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## **Gender and Conflict**

**This paper is to reflect on the movie Nadine Labki (Hala Lawein) , a Lebanese movie produced in 2001.**

The movie has several gender-related issues beside other societal conflicts like the sectoral tensions and the civil war in Lebanon.

The movie reviews the religious tensions and conflicts in Lebanon in a small rural village far away from the civil places. In the movie we find that the only connection between the village and the other world is through the TV brought by a woman to gather the village residents, people start to know about the outside conflicts from the TV, the tensions start to overlap between the men in the village Muslims and Christian and the women try to distract men from fighting through several small tricks and acts. The movie maps the social relations between people at the beginning to figure out the roots of the conflict which might be nasty acts and small behaviors. The movies

From what I find in the movie is that daily life and small acts can lead to bigger change. The women of the village bring Ukrainian ladies for their men so they can think of pleasure instead of fighting, once again they try to use weed so their men can lose their tensions and be much calmer and so on.

The women gather and think, the murder of the kid in the movie and what his mom did to prevent the brother from taking revenge and killing her. She shows a gun to stop him continuing this chain of killing.

The movie claims that the woman can always be peacekeeper while men can play the role of fighter at the time and that is the view of the movie to the gender roles in times of conflicts.

Gender Roles in the conflict time:

I think that the way the movie reviews the gender relations at time of war is to formulate the women as peacekeepers and men as fighters and that's it, while I think that the nature of conflicts is much more complicated and has different effects on both men and women.

From the movies, the women are more tending to keep peace specially when the woman lost his kid by killing. While, in Egypt for example in upper Egypt we can notice the role of women specially the elder women in the revenge as we always noticed for example in the Egyptian movies.

On the other hand, I think that the reason for conflicts should be seen through analyzing the grassroots of the social relations, not only the behavioral tensions between tribes or sectors.

Men and women are affected differently by the conflict, and we need to focus on the time of conflict and the post conflict time how both genders act and reflect.

The gender lens is important but it should be accompanied by other variables like class, race, region position depending on the nature of each society, as we see in the movie the important role of the religious men like the priest and the Imam and their coordination with the women in the village to prevent the religious tensions.

Finally, I think it is important for me personally to look at the nature of violence in both genders, how men perform violence and how women perform violence, how the society look at both gender acts of

violence, why men are more tending to do violent acts and what if women occupied the decision-making position which require type of violence at certain times. Could we find any change? I think violence and its manifestations in the time of conflict from a gender lens will be important.