



The Unfinished Revolution: Voices from the Global Fight for Women's Rights

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The Unfinished Revolution: Voices from the Global Fight for Women's Rights From Seven Stories Press

“It’s a time of change in the world, with dictators toppling and new opportunities rising, but any revolution that doesn’t create equality for women will be incomplete. The time has come to realize the full potential of half the world’s population.” —Christiane Amanpour, from the foreword

The Unfinished Revolution tells the story of the global struggle to secure basic rights for women and girls, including in the Middle East where the Arab Spring raised high hopes, but the political revolutions are so far insufficient to guarantee progress. Around the world, women and girls are trafficked into forced labor and sex slavery, trapped in conflict zones where rape is a weapon of war, prevented from attending school, and kept from making deeply personal choices in their private lives, such as whom and when to marry. In many countries, women are second-class citizens by law. In others, religion and traditions block freedoms such as the right to work, study or access health care. Even in the United States, women who are victims of sexual violence often do not see their attackers brought to justice.

More than 30 writers—Nobel Prize laureates, leading activists, top policymakers, and former victims—have contributed to this anthology. Drawing from their rich personal experiences, they tackle some of the toughest questions and offer bold new approaches to problems affecting hundreds of millions of women. This volume is indispensable reading, providing thoughtful analysis from a never-before assembled group of advocates. It shows that the fight for women’s equality is far from over. As Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate says, “Women are not free anywhere in this world until all women in the world are free.”

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Editorial Review

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Inspired by the awarding of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize to three women for their nonviolent battles for the safety of women and human rights, Tawakkul Karman, of Yemen; Liberia's Leymah Gbowee; and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first democratically elected female president, Worden, of Human Rights Watch, gathered together essays assessing the progress of worldwide rights for women and girls since the UN's human rights conferences in the 1990s. The ongoing global struggle consists of three distinct spheres: economic issues (human trafficking, property rights); violence against women and their health rights (including genital mutilation); and harmful traditions (religious clothing restraints, so-called honor crimes). Contributors begin with Eleanor Roosevelt's 1958 warning that Cold War politics threatened a doctrine of universal human rights transcending national sovereignty and move forward to today's unequal property rights for African women and violence against immigrant women in America. Diverse voices of hopeless, hopeful, and boldly determined women from around the world constitute a compelling, multicultural resource supplemented by copious endnotes, a reading list, and an index. --Whitney Scott

Review

"This compilation of commissioned essays, anecdotes, and photos presents a powerful overview of contemporary women's issues--from the unsettlingly enormous backlogs of untested rape kits in Los Angeles, to genital mutilation and child marriage in Kurdistan and Afghanistan--and the ongoing fight for women's rights around the world. While sociologically and academically relevant, this is a cohesive and eminently readable document that is simultaneously an inspiration and a call-to-action."

—*Publisher's Weekly*

"Diverse voices of hopeless, hopeful, and boldly determined women from around the world comprise a compelling, multicultural resource..."

—*Booklist*

About the Author

As Human Rights Watch's Director of Global Initiatives, **MINKY WORDEN** develops and implements international outreach and advocacy campaigns. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1998, Ms. Worden worked in Hong Kong and in Washington, D.C. at the Department of Justice. A member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*, she is the editor of *China's Great Leap: The Beijing Games and Olympian Human Rights Challenges* and the co-editor of *Torture: Does It Make Us Safer? Is It Ever OK?: A Human Rights Perspective*. Worden lives in New York.

Users Review

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Billie Duran:

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Marilyn Calhoun:

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Carlie Manson:

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