Comparing Social Pressure in “1984” and “An incident in the Ghobashi Household”

The short story “*An incident in the Ghobashi Household*” and the novel “*1984*” both focus on the theme of social pressure and conformity, An Incident in the Ghobashi Household focuses on pressure from family and tradition while 1984 focuses on pressure from the government. In the short story An incident in the Ghobashi Household Ghobashi forces his children to conform to strict traditions and values and when Ni’ma breaks these values she has to take drastic measures to hide it. In the story Ni’ma is brainstorming ways to hide her child from Ghobashi and Zeinat tells Ni’ma to “’Take it – they’re my life savings’” (Rifaat 2). Ni’ma is forced to leave her entire life behind and move to another city for months to hide the fact that she is pregnant and not married from her father because she is afraid what her father will do if he finds out. In Ni’ma’s story, it appears she can escape her father however in 1984 that is not the case, Winston cannot leave Oceania or run from Big Brother he must stay. In the novel 1984, every citizen is controlled by the government and it pressures every citizen to follow its beliefs. When Winston is in jail for reading a book Parsons gets thrown in as well and claims that his children gave him in because they heard him saying “’Down with Big Brother’”(Orwell 307) in his sleep. Parsons got arrested for something he said in his sleep, the state controls what the people think and pressures every citizen to follow them if they do not they can face execution. These stories both show how social pressure leads to problems however in 1984 it focuses on pressure by the government while An incident in the Ghobashi Household focuses on pressure by family values and traditions.