

The involvement of women in crisis resolution

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Women representation and gender quota laws are leading to involvement of women in important matters and in decision-making both in routine and in crisis resolutions.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, was adopted unanimously on 31 October 2000.

It was the first formal and legal document from the United Nations Security Council that required parties in a conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction.

The Resolution includes three main issues: (1) The impact of violent conflicts and wars on women (and children). Based on the recognition that women (and children) are the main victims. (2) The participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes. The decision emphasizes the importance of integrating women in creating agreement to end violence and the search for just and appropriate solutions for achieving peace agreements. It was important that women would be equally involved in the process of maintaining international peace and security. It also recognized the need to adopt a gender perspective in [peacekeeping](#) operations/ (3) The recognition of women's ability and potential contribution to solving long-standing disputes.

Following this decision, countries worldwide adopted national action plans to implement the principles of Resolution 1325.

The State of Israel was the first country among UN members who implemented by law some of the principles of Resolution 5231.

Equal rights for women law 5711-1951 amendment

On 20.7.2005 amendment, No. 4 of the Equal rights for women law 5711-1951 took place

Article 6 c states that " In a public council and in a team appointed by the Government, the Prime Minister, a Minister, Deputy Minister or Director General of a Government Ministry (hereafter: the appointing body) expression appropriate under the circumstances shall be given to the representation of women from different parts ".of the population

According to the explanations of the bill, the purpose of the amendment is to express egalitarian values of the State of Israel
Furthermore, Women constitute the majority of the Israeli population and must take part in decisions on matters related to national policy and ways of solving political conflicts

The importance of women's involvement in crisis resolution in Israel

Over the years, women who constitute the majority of the population has been excluded almost entirely from important national decisions, including security, political and social decisions in routine and in crisis

The absent voices of women of all backgrounds, from decisions taking influences the state's policy, both security policy and social – financial policy

The background to the amendment of the law was the absence of women in political negotiations and in decision-making centers

Generally the members of such decision-making teams are military figures while women in general and women in particular lack of military background do not receive legitimacy to influence and lead these processes

In the political context women rights organizations began to demand that women will be appointed to the process of negotiations with the Palestinians

In 2007, Zipi Livni, former foreign minister was appointed by the prime minister of Israel to lead the negotiating team with the Palestinians

Livni, who currently serves as the Minister of Justice will lead the current renewed negotiation with the Palestinians as well

Legal actions that were made in order to increase women involvement

Alongside with the political activities, Israeli women's rights organizations were active in the legal arena in order to integrate women in important decisions and crisis resolutions. As a result, petitions were filed in various subjects

For example, HCJ 2475/09 Association with you v. Minister of the Interior, which dealt with the lack of Women representation in the committee examining the union of the cities of Lod and Ramle

A deferent petition is HCJ 5660/10 Association with you v. the prime minister, which dealt with the lack of women representation in the examination committee of the Marmara raid event

HCJ 5980/11 was filed due to the absence of representation of women from diverse population at Trachtenberg Committee, which was establish due to the Israeli civilian's protest concerning economic issues

Another petition that was file is HCJ 3974/08 Goldberg concerning the lack of women's representation in the committee for regulating Bedouin settlement in the Negev

:The importance of involving women in decisions making

Involving women in crisis resolutions will increase the chance to find "better" solutions. It allows to examining issues from different perspectives that will .lead to results that are more accurate

Women limited representation in public committees and teams is an expression of discrimination against women. Due to the assumption that the representation of women in public committees will not increase naturally, .there is a need in legislation that will insure it

Involving women in crisis resolutions will ensure the expression of women from different groups in the population that suffer from double discrimination .due to their gender and due to their identity

The benefits of women involvement in crisis resolutions- A new voice and a different perspective

The different perspective between women and man points of view was examined for example during a study that was made concerning women justices in the Canadian Supreme Court. The study findings indicated that women justices of the Supreme Court differ from men justices, and express a different voice, a different approach, .and a unique perspective

An Israeli study that was made over a decade ago gives basis to the assumption that in .Israel, like Canada, women judges differ in their attitudes from men judges

On a recent interview with the former Supreme, court President Dorit Beynish, she mentioned that she does not have a clear answer for the question – Is there a .difference between man judges and women judges in their rulings
According to Beynish, allegedly judges are aiming to objectivity, however, in fact on .Glotan¹ case for example the three woman Judges had the minority opinions
According to Beynish as much as we do not want to admit is, women have more .sensitivity and caring for certain issues

Beynish also referenced to women representation in the Israeli legal system. According to her, the democratic representation should be reflecting in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament and in various bodies. The court should not represent one group or another. On the other hand, there is an expectation to have a representation of the .variety of groups
According to Beynish women take a main role in the legal system, but there should be .an intervention in order to increase this natural process due to objective obstacles

¹ A legal procedure concerning a foreign employee who claim to receive payments for overtime work

Another example for women different approach is Professor Dafna Barak-Erez –
.Supreme Court justice
justice Barak-Erez was appointed to the Israeli Supreme Court on May 2012.
According to Barak-Erez rulings, she does not flinch from writing minority opinions
.that reveal a world of values
According to publications, Justice Barak-Erez takes a strong stand concerning
.striating punishment and a compassionate approach toward people in need
For example, in a minority opinion Justice Barak-Erez allowed a 90 years old woman
who lived in public housing to purchase the apartment she lived in. The majority
ruled that the 90 years old woman abandoned the apartment and there for is not
entitled to live in it according to public housing laws. In a deferent case, Barak-Erez
ruled against the deportation of Ukrainian widow from Israel that lost the legal right
.to live in Israel due to her husband death

There is no clear evidence that women present a different voice and perspective due to
their gender. However, one cannot argue that the presentation of a different voice, or
at least the potential of hearing a different voice, that was not heard over the years
.expose the decision-makers to different perspectives

The said above in relevant for every issue, and women`s voice should be herd in every
.aspect

One way of insuring that is legislation such as the Equal rights for women law
amendment, however, not less important- social activities and raising awareness in
_ .order to stimulate the enforcement of legislation