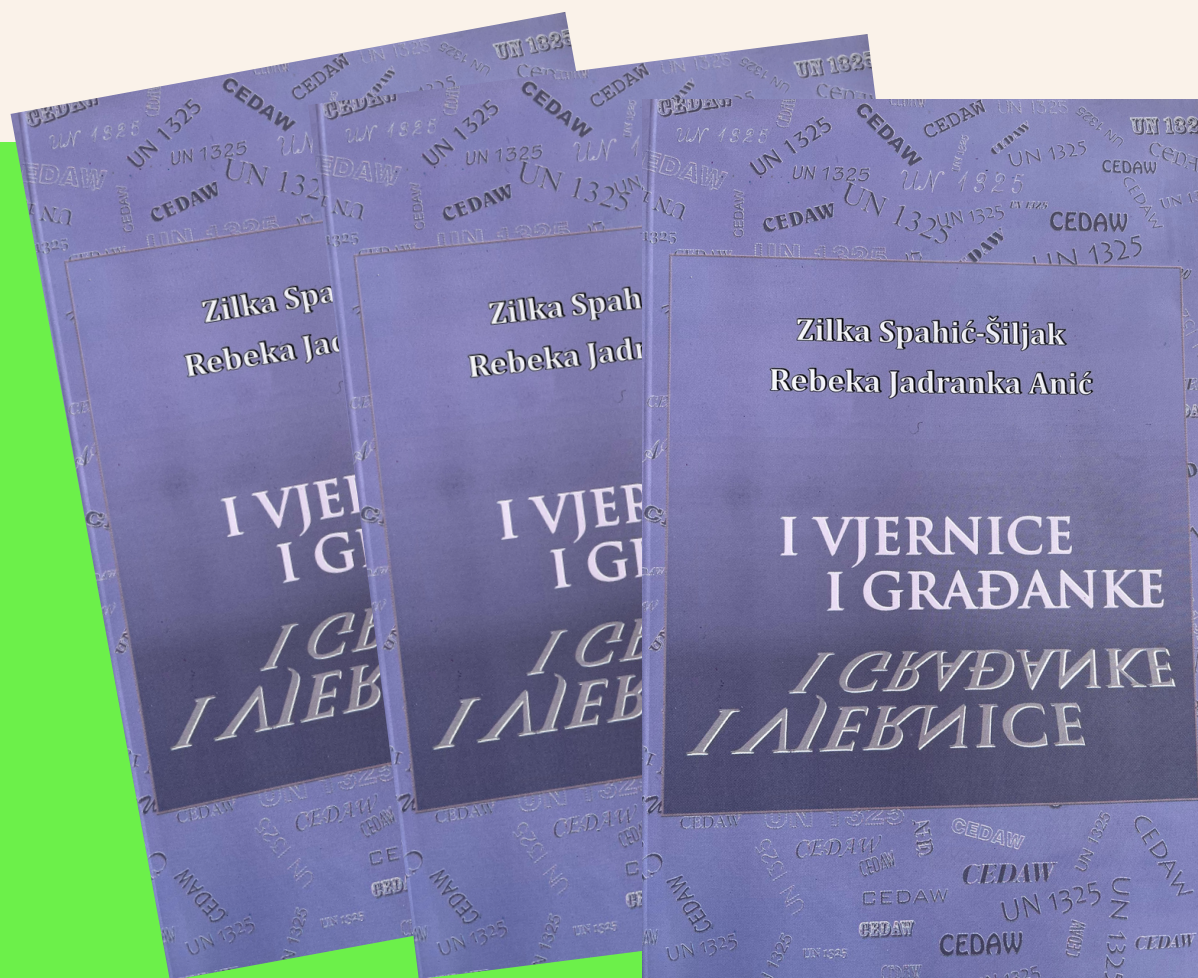


# WHAT IS FER SCHOOL?

In former Yugoslav countries, secular laws based on international norms of human rights and freedoms are in force, while almost 90% of the population identifies as religious believers. Does this situation necessarily lead to social dichotomy and misunderstanding? Or is it possible to create space for learning, dialogue, and encounter between religious and secular perspectives, especially when it comes to key issues such as gender equality?

Recognizing the need to bridge the discourse communities of feminism and religion, and acknowledging the potential for creating new frameworks for understanding rights and freedoms, Associate Professor Zilka Spahić Šiljak PhD and Scientific Advisor Jadranka Rebeka Anić PhD created the program "Both Believers and Citizens," which was implemented from 2008 to 2018.

Since there were no similar academic programs in the region and the interest and response exceeded initial expectations, they launched the online [FER School](#).



# GOALS

**DECONSTRUCTING  
THE FOUNDATIONS  
OF GENDER  
STEREOTYPES AND  
CONSTRUCTING  
EGALITARIAN  
GENDER MODELS  
GROUNDED IN  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
RELIGIOUS  
ARGUMENTS**

**01.**

**CRITICAL  
EXAMINATION OF  
RELIGIOUS  
TRADITIONS AND  
SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH ON  
GENDER ISSUES**

**02.**

**PROMOTION OF  
INTERRELIGIOUS  
LEARNING AND  
UNDERSTANDING  
THROUGH THE  
DECONSTRUCTION  
OF PATRIARCHAL  
GENDER MODELS**

**03.**

**EMPOWERMENT  
FOR CHANGES  
WITHIN RELIGIOUS  
COMMUNITIES,  
CHURCHES, AND  
SECULAR SOCIETY  
TOWARDS  
EGALITARIAN  
GENDER MODELS**

**04.**



# ABOUT OUR COURSES

**The FER School, through its academic and non-academic courses, is designed for anyone who wishes to question their beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, and practices regarding human rights and freedoms, and who wants to explore how gender stereotypes shape the lives of women and men in families and society.**

## ACADEMIC COURSES

- 30 hours of lectures and 15 hours of exercises (equivalent to 4 ECTS credits)
- Participants are required to:
  1. Read the assigned literature before each session and attend the lecture
  2. Participate in discussions and prepare presentations
  3. Write a final academic paper
- Those who fulfill all obligations will receive a certificate and a transcript with a grade, while those who fail to submit the final paper will only receive a certificate.

## NON-ACADEMIC COURSES

- 20 hours of lectures and exercises
- Sessions consist of:
  1. Lectures
  2. Reading texts, watching videos, etc.
  3. Discussions
- Participants are required to participate in discussions.
- Those who fulfill all obligations will receive a certificate of attendance.



# ACADEMIC COURSES



- History of feminism in the West and the East
- Gender, religion, and violence
- Sociology of gender
- Gender, religion, and media
- Gender and philosophy
- Gender, religion, and peacebuilding
- Feminist theology in Christianity and Islam
- Gender, culture, and spirituality
- Anthropology: Philosophical Christian-Islamic perspective in dialogue with contemporary science
- Gender and Judaism



# NON-ACADEMIC COURSES

## "FEMINISM - AN ABSOLUTE CURSE" (THE WEST)

Do we know what feminism is and why women distance themselves from feminism? What is the problem? Why do women often say: "I am for equality but I am not a feminist."

## IS PEACE A "WOMEN'S THING"?

What is peace and how do we understand it? Is there such a thing as a feminine and masculine peace? Are women more oriented towards peace than men? Are women naturally peace-loving and nonviolent?

## IS WOMAN A HUMAN? FROM MYTHS, HOLY TEXTS TO MODERN SCIENCE

The aim of the course is to analyze various narratives starting from ancient myths, through biblical and Quranic texts, to contemporary popular science and scientific works.

## DON'T WALK THAT WAY, BABY!

The goal of the course is to understand what kind of behavior society expects from different gendered individuals. How we look, what we do, which jobs are designated for us - it's all determined by societal expectations and our beliefs on how we should behave.

## EASTERN FACES OF FEMINISM

Does feminism only exist in the West? Is feminism compatible with religion? Have you heard that there are Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and other feminisms in Asia, Africa, and elsewhere in the world?

## AND YOU, GOOD SISTER, KEEP QUIET...

Through this course, we examine the basis of such statements, the arguments in culture, tradition, and religion that justify and silence violence. During discussions, you will learn about what violence is, what gender-based violence is, how to recognize it, what types of violence exist, and what prevention and protection mechanisms are available.

# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?

## Founders of FER school:



**ZILKA SPAHIĆ  
ŠILJAK, PHD**

The University Gender Resource  
Centre (UNIGeRC) and TPO  
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# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



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**AJLA DEMIRAGIĆ, PHD**

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Scientist emeritus at University at Zadar,  
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**ANJA ZALTA, PHD**

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# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



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**SABIHA HUSIĆ, PHD**

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# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



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**ZORANA ANTONIJEVIĆ, PHD**

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# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



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Researcher and associate of the FER School, North Macedonia



**ANA MARIJA RAFFAI, PHD**

Peace activist and associate of the FER School, Croatia



**AMRA PANDŽO, PHD**

Peace activist and associate of the FER School, Bosnia and Herzegovina

# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



**KSENIJA MAGDA, PHD**

University center of protestant theology  
„Matija Vlačić Ilirik“,  
Croatia



**ELMA SOFTIĆ - KAUNITZ, MA**

General secretary of Jewish municipality,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**MERIMA JAŠAREVIĆ, PHD**

University "Džemal Bijedić" in Mostar,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**SUZANA VRHOVSKI PERAN, PHD**

Catholic University of Croatia,  
Croatia

# WHO IS FER SCHOOL?



**ANITA DREMEL, PHD**

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek,  
Croatia

# WHY FER SCHOOL?

*Our alumni about us:*



FER School has offered a completely new perspective in understanding the (un)grounded religious arguments that have influenced the subordinate position of women in society and the family, by analyzing theological texts and presenting the political and social context. The school represents an educational program that provides a critical review of the history of the women's rights movement, feminist theory, and other related important political and social issues. I would particularly emphasize that in addition to the theoretical analysis, discussions allow space for participants to express their opinions, interpret, and share their experiences on feminism, religion, and gender.

**DINA GUSINAC,  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**



Attending the FER school has been fruitful. I received encouragement for deeper inquiry into the matters I am already engaged with. I had the opportunity to attend lectures and engaging literature on a daily basis, as well as to socialize with lecturers and participants who think differently, which poses a challenge and pulls us out of our comfort zone. The concept of the lectures itself is dynamic and constructive.

**VANJA IVKOVIĆ,  
CROATIA**

# WHY FER SCHOOL?

*Our alumni about us:*



I am a feminist and an atheist and FER school has helped me gain insight into how believers can be good feminists, which I'd doubted, as well as to understand religion and the space in which both believers and atheists have to act. The essence of everything are peace, growth and a safe space - all which are offered by FER school.

**NADA DROBNJAK,  
MONTENEGRO**



FER school has exceeded all my expectations. The recommended literature was very carefully selected amongst the best books about feminist theories and most recent works on feminist thought, philosophy, religion and peacebuilding.

**OLGA BREZOVAR,  
SLOVENIA**





Contact us and join FER school!

<https://ferskola2022.onlinebase.net/>

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