

## Gudrun Schyman

Gudrun Schyman is a Swedish politician, currently the spokesperson of *Feministiskt Initiativ (Feminist Initiative, FI)* – a political party she co-founded in 2005.

From 1988 to 2006 Schyman was a member of the Swedish Parliament and leader of the Swedish Left Party from 1993 to 2003. Since early 1980s she has been active in Swedish and international peace movement. In 1992 Schyman became an adviser in the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research (TFF) and a member of the board in 2003.

In recent years Schyman has devoted her efforts to emphasize the feminist dimension of politics and social affairs in general and in security politics in particular. She is currently the chairperson of the Swedish branch of *Women without Borders (KUG)*. Having launched a multi-year democracy and public education project in 2003, Schyman resigned from the Swedish Left Party in 2004 to focus fully on feminism, security and related matters.

In April 2005 *Feminist Initiative* was launched as a pressure group, which gradually gained public support and became a political party. Schyman was one of the political party's co-founders. The party's most successful election so far has been the 2014 European Parliament election, where *FI* gathered 5.3% of national vote in Sweden and took up one seat in the European Parliament. In the 2014 Swedish general election *FI* recorded 3.12% of the vote, becoming the most popular party below the required threshold and thus outside Parliament.

*FI* entered the 2014 general election with a slogan “*Out with the racists – in with the feminists!*” The party stands for feminist politics based on anti-racism, human rights and sustainability. *FI* seeks to build an equal society free from discrimination for a dignified life and participation of all, identifying freedom from violence and discrimination, and everyone's right to welfare and culture as corner-stones in a democratic society.

*FI* identifies itself as a new political force which challenges existing ideologies. The party has insisted that even though there are national goals for gender equality, the political direction to reach them is lacking.

Among their major priorities the party has mentioned such aims as political action for wage equality, individualized parental leave insurance schemes, reduced working hours, critical pedagogy in schools and pre-schools, new legislation on sexual crime, open borders and amnesty for refugees and taxing greenhouse gas emissions. *FI* stands for “consigning fascism to history once and for all”.

**For further information see:**

- Gudrun Schyman website: <http://schyman.se/english/>
- Feminist Initiative Election Platform:  
<http://feministisktinitiativ.se/sprak/english/election-platform/>
- Feminist Initiative. "*Feminism Now*" Brochure:  
[http://feministisktinitiativ.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/fi\\_151021\\_Feminism\\_now\\_A4\\_English.pdf](http://feministisktinitiativ.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/fi_151021_Feminism_now_A4_English.pdf)
- Democracy Now. *How Sweden's Feminist Initiative Party Became First of its Kind to Win a Seat in European Parliament*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob4ygtxnU20>
- Time. *Feminism Comes to the Forefront of Swedish Politics*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pzKsqsxo6Y>