



A Map of Hope: Women's Writing on Human Rights-An International Literary Anthology

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A Map of Hope: Women's Writing on Human Rights-An International Literary Anthology From Rutgers University Press

The first international anthology to explore women's human rights from a literary perspective.

More than half a century after the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, women throughout the world still struggle for social and political justice. Many fight back with the only tools of resistance they possess—words. *A Map of Hope* presents a collection of 77 extraordinary literary works documenting the ways women writers have spoken out about human rights issues.

Writers young and old, known and unknown, explore the dimensions of terror, the unspeakable atrocities of war, and the possibilities of resistance and refusal against all odds. Their poems, essays, memoirs, and brief histories examine issues that affect the condition of women in war, prison camps, exile, and as victims of domestic and political violence.

A Map of Hope presents diverse women writers who have created a literature of global consciousness and justice. Their works give a face, an image, and a human dimension to the dehumanization of human rights violations. The collection allows readers to hear voices that have decided to make a difference. It goes beyond geography and ethnic groups; writers from around the globe are united by the universal dimensions of horror and deprivation, as well as the unique common struggle for justice and solidarity.

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- Rank: #1126941 in eBooks
- Published on: 1999-06-01
- Released on: 1999-06-01
- Format: Kindle eBook



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In 77 narratives, commentaries, essays and poems, women writers address the timely issue of women's human rights. Six closely linked sections in this groundbreaking international anthology explore themes of war, exile, imprisonment, censorship, domestic and political violence, courage, protest and resistance. A powerful historical document, the collection includes pieces by both familiar and less well-known writers, who personalize the suffering that inevitably attends those who live in the shadow of war and tyranny. More than an earnest sampler of atrocities and defiance, the book attests to the power of the word as an effective weapon in the fight for social and political rights. In Agosin's words, "to write under adversity is to actively resist pain and betrayal, but it is also a form of denying horror." Whether Nadine Gordimer decrying the brutality of South African apartheid, Slavenka Drakulic asking insightful questions about ethnic cleansing in her Bosnian homeland or Aung San Suu Kyi's bold defiance in the face of imprisonment in Burma, the compilation succeeds as a powerful indictment of human rights violations. Without unnecessary fingerpointing or posturing, it effectively forces readers to rethink their views on social as well as political justice for women—not just locally, but globally.

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From Booklist

In communities where interest in global human rights and Amnesty International is strong, this collection of women's prose and poetry about the struggle to maintain those rights should have appeal. Wellesley professor Agosin recently received the United Nations Leadership Award for Human Rights; a portion of the book's profits will go to Amnesty International. Agosin's selections cover war, imprisonment and censorship, childhood, refugees and exiles, domestic and political violence, and resistance and refusal. Some authors' names will be familiar to many readers--e.g., Marguerite Duras, Christa Wolf, June Jordan, Barbara Kingsolver, Anna Akhmatova, Aung San Suu Kyi, Leslie Marmon Silko, Adrienne Rich, Nawal El Sa'adawi, Muriel Rukeyser, Grace Paley, Petra Kelly, Nadine Gordimer, and Isabel Allende--but most of these authors are relatively unknown, speaking from the heart to "bear witness to human tragedy" and to urge those who read their words to take action. A difficult read, but essential to make the 50-year-old United Nations Declaration of Human Rights a reality. *Mary Carroll*

From the Back Cover

More than half a century after the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, women throughout the world still struggle for social and political justice. Many fight back with the only tools of resistance they possess—words. *A Map of Hope* presents a collection of 77 extraordinary works documenting the ways women writers have spoken out about human rights.

Women writers, young and old, known and unknown, explore the dimensions of terror, the atrocities of war, and the possibilities of resistance and refusal in poems, essays, memoirs, and brief histories. The frequency of graphic descriptions of the horrors of war, prison camps, exile, as well as political and domestic violence are counterbalanced with expressions of hope and confidence that a world of justice, harmony, and equality can be achieved.

Marjorie Agosin, an award-winning poet and human rights activist, presents here a global body of writings transcending national boundaries and ethnic identities. These are the voices of those who have decided to stand up against cruelty and injustice by appealing to the conscience of the world. Most of all, however, the

writers in this volume put a human face on the profoundly dehumanizing experience of suffering the deprivation, especially as it affects innocent, noncombatant women and children.

Among the writers represented in this volume are Anna Akhmatove, Claribel Alegria, Isabel Allende, Sheila Cassidy, Nadal el Saadawi, Anne Frank, Nadine Gordimer, Hattie Gossett, Eva Hoffman, Barbara Kingsolver, Adrienne Rich, Nelly Sachs, and Aung San Suu Kye.

This publication has been supported in part by Amnesty International, with a percentage of the profits to benefit Amnesty International USA.

Users Review

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Brady Witt:

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Leigh Brown:

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Betty Perez:

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