

*Narratives on
Women's Issues
Volume 2*

WOMEN POWER

**EDITED BY SHASHI KADAPA
AND TOM BLOCK**

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
ART FESTIVAL (IHRAF)

NARRATIVES ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

VOLUME 2:

WOMEN POWER

Copyright © 2021 International Human Rights Art Festival, NY

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher at the address below.

First printing edition 2021

Printed by IHRAF in the United States of America.

IHRAF, New York City, USA

<https://www.ihraf.org/>

*Design by Michele Chu
Cover photo by Mushtaq Hussein/Pexels*

CONTENTS



- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 2 | Forward | |
| 4 | Of Maai and Women Vigilantes
<i>By Shashi Kadapa</i> | |
| 11 | Four Poems
<i>By Chaitali Gawade</i> | |
| 15 | This is MY Land
<i>By Marlene Dee Gray Potoura</i> | |
| 25 | Forged from Struggle
<i>By Melissa Jerry-Stoute</i> | |
| 34 | I am Woman, Hear My Roar
<i>By Gabrielle Mohamed</i> | |
| 46 | Of Oaths and Stethoscopes
<i>By Leena Aukel</i> | |
| 54 | Little Ripples
<i>By Priscilla Ametorpe Goka</i> | |
| 61 | Fighting Sexual Harrassment in the Workplace
<i>By Tabassum Tahmina Shagutfa Hussein</i> | |
| 72 | Return of the Well Maidens
<i>By Vanessa Rowan Whitfield</i> | |
| 76 | The Tree of Hope
<i>By Yoko Morgenstern</i> | |
| 86 | The Kiln
<i>By Aaisbah Mayet</i> | |
| 97 | Observations of a Teenage Girl
<i>By Cynthia Abdallah</i> | |
| 104 | Grenade of Caged Emotions
<i>By Ugochi Okoli</i> | |

FORWARD



It is our great pleasure and honor to present the book, *Narratives on Women's Issues Vol 2: Women Power*, edited by Shashi Kadapa, 2021 IHRAF International Fellow. The theme and objective of this volume is to highlight the manner in which women use their power and position to help others.

Thirteen writers have contributed their work to this volume and I sincerely thank them. A wide diversity is seen among the writers in terms of geographic origins and ethnicity. Our writers come from India, Japan, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Bangladesh, U.S., Mauritius, and Papua New Guinea. In effect, we have spanned the globe. The anthology represents the collective voices of writers from emerging and developed economies.

The diversity helps us to understand and come to terms with the varying level of struggles, and the glimpses of success as more women use their power to effect change. The context of tribulations and triumphs vary in their magnitude and impact. Of course, the works also point to the universality of the struggle for positive social change, and the challenges women share across geography, ethnicity, and religion.

All efforts have been taken to retain the native voice of the authors, and this aspect allows the writers to speak in their own

voice, with the lilt and vocabulary of their spoken speech. These stories represent what each writer thinks, speaks, and feels.

The anthology reaffirms the IHRAF mission that we give voices to the voiceless and the suppressed, and shows that when authors write from their heart, the words themselves enter the heart of the reader.

Sincerely,



Tom Block
Executive Director,
International Human Rights Art Festival, NY