

IBN RUSHD EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ibn Rushd Educational Association is right now one of the most exciting advances in adult education. We are the ninth and latest educational association to be approved in Sweden and have been working as an independent and state-funded association since the 1 January 2008. Ibn Rushd addresses the important national issues of diversity, integration and democracy.

We are active in five regions, from Skåne in the South to Norrbotten in the far north. Our committees and staff can boast a unique diversity that other organizations can only dream of. Our history started in 2001 with a project aimed at starting a Muslim educational association and for seven years, with the support of another established educational association, we strived to attain our own independence.

IBN RUSHD, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The name Ibn Rushd is for many a strange name when you first hear it. The word 'Ibn' means son and 'Rushd' means reason (as in listen to ..). Ibn Rushd is the name of a great scientist and philosopher who was born in 1126 in Cordoba, Spain. His Latin name was Averroës and he was also known as 'the Commentator' because he wrote extensive commentaries on the writings of Aristotle.

At this time, Andalusia, the Arabic-Spanish region, was thriving. It was here in Andalusia that the lost knowledge from the Greek philosophers was reunited with Europe. Here, unprecedented knowledge in mathematics, language, technology, philosophy, medicine and theology developed and grew. Here, Arabic was the obvious language of science and Islam the dominant religion. Muslims, Christians and Jews lived side by side. In Cordoba there was a library containing 500 000 books. Ibn Rushd wrote over 20000 pages that were published, mainly within the fields of medicine, philosophy, law and theology. For many Europeans, and not least the Swedes, the role of Islam in this development is a new and strange experience. The history books were wrong, the role of Islam has been indispensable to the development of European culture and identity.

VISION AND GOALS

Ibn Rushd is open to all. Our vision is to see Islam as an integral part of Swedish society. Being a Swedish Muslim is not to be seen as strange. Our goal is to support Muslims in Sweden and provide non-Muslims with more information about Islam. We do not want Swedish Muslims to take a passive role and always be subject to questions formulated by others. We wish to be active and be able to steer discussions, to be able to raise new issues and take part in creating the new Sweden. Not only does this mean defining what Islam is, it also means defining what Swedishness is. Swedishness for us is something that is changeable, something that contains more than one religion and something that can be enriched by diversity.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Ibn Rushd Educational Association has, at present, eight member organisations at the national level:

Förenade Islamiska Föreningar i Sverige (FIFS), Islamic Relief (www.islamic-relief.se), *Islamiska Förbundet i Sverige* (IFIS, www.islamiskaforbundet.se), *Islamiska Shiasamfundet i Sverige*, *Koranläsarnas Förbund*, *New Moon Kulturorganisation*, *Sveriges Muslimska Förbund (SMF)*, *Sveriges Muslimska Scouter (SMS)*, *Sveriges Unga Muslimer (SUM)*, www.ungamuslimer.se).

OUR ACTIVITIES

The main part of our educational activities takes place in co-operation with our member organisations. This co-operation is mainly in the form of study circles and cultural programmes. We also arrange open courses around our core themes, religion, culture, language and society. We even arrange seminars around the country. Our courses can be tailored to work-places, schools, businesses and organizations. Developing and running projects plays a central role in our activities. Currently we are engaged in two huge projects concerning adult education.

Förorternas Riksdag (*Suburban Parliament*), Forix

Förorternas Riksdag is a project aimed at harvesting the political ambitions of young people living in the suburbs. It is about giving young people a voice and equipping them with the tools needed to be able to influence society. It is also about our existing political parties and organizations being better at making use of the know-how and skills out in the suburbs. The project is a joint effort between Ibn Rushd, Sveriges Unga Muslimer, New Moon, OIKOS COMMUNITY and Hyllie Municipal District in Malmö. The project is sponsored by the *Allmänna Arvsfonden* (the Swedish Inheritance Fund). Contact: Linnea Ripenberg, linnea.ripenberg@ibnrushd.se.

Att främja islamisk fredskultur (*The promotion of Islamic Peace Culture*)

Young Muslims across the country have been trained to be Peace Agents. They have been given the knowledge and tools needed to work with peace issues, anti-violence and human rights. The long term aim is to combat Islamophobia (fear and animosity towards Islam, mainly by people in the West) and Westphobia (fear and animosity towards the West, mainly by Muslims). Within the framework of the project a foundation has been laid for a Muslim peace movement, *Svenska muslimer för fred och rättvisa* (Swedish Muslims for Peace and Justice) who are actively working with peace issues. The project is continuing throughout 2009 by spreading the concept of Peace Agents across Europe. Our Peace Agents will gladly come out to your work-place and brief you. For further information please contact our study adviser Romdhane Boussaidi, email: romdhane.boussaidi@ibnrushd.se.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO WORK TOGETHER WITH US AND GAIN FROM OUR ACTIVITIES!
READ MORE ABOUT US AT WWW.IBNRUSHD.SE

HOW TO FIND US

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