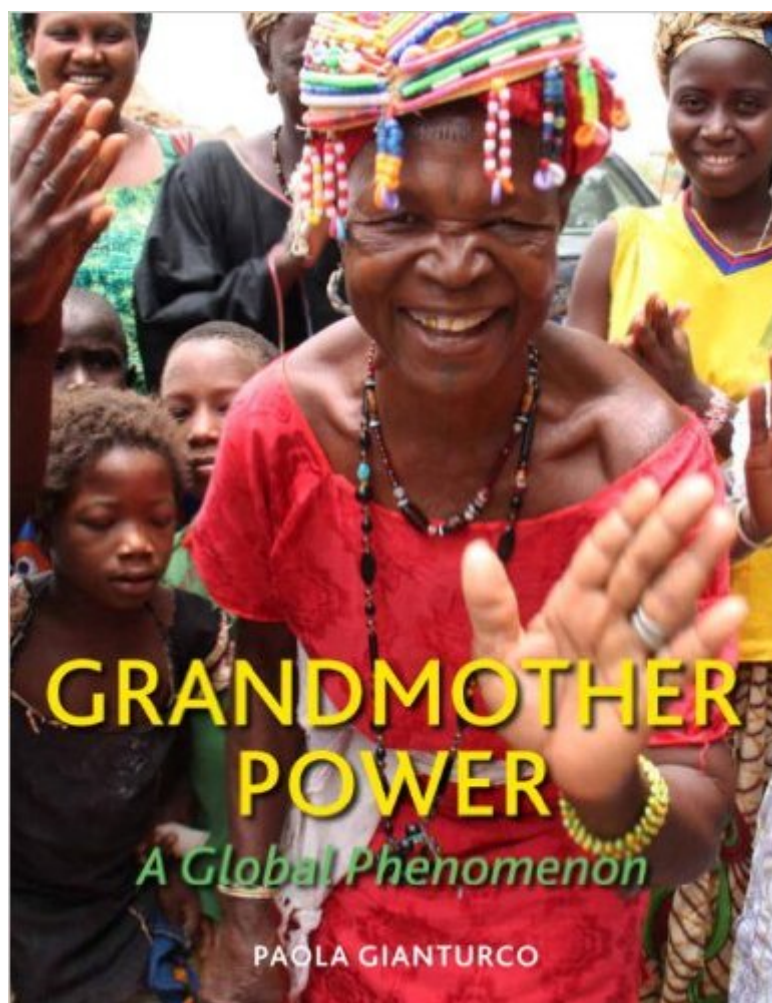


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Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon



Synopsis

Whether fighting for the environment, human rights, education, health, or cultural preservation, a new generation of activist grandmothers across the world are using their strength, wisdom, and hearts to make a difference. An unheralded grandmothers' movement is changing the world. Insurgent grandmothers are using their power to fight for a better future for grandchildren everywhere. And they are succeeding. Grandmother Power profiles activist grandmothers in fifteen countries on five continents who tell their compelling stories in their own words. Grandmothers in Canada, Swaziland, and South Africa collaborate to care for AIDS orphans. Grandmothers in Senegal convince communities to abandon female genital mutilation. Grandmothers in India become solar engineers and bring light to their villages while those in Peru, Thailand, and Laos sustain weaving traditions. Grandmothers in Argentina teach children to love books and reading. Other Argentine grandmothers continue their 40-year search for grandchildren who were kidnapped during the nation's military dictatorship. Irish grandmothers teach children to sow seeds and cook with fresh, local ingredients. Filipino grandmothers demand justice for having been forced into sex slavery during World War II. Guatemalan grandmothers operate a hotline and teach parenting. In the Middle East, Israeli grandmothers monitor checkpoints to prevent abuse and the UAE's most popular television show stars four animated grandmothers who are surprised by contemporary life. Indigenous grandmothers from thirteen countries conduct healing rituals to bring peace to the world. Gianturco's full-color images and her heroines' amazing tales make Grandmother Power an inspiration for everyone, and it cements the power of grandmothers worldwide. Please visit <http://globalgrandmotherpower.com/> for additional information. All author royalties will be donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, which provides grants to African grandmothers who are raising AIDS orphans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Where are all the old people?" That's a question I've asked myself almost every time I return from foreign travel. I've usually enjoyed meeting dozens of local people, and it's only later that I realize I've missed an entire segment of a population. I needn't ask the question any more. Paola Gianturco has created a scrumptious book of glorious photos and stories of old women - grandmothers - who have found their power. Empathic, intelligent and delightfully curious, Gianturco guides readers through five continents and fifteen countries to meet grandmothers, mostly old, all of them activists. The grandmothers suffer from severe illnesses and a population depleted by deaths from AIDs or abandonment of husbands and fathers. Yet despite these endemic economic and social problems in the villages Gianturco invites us to visit, Grandmother Power is alive and well. We readers discover, along with the author, that the women are not too old to learn about the importance of nutrition, especially for those who have HIV/AIDs. Then, challenged by the expense of maintaining healthy diets, some of them create cooperative farms where they learn even more skills and sell their produce. They find a variety of other ways to earn money, from knitting hats to producing CDs of lullabies. They encourage grandchildren and other young women to live up to the traditional values they believe are good for their culture, and to change traditions that local women believe are harmful. In Senegal, female genital mutilation is referred to as "cutting" or FGM. A 1999 national law forbidding it brought a significant reduction in the practice, but also shows the limits of social change by fiat.

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