



Not to Mention

We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality.

Ayn RAND

Active oppression is usually noisy enough to be noticed. It is difficult to hide a prison full of people or to pretend that Siberia is nothing but a natural paradise.

There is, however, a more subtle form of oppression that is much less noisy and thus much harder to detect. This is oppression by silence. If a wrongdoing is not mentioned, it perpetuates itself. Not to mention can be a refined method of disfavouring an individual or a group. Many liberation movements started their operation by trying to convince the public that there actually is something wrong in society.

One of the problems of contemporary Europe and contemporary world that needs mentioning is the issue of the rights of women and more specifically, the phenomenon of trafficking in women. This issue was chosen as the key topic for the spring gender conference of WSCF Europe, Respecting Human Dignity and Integrity: Gender and Theological Perspectives on Human Rights, which took place in April 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is also at the core of this issue of Mozaik which focuses on human rights from a gender perspective.

Self-criticism is a value that should accompany every discourse about rights and oppression. History teaches us that it is very easy for the oppressed to become oppressors once they gain power if they view reality only through the prism of their own suffering. On the other hand this kind of discourse also needs unequivocal statements, even at the risk of one-sidedness. To discuss rights and their violation in an impartial way is almost impossible. Still this should be an impetus for more and not less discussion.

Furthermore, in every liberation struggle there are stages. Systematic breaking of silence needs to become a continuous discourse that collects ideas for the optimal realisation of liberation.

The authors of the articles brought to you in this journal make the reader uneasy at times, which is a sign that they take the discourse about human rights and gender in a passionate way. We hope that the passion of the writers will be received with authentic open-mindedness by the readers, who are cordially invited to send comments, feedback, questions and further ideas to our e-mail address: wscfmozaik@yahoo.co.uk.

The topic of this issue of Mozaik finds its way to the reader also through the artwork of our illustrator Kamelia KONSTANTINOVA from Bulgaria. This versatile artist, who deals both with icons and children's illustrations, expresses in her art the modalities of the relation between unity and diversity.

This issue of Mozaik is my first as editor-in-chief. I remain grateful to my predecessor NAGYPÁL Szabolcs for the amazing work he has done in resuscitating and shaping Mozaik. I am also thankful for his assistance and advice during the process of handover and hope for a continuation of our co-operation in the future. I would also like to thank my fellow editors Angharad and Rebecca, with whom it was a pleasure to edit this first issue of mine, and whose invisible hand you will encounter throughout the journal.

Ut omnes unum sint.

