



Press release 2015-09-01

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S STRUGGLES AGAINST RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM

September 4-6, ABF Sveavägen 41 in Stockholm

Religious fundamentalism is gaining ground and is a serious threat to women's rights all over the world. As fundamentalism is spreading women are at risk of being even more controlled and limited. Therefore, the counteracting forces also need to be strengthened and coordinated.

International women's activists who are in the frontline for women's rights will attend Women's Network's conference to share their knowledge and experience.

***"These are women who on a daily basis are exposed to threats and oppression from religious fundamentalists, but who refuse to keep quiet"***, says Leila Qaraee, Chair of Women's Network (Kvinnors Nätverk). ***"We must show solidarity and support each other in the struggle for women's rights all over the world."***

The conference is aiming to develop strategies and disseminate information for and about those working against religious fundamentalism, for democracy and women's human rights. By holding the conference Women's Network is providing a platform for women's rights activists from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe to exchange experiences among those working to combat fundamentalism and discrimination on grounds of sex, ethnic or religious affiliation.

The conference will be attended by activists, researchers and other experts from among others Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Kobane and Sweden to tell us about their experiences and challenges in the struggle against fundamentalism – for women's rights.

#### Press conference

**Time:** Friday 4th of September at 12.00

**Location:** ABF, Sveavägen 41, 5:th floor (Gästrikerummet/Värmlandsrummet), Stockholm

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***Kvinnors Nätverk (Women's Network)*** is an organization based in Sweden that works for women's and children's universal human rights and against violence and oppression. That human rights must never be violated in the name of culture, tradition, honor or religion is the very foundation of the work carried out by Kvinnors Nätverk. In addition to spreading information and influencing public opinion nationally and internationally, the organization works with support and advisory services for women and children who are exposed to violence.