

EMPOWERING KNOWLEDGE? BOSNIAN PEACE ACTIVISTS ON STUDY VISITS IN SWEDEN

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A commitment to peace and a desire to improve women's situation have for long been leading to transnational encounters between women. This paper studies efforts to support women's peacebuilding in Bosnia, performed by the Swedish foundation Kvinna till Kvinna, through educational activities. Study visits organized in Sweden during the first postwar decade, 1995-2005, and their empowerment potentials are put centre stage and investigated through the following questions: How did Bosnian peace activists experience the time spent in Sweden? How did the knowledge they encountered there impact their activism and organizations? How was, according to them, this knowledge used in the Bosnian context? This empirical study is based on deep interviews with Bosnian peace activists carried out during the fall of 2020 and in the beginning of 2021. By taking the activists seriously as historical actors and carefully contextualizing their perspective, it shows both challenges and possibilities with the transfer of knowledge from the centre to the semiperiphery.

Keywords: women, encounters, knowledge, empowerment, peacebuilding, Bosnia