

powerHouse Books is pleased to announce the October 2017 release of

**WONDER GIRLS:
CHANGING OUR WORLD
BY PAOLA GIANTURCO AND ALEX SANGSTER**

**FOREWORD BY MUSIMBI KANYORO
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN**



BOOK TO PUBLISH OCTOBER 11 ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

“I have learned that when women and girls are heard, they recognize their own strength. And when they understand each other more completely, they collaborate to catalyze positive change that will affect them, their families, communities, countries, and our world.” – Paola Gianturco (from the book introduction)

There is a passionate and peaceful revolution afoot driven by girls as young as 10 years of age. These resolute youngsters and teenagers are banding together to transform the world, leveraging their energy and intelligence, creativity and confidence, determination and dreams, to make a difference in their communities.

Wonder Girls: Changing Our World is the first book to document these girl-led groups, which are improving health, education, gender equality, and the environment; and stopping child marriage, domestic violence, child trafficking, and war. The book features fifteen groups of girls, all age 10 to 18, who are tackling challenges in thirteen countries in the Middle East, Asia, North and Latin America, Africa, and Oceania.

Between 2013-2016, noted author and photographer **Paola Gianturco** and her 11-year-old granddaughter, up-and-coming author and photographer **Alex Sangster**, teamed up to interview and photograph 102 girls, each of whom tells her own story in her own words. *Wonder Girls* is the third in a triptych by Paola Gianturco. *Women who Light the Dark* (powerHouse Books, 2007) told about women activists. *Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon* (powerHouse Books, 2012), described grandmother activists.

In *Wonder Girls*, you will watch girls lobbying U.S. senators; see girls in Mexico inventing mobile phone apps to solve social problems; and witness Malawian girls convincing Parliament to outlaw child marriage. You will also observe Ugandan girls advocating for girls' rights at a UN meeting. And you will meet other girls as they write blogs, petitions and poetry, produce radio shows and videos, and invent dances, songs, and works of art to promote their causes.

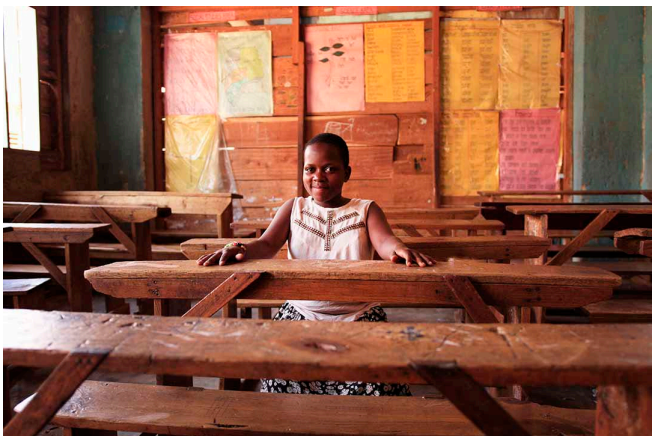


Left: Creativity for Peace’s young leaders from Israel and Palestine paint at a month-long summer camp in New Mexico. Art projects, plus Dialogue sessions, help the girls discover that “an enemy is someone whose story you don’t know.” Right: Lydia celebrates the news that child marriage is illegal in Malawi; a triumph for the Girls Empowerment Network and their allies.

Wonder Girls: Changing Our World is a call to action to help these amazing and fearless girls accomplish their important work. Sangster's sections, the finale of each chapter, tell you how.

One hundred percent of the authors’ royalties from *Wonder Girls* will go to The Global Fund for Women to benefit grassroots groups of activist girls and women around the world.

In her foreword in the book, **Musimbi Kanyoro**, President and CEO of The Global Fund for Women writes: “*Too many programs that claim to ‘empower’ or ‘uplift’ are long on rhetoric and short on giving girls real power and space. Not so with the initiatives in this book. It features girls who are creative, gutsy, and determined to be responsible citizens ... We must enable all girls everywhere to have such voice, confidence and agency.*”



Left: Sheilah reigns over her classroom at Valerian Nursery and Primary in Uganda. She is a member of Rhythmic Voices near the Kabalagala district of Kampala where sex workers ply their trade. By demanding universal education, the girls are disrupting the dynastic pattern of girls’ following their mothers into prostitution. Right: Talitha members, girl activists in Tonga, host a weekly call-in radio show that focuses public attention on the rampant but undiscussable subject, child abuse.

About the Contributors:

Paola Gianturco, author-photographer, has documented women’s issues in 62 countries. Her six books on these topics have all been published by powerHouse Books. Paola’s images have been exhibited at the United Nations, UNESCO, The Field Museum/Chicago, and more. She lectures internationally, presented a TED talk in Dubai, and has been a guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, CNN, NPR, and Voice of America programs, among others. Paola serves on the advisory boards of three nonprofits: Rise Up/Let Girls Lead, Pencils for Africa, and Global Grandmothers. In 2014, Women’s e-News named her one of “21 Leaders for the 21st Century.”



Left: Members of School Girls Unite lobby members of the US congress to encourage support for policies promoting universal girls' education. Here, they meet with Congressman John Sarbanes' Aide for Education, and urge his participation in the International Basic Education Caucus. Right: Balinese children, members of Bye Bye Plastic Bags, convince tourists and locals to stop using plastic bags, since plastic debris is destroying the idyllic island environment. Here, the children fly their signature kite on a local beach to attract attention to their cause.

Alex Sangster, author-photographer, is Paola's granddaughter. Alex is something of a "wonder girl" herself. She and her sister launched a children's program at a global poverty conference in Mexico. After conducting FaceTime and Skype interviews with activist girls in 13 countries, Alex wrote the sections titled "How You Can Change Our World," in each chapter of this book. Alex captured almost all of the images in the chapters about activist girls in Los Angeles and Mexico.

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro is the President and CEO of Global Fund for Women. In 1998, Musimbi was general secretary (CEO) of the World YWCA and transformed it into a young-women-led organization. She was subsequently Director for Population and Reproductive Health at David and Lucile Packard Foundation. In 2015, *Forbes Magazine* named her one of 10 women "power brands" working for gender equality. Musimbi has PhDs in both Linguistics and Feminist Theology.



Left: In Tanzania, the NGO WoteSawa includes 300 child domestic workers (some recruited into labor slavery as early as age six) who collaborate to change policy and practice by educating employers, parents, and government officials to ensure the girls' fair treatment and legal rights. Here, current and former child domestic workers hold a weekend workshop. Right: Members of Amnesty International's largest chapter in New Zealand perform a noon-hour action using dance, music, poetry, and petitions to support girls' rights around the globe.

A partial preview is available by clicking here: [Wonder Girls](#)

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