A commitment to peace and a desire to improve women’s situation have for long been leading to encounters between women from different corners of the world. One such opportunity occurred during the break-up of socialist Yugoslavia, especially after the settlement of the peace in Bosnia which was followed by an unprecedented international intervention. This thesis studies efforts to support women’s peacebuilding in Bosnia performed by the Swedish foundation Kvinna till Kvinna between 1993 and 2013. The possibilities and challenges of its encounters with women’s organizations in Bosnia over twenty years are put center stage. How did the Swedish-Bosnian encounter unfold over time? In what ways and with what success did Kvinna till Kvinna support women’s NGOs in Bosnia in their effort to achieve an inclusive peace? What were the main challenges in this post-socialist and violently divided setting subjected to a massive peace mission?

Through an interest in rhetoric, narrative, practice and silences, the study demonstrates an ambition to understand this international/local relationship from the perspective of both actors. Based on written and oral sources, the majority of which appear in research for the first time, the analysis exposes a complex and a nuanced image of the encounter between Kvinna till Kvinna and its Bosnian counterparts. This thesis makes the argument that the relationship that developed over time between the two actors can be described as a hierarchical sisterhood.