Abstract

This paper is a result of a deep commitment to the Feminist Movement, and an even deeper commitment to solve the Israeli Palestinian conflict. I believe that by understanding the decision making processes surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict it would be possible to design a solution to end it and heal the civil societies in Israel and Palestine.

This paper begins with examining and highlighting the fact that the oppression of women is rarely limited to the personal relationships between men and women. It transcends the personal and affects the political and the international. It also constructs certain norms that then translate into decision-making on the national and international scale.

The discourse observed in the case of the Israeli Palestinian conflict is examined through the phenomenon of “victim blaming” in the gender discourse, drawing similarities between the discourses and showing that the power relations created by a gendered society transcend the personal realm and bleed into political and the international realms. All of the mentioned above is examined from a perspective on an Israeli woman, analyzing not only historical events, but also the effects of the Israeli narrative on personal experiences of the Israel Palestinian conflict.

The asymmetry between the dominant group and the dominated is that the dominant group can ignore the dominated, but the dominated cannot ignore the dominant group. For the dominated, the personal is the political – being discriminated against or mistreated invades all
areas of their personal lives, while the dominant group can lead a normal life. To take this to the next level, it can be said that the personal is international, and individual incidents, often happening in the lives of the most disadvantaged groups, are a direct consequence of the distribution of power between nations or agents. Such is the case of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Power flows in such a way that hurts the most disadvantaged. This conclusion highlights that if more nation states grew out of feminist thought, conflicts would have been different, or perhaps eliminated, because their resolution would be more sustainable. If women were allowed to have a seat of the table and make decisions based on their experiences of oppression, decisions could be different and the driving force behind them would not have been acquisition of power.

The mission of this research is to provide a link between the construction of national narratives and International Relations. The construction of narratives is examined through the victim blaming lens in order to highlight a method used in narrative building that is frequently ignored, because a feminist reading of International Relations is far from dominant in the field. The recognition of similarities and tracing of narratives is a valuable contribution to the field of International Relations and Conflict Resolution. By offering an additional explanation to the complicated dynamics that can be observed in intractable conflicts, we can possibly break the cycle of unsuccessful negotiations or violent incidents and imagine a path for a sustainable resolution.