

Report on poetry reading

Day 4 of Prajnya's 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence saw a reading of select poems on women by contemporary women poets, who are uniquely located at the intersection of art, feminism and truth telling. "Woman, may you grow to be a Banyan tree!", an evening of poetry with contemporary women poets Krishnagini, K. Srilatha, Sukiërtha Rani & Vatsala was organized by Prajnya in association with the Odyssey book store on November 28, 2008 between 5 and 6:30 pm.

Most of the poems centred around the different ways in which women in particular are vulnerable to violence, from their homes to zones of conflict. The "rope" that becomes symbolic of one woman's way of coping with domestic abuse a poem by Vatsala, the story of serene "Kamalamma" who worked in an NGO by Srilatha, "Ladies Compartment" by Krishnagini that captures the fragments of women's lives, and the very act of poetry writing as liberating by Sukiërtha Rani were some of the poems that were recited.

The politics of poetry, the activist role that poets could play, their convictions, sharing of common experiences, reactions to things around them and poetry as reflective space were some of the aspects that came up in the post reading discussion with members in the audience and the poets.



Sukiërtha Rani reads as Vatsala, Srilatha and Krishnagini look on at the poetry reading at Odyssey.