

Feminism On The Rise In Poland

At last, two women are members of the Solidarity Government in Poland. One carries the title of speaker and the other is the Minister of Culture.

This is a first symbol of change in Poland. Only a few months ago, such a situation would have been inconceivable in a country, where only men have the right to speak.

Malgorzata Niezabitowska, 40, brings her beauty, charm and feminine touch to the job of speaker. She adds her radiating style to the profession, something her predecessor, Jersy Urban, lacked. In fact, contrary to Urban who quoted Lenin and the Communist doctrine in length, Malgorzata speaks of her government in simpler and more personal terms using expressions such as «We» and «Us». This young woman, a former journalist, speaks eagerly in the name of the people: «We have neither police nor army. The administration does not belong to us, nor does the economy. Our only force is in the people and the bonds which link the Polish people with their new government.»

Married to a photographer and mother of an eleven year old daughter, Malgorzata is among the first Polish women to break away from the old and rigid Poland, and to pioneer for more feminism in her country.

The second woman in the new Polish government is Isabella Cywinska. She is the new Minister of Culture. Isabella, 54, is well known in her country as a director at the Theatre of Poznan. She is also well known for her involvement in politics. She was arrested in 1981 for her support to solidarity. She was later released after the intervention of The Society of Actors and Cinematographers in Poland.

Isabella Cywinska was appointed to the post of Minister while in the middle of a theatre production. Therefore, she had to take a leave from the government in order to complete her work. Not only is she the Minister of Culture but an active member of cultural activities in her country.

Source: «La Pologne S'Ouvre Au Feminisme», *La Revue Du Liban*, No. 1571, 13-20 Janvier, 1990. p. 23. (French Reference).