



# Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality and Labour Participation

21 November 2008  
Tweede Kamer, The Hague



**Mariette Hamer**  
Member of Parliament

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the Gender Equality Conference, organised by the Swedish Embassy and the Commission of Emancipation of the House of Representatives. Much has changed in recent decades. Our mothers used to stay at home while our fathers went off to work. Today, women often choose to work part-time. And if you ask our sons and daughters what they want to be when they grow up, the answer is no longer just one occupation: they want to become a vet and a mother, or a policeman and a father. Men and women taking care of their children together: isn't that progress! Still: equality remains an issue. At home, at work, and in politics. My colleagues of the House of Representatives and I are hoping that this conference will provide a positive contribution to the emancipation debate.



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**Hans Magnusson**  
Ambassador of Sweden

It is my pleasure to invite you to a Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality and Labour Participation. The conference will gather experts from Sweden and the Netherlands to discuss and exchange views on issues that are fundamental to some of the choices that we make in life – opportunities for men and women to combine work and family life. This involves attitudes towards work and parenthood, the organisation of child care and preschool activities, laws to prevent discrimination on the labour market, the macro-economic perspective and the role of governments in ensuring that men and women have equal power and rights to shape society and their own lives. Three mini sessions will offer an opportunity to learn more about specific cases and instruments. New research will be presented that explains the differences between the two countries. There will also be opportunities to network and discuss issues over an informal lunch. I hope that you will find the programme and our speakers interesting and thought-provoking, and that I will have the opportunity to see you at our conference on 21 November 2008.

Welcome!

## Programme

**08.00-08.45 Registration and Coffee**

**09.00 Opening Ceremony**

**09.15-10.00 Session One: Sweden and the Netherlands – a Comparison**

**Introduction** – Cecilia Reimers, Swedish Institute

**The Historical, Sociological and Cultural Perspective** – Gertrud Åström

**Motherhood in the Netherlands and Sweden** – Ina Brouwer

**10.15-12.00 Session Two: Choices in Life – Reconciling Work and Family**

**Child Care and Parental Insurance in Sweden** – Ann-Zofie Duvander

**Women's Economic Independence** – Gertrud Åström

**Women and Work: Changes and Choices** – Pia Dijkstra

**Men and Parenthood** – Dennis Kullman

**Female Labour Market Participation in the Netherlands** – Joop Schippers

**Discussion**

**12.00-12.45 Networking lunch**



## Conference Speakers



**Ronald Plasterk**  
Minister of Education,  
Culture and Science



**Eva Uddén Sonnegård**  
State Secretary at the Ministry  
of Employment

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**Marieke Bax**  
Marieke Bax is a former  
Director of TopBrainstorm  
where she was responsible  
for the development of the  
Charter Talent to the Top.  
Currently she is member of  
the Committee Monitoring  
compliance with the Charter.



**Anne-Marie Bergström**  
Equal Opportunities  
Ombudsman in Sweden



**Ina Brouwer**  
Ina Brouwer is a former  
Member of Parliament and  
Director of emancipation policy  
at the Ministry of Social Affairs  
and Employment. She is currently  
the President of social  
entrepreneurs in childcare in  
the Netherlands.



**Eva Bugge**  
Ambassador of Norway.



**Anne-Charlott Callerstig**  
Anne-Charlott Callerstig is  
a researcher at Linköping  
University. Her research interest  
concerns implementation  
of gender equality policies,  
diversity management and  
organizational change processes.



**Pia Dijkstra**  
Pia Dijkstra is a radio- and  
television presenter, and the  
chair(wo)man of Taskforce  
DeeltijdPlus.



**Ann-Zofie Duvander**  
Ann-Zofie Duvander,  
Associate Professor, is a  
lecturer in Demography at  
Stockholm University and  
a Senior Researcher at the  
Swedish Social Insurance  
Agency.



**Laurien Koster**  
Laurien Koster is the  
President of the Dutch Equal  
Treatment Commission. She is  
a lawyer and former President  
of Rechtbank Alkmaar.



**Dennis Kullman**  
Dennis Kullman is an equal  
opportunity expert at the  
Swedish Rescue Services  
Agency.



**Joop Schippers**  
Joop Schippers is Professor of  
Labour and Gender Economics  
at Utrecht University, Director  
of the Department of Labour  
and Policy Issues of OSA,  
Institute for Labour Studies.



**Gertrud Åström**  
Gertrud Åström is a Swedish  
lecturer, executive director,  
entrepreneur and an expert on  
gender equality issues.



## Conference Moderator

**Harry Starren**  
CEO of de Baak Management  
Centrum VNO-NCW

### 12.45-14.00 Session Three: Equality in Practice (parallel mini-sessions)

**Case Study One: Charter and Quotas – Instruments to Promote Women** – Marieke Bax, Ambassador Eva Bugge

**Case Study Two: Diversity as a Business Case – the Employers' Perspective** – (Moderator to be confirmed)

**Case Study Three: Recent Action Research on Gender Equality within the Swedish Rescue Services** –

Dennis Kullman and Anne-Charlott Callerstig

### 14.00-14.30 Session Four: Discrimination and the Labour Market

Anne-Marie Bergström, Equal Opportunities Ombudsman

Laurien Koster, Dutch Equal Treatment Commission

### 14.30-15.00 Coffee

### 15.00-16.00 Session Five: The Role of Governments

**Women and Talent** - Ronald Plasterk

**Employment Policy and Gender Equality** - Eva Uddén Sonnegård

**Panel debate with speakers of this and previous sessions**

16.00 **Concluding remarks**

17.00 **Reception**





**Location:** Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, The Hague

**Address:** Binnenhof 1A

**Registration and coffee:** 08.00-08.45

**For more information:** [ambassaden.haag-conference@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:ambassaden.haag-conference@foreign.ministry.se)

[www.swedishconference.nl](http://www.swedishconference.nl)

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