"Gendering Citizenship: from the intimate to the global"

Ruth Lister (Emeritus Professor at Loughborough University, UK, House of Lords)

On April 8th, 2011, Ruth Lister, emeritus professor at Loughborough University, UK, came to give a lecture on "Gendering Citizenship: from the intimate to the global." Professor Lister is currently a member of the House of Lords and has done research on social welfare and poverty in Britain.

The lecture was divided into two parts: first, she explained about the citizenship as both a theoretical and mobilising concept and how the feminism has contributed to the development of its concept, and in latter part she explored the multi-tiered nature of citizenship moving from the intimate, through the local to the global by using the feminist analysis.

To begin with, Professor Lister explained that citizenship is mostly represented as a universal concept; however, it also needs to be understood from the national, social, and political contexts. She added that citizenship also represents as a mobilising concept and it can be expressed by national contexts. For instance, an edited collection by Nalia Kabeer that discusses about the people who suffers poverty in the Global South "shed(s) light on what *inclusive* citizenship" mean from the view of excluded people. Kabeer argues, "their testimonies and actions suggest there are certain values that people associate with citizenship which cut across the various boundaries that divide them." What Kabeer identifies are justice and recognition. Professor Lister said that Kabeer proves that citizenship can also be a common mobilising tool for the excluded and marginalized people.

Moreover, Professor Lister pointed out that feminists have contributed to the development in the concept of citizenship as an mobolising tool and an analitical lens in these couple of decades. It started when citizenship was drawn as a quintessentially male template and even if women were included they were drawn as a subjection. This women's exclusion of citizenship was essential to both the theory and practice of citizenship. On the other hand, focusing too much to the exclusive groups would create a danger of making those people as passive victims. Therefore, Professor Lister explained that a number of feminist citizenship theorists have "underlined the importance of political agency, which provides the link between conceptions of citizenship as an active participatory practice and as a set of rights, which are the object

of struggle."

Next, she argued that feminist analysis and activism have contributed to the multi-tiered or layered citizenship. While traditional citizenship theory tended to locate citizenship within the nation-state, today citizenship is theorized at different kinds of level, intimate to the global. Futhermore, this multi-tiered nature of citizenship has moved from the intimate, through the local, and the national to the global.

Finally, Professor Lister explained how the spaces of citizenship has reached out from the intimate to the global, and also the global and the intimate are interwoven through a phenomenon frequently called "global care chains." And these different tiers of citizenship operates with each other. Feminist analysis and activism has helped to expose the exclusionary side of citizenship's face at every level and to stengthen its inclusionary sides. However, Professor Lister concluded that the struggle for every women to achieve their diversity genuinely gender-inclusive citizenship, from the intimate to the global, still continues.