

Discussion with Michael Ignatieff

**Author of Ordinary Virtues: Moral Order in a
Divided World**

On Monday, 4 September at 5 p.m. (17 uur)

In Boekhandel van Rossum

In collaboration with the Amsterdam publishing house Cossee, Boekhandel van Rossum is delighted to invite you to attend what promises to be a brilliant discussion evening with Michael Ignatieff, Canadian politician and professor at Harvard and Leiden and currently Rector of The Central European University in Budapest. In his series of talks on The Open Society with important world thinkers, he is striving to keep discussion going under the increasingly nationalistic and Euro-sceptic regime of Viktor Orban. Ignatieff will be visiting The Netherlands during the weekend of 1 – 4 September where he will speak at a varied series of events, all of great interest. At Van Rossum, he will discuss his new book which has been rushed into print in Dutch as **Gewone Deugden: Samenhang in een verdeelde wereld**. The American version has just been published by Harvard University Press and a number of copies will be available for the event. The book is entitled **Ordinary Virtues: Moral Order in a Divided World**.

This is a very last minute invitation but we expect a good turnout (and a wide-ranging discussion), so please let us know as soon as possible whether you will be able to attend. We can seat a fairly large audience but we ask you to reserve a seat in advance. You can email the bookstore at winkel@boekhandelvanrossum or phone us on 020 4707077. Note that the evening begins at 5 p.m. and will conclude at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you at Boekhandel van Rossum, Beethovenstraat 32, Amsterdam!

*Ignatieff has written for the past 25 years on issues of ethics in a world where violence and terrorism threaten basic human values. In **Ordinary Virtues**, questions are posed about the moral values which human beings hold and the impact which globalization has had on these values. These questions led Ignatieff to embark on a three-year, eight-nation journey in search of answers. **Ordinary Virtues** presents Ignatieff's discoveries and his interpretation of what globalization—and resistance to it—is doing to our conscience and our moral understanding.*

Through dialogues with favela dwellers in Brazil, South Africans and Zimbabweans living in shacks, Japanese farmers, gang leaders in Los Angeles, and monks in Myanmar, Ignatieff found that while human rights may be the language of states and liberal elites, the moral language that resonates with most people is that of everyday virtues: tolerance, forgiveness, trust, and resilience. These ordinary virtues are the moral operating system in global cities and obscure shantytowns alike, the glue that makes the multicultural experiment work. Ignatieff seeks to understand the moral structure and psychology of these core values, which privilege the local over the universal, and citizens' claims over those of strangers.

Ordinary virtues, he concludes, are anti-theoretical and anti-ideological. They can be cheerfully inconsistent. When order breaks down and conflicts break out, they are easily exploited for a politics of fear and exclusion—reserved for one's own group and denied to others. But they are also the key to healing, reconciliation, and solidarity on both a local and a global scale.

Boekhandel van Rossum
1077JH Amsterdam
winkel@boekhandelvanrossum.nl

Beethovenstraat 32
020 4707077