

Abstract

The term “Mixed City” in the Israeli context usually refers to a city with Jewish and Arab¹ residents, yet there are distinctions between the different cities according to different social and economic classes (Fenster and Jacoby, 2006, p. 45). Acco (*Acre* in its ancient name; sometimes also spelled *Akko*) is one of the mixed cities in Israel, where Jews and Arabs live in separate neighborhoods, with only one mixed neighborhood, however in most of the high-rise buildings live both Jewish and Arab families.

In the year 2008, on the eve of Yom Kippur, there were riots and violent incidents in Acco between Arabs and Jews, which greatly affected the residents of the two sectors.

The aim of this study is to examine the contribution of the mixed women’s groups (Jewish and Arab) on the relationship between the two nations in daily life and in the future. A derivative of the study is then the following questions: 1) Can associations of Arab-Jewish women groups influence peoples’ political views and opinions through their activities, in a manner that will construct a desire to share present and future life? 2) Is there a difference between women’s associations and those of men? And 3) Is the impact of separate associations of Arabs or Jews similar to that of joint ones?

¹In this work, “Arabs” refers to Arab citizens of the State of Israel.

In order to study the subject, the research uses a quantitative paradigm. The data were collected via special questionnaires built by the researcher. 39 women participated in the sample, 32 of them living in Acco and seven who were born in the city and recently moved to communities nearby. The sample included women from mixed Arab-Jewish groups in Acco, such as the Acco Women's Vision Association, The Inner Wheel, Women and Multi-culturalism, Women in Business, and Na'amat (national working women's organization).

The study findings have led to interesting data, especially to the notion that associations with mixed societies contribute to the formation of positive political attitude and affect the willing to live together and share life aspects without conflicts. In addition, it was found that religious origin or education does not affect positive attitudes toward the other nation.

Future research is needed to examine the differences between the influence of mixed women's and men's groups (Arab and Jewish) on the relationship between the two nations in daily life and on their common future.