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Symposium: Women, War, and Peace in Jewish and Middle East
Contexts: Foreword

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SYMPOSIUM:
WOMEN, WAR, AND PEACE IN JEWISH AND
MIDDLE EAST CONTEXTS

FOREWORD

Alice Shalvi, The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

When I first offered to serve as guest editor of an issue of *Nashim* dedicated to the topic of War and Peace I was confident that we should have no difficulty in enlisting contributors. After all, women are known to be a majority among the peace activists, even though (or perhaps because?) few of them have participated personally in active combat.

What soon became apparent was that women engaged in research or academic work relating to the topic were not at all easy to find. On the other hand, not a few were prepared to contribute non-academic essays once offered the opportunity to do so. In this case (to invert a well-known feminist aphorism) “The political is personal.” Women were able to draw on their personal experiences and responses, even on their biographies and life experiences, in order to express themselves on our topic. The result is, to my mind, a fascinatingly varied collection of contributions constituting a patchwork quilt of reflections on this most topical of subjects. We hope you will enjoy the symposium and find it of interest. We welcome reader responses, which should be sent to nashim@schechter.ac.il or by mail to POB 16080, Jerusalem 91160, Israel.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ETHICS OF CRITICIZING
ISRAELI POLITICS FROM A DISTANCE

Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert, Stanford University

If it is true, as Susan Sontag reminds us,¹ that ultimately war is the norm of human history and peace the exception, then I have to regard myself as