

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Sweden has been known as the feminist government in the world which means that the major priority in resources allocation and decision making of Sweden government is put on gender equality purposes. Gender equality means that women and men have the same power to shape society in their own life. Sweden government as the feminist government, ensures that females can enjoy their fundamental human rights both in national and international level (A feminist government, 2015).

Nowadays, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Women in 2015 (Women in parliaments, 2016), the number of women's contributions to the politics in the worlds were still less than men's contribution. According to United Nations (UN) women, women continue to participate in labor markets on an unequal basis with men. In 2013, the male employment-to-population ratio stood at 72.2 percent, while the ratio of females was 47.1 per cent. Globally, women are paid less than men. Women in most countries earn on average only 60 to 75 percent of men's wages(Women, 2016).

Reports about the humanitarian conditions in international level highlight increase in gender-based and sexual violence against women which were totally contradictive with what had already applied in Sweden domestic policy. Many women are forced to live in public places, such as train stations, bus stations, etc. where some of the actors are people who have fought in the ongoing conflict. In the

conflict area such as Syria, the girls and women are raped and held in sexual slavery. Seeing those conditions, Sweden government started to put concern in the international scope with realizing Sweden feminist foreign policy, it was proven by implementing Swedish Foreign Service action plan for feminist foreign policy 2015 – 2018 including focus areas for 2016. Since 2015, Sweden government has become the first country in the world that implemented feminist foreign policy although it possibly threatened its relations with other states that are considered as world's human rights violator. Based on this, it is interesting to find out the reasons of Sweden government decided adopt feminist norms in its foreign policy.

Based on the explanation about constructivism theory, interests are constructed through a process of social interaction and the identity of a state implies its preferences and consequent actions. A state understands others according to the identity it attributes to them, while simultaneously reproducing its own identity through daily social practice.

The reasons of Sweden in using feminist as its foreign policy is due to the desire of Sweden to spread feminist norms to achieve gender equality which is essential for the achievement of the government's other objectives proven by several foreign policies taken. The first policy is by supporting multilateral organizations. The purpose of Sweden's support and involvement in the multilateral organization is to get access to decision makers in every country in the world and the opportunity to influence the shape of the strategies and the work plan. The second foreign policy is the development cooperation budget as the way to show its identity as humanitarian

superpower in supporting gender equality. And the last foreign policy is Swedish Foreign Service Action Plan for Feminist Foreign Policy in 2015 – 2018 Including Focus Areas for 2017. This action plan will be allowing for Foreign Service to promote the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls, including by preventing and combating all forms of violence and discrimination that restrict their freedom of action. It is also the seriousness of Sweden government to make gender equality as a reality, not just a vision.